

SOIREE OF MUSIC AND DANCES

IN AID OF SPANISH DEMOCRATS IN CACERES PRISON

SPONSORS:

DAME SYBIL THORNDIKE

BENJAMIN BRITTEN



HAMPSTEAD TOWN HALL

Haverstock Hill, N.W.3

on **Saturday, 2nd November, 1963, at 7.30 p.m.**

Admission by programme 5s. 6d.



*"If there is in Spain a tree
that's stained with blood,
It is the tree of liberty."*
Paul Eluard

ABOUT CACERES PRISON

In this prison in the bare land of Extremadura, over a hundred political prisoners are held by the Franco regime for such 'crimes' as asking for higher wages, democratic liberties, and amnesty for political prisoners and exiles (25 years after the end of the Civil War).

Caceres is an old and gloomy provincial prison, almost in ruins.

It is dark, and many prisoners suffer from early deterioration of their eyesight.

It is damp. In winter there are puddles and mud; sawdust has to be spread on the wet stone floors. The walls exude damp and many prisoners have developed rheumatic and pulmonary complaints.

It is intolerably hot in summer, with no ventilation in the small patios, due to the high walls.

It is the penitentiary where Franco tries to break the spirit of these brave Spaniards. Official rations are 12 pesetas a day each (1s. 6d.), which, with the typical corruption of the State, works out at considerably less.

If it were not for help from their families, usually at great sacrifice, these men would be sadly undernourished. In spite of everything, their morale is high and their faith in the ultimate triumph of democracy keeps them going.

The conditions in the prison of Caceres, if known to the outside world, would cause a public outcry, and in a P.O.W. camp would contravene the Geneva Convention. Yet these men have no redress, and no higher court to appeal to except the assembled public opinion of the free world, to which we now appeal on their behalf.

PROGRAMME

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| 1. PORTUGAL * | Dances of the Minho Region | | Viana Do Castello |
| 2. ITALY. | Neopolitan Song | | Maria Barone Rumbold |
| 3. PAS DE TROIS | | | Leonie Urdang's School of Ballet |
| 4. Folk Songs from: | | | |
| ISRAEL | | | Juanita Martin |
| FRANCE | | | |
| ENGLAND (Comp. by Benjamin Britten) | } | | |
| SCOTLAND | | | Judith Holland and Russel Jayasinha |
| CEYLON | | | |
| 5. SOUTH INDIA. | Classical Dance, 'Alarippu' | | Layla Stampe |
| 6. WEST INDIAN BALLET | | | Ron Simmon's Dance Group |
| 7. SPAIN * | | | Jotas from Toledo, Valencia and Murcia |

INTERVAL

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| 8. LATIN-AMERICAN FOLK MUSIC | | | Venezuelan Group |
| 9. INDIAN TEMPLE DANCE | | | Uma Rama Krishna |
| 10. SCARLATTI. | Music for Flute, Clarinet and Tambour | | M. Jayasinha, A. Hodgson and J. Holland |
| 11. PAKISTAN. | Kathak Dance | | Layla Stampe |
| 12. SPAIN *. | Dances of Andalucia and Aragon. Solo Guitar | | Ray Mitchell |

* Portuguese and Spanish authentic regional dances collected and directed by Lucile Armstrong.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE DURING THE HALF-HOUR INTERVAL IN THE SMALL HALL, WHERE THERE WILL BE A SMALL EXHIBITION OF LETTERS AND MATERIALS FROM SPANISH PRISONS, ORGANIZED BY THE SPANISH WOMEN.

"I shall be away on tour on November 2nd, but you may certainly use my name as being in sympathy with your cause."

Sybil Thorndike Casson

"If this money is really to go to making these prisoners' appalling conditions any better, I certainly support the cause without hesitation."

Benjamin Britten

THE ORGANIZING COMMISSION PRO-CACERES,

a small and independent group of amateur dancers and musicians, thank you for your support and hope you will enjoy the Soiree.

All those taking part have given their talent and time freely to raise money for Christmas gifts for the prisoners of Caceres and in sympathy with them and their families.

APPEAL

The Organizers' intention is to send this Christmas gifts to the prisoners in Caceres in the form of money and parcels of food and clothing.

Therefore we ask all our friends to add their names to those of our distinguished sponsors, so as to accompany this gift with an appeal to end the imprisonment not only of those in Caceres but all ~~prisoners~~ ^{democrats} in Franco's dungeons. A book for this purpose will be available in the small hall.