

# *© Taste and See*

## Vaughan Williams - the Church and the Organ

### An Outline of His Life

- 1872 Ralph Vaughan Williams born at Down Ampney, Gloucestershire, 12th October.
- 1875 on death of his father, his mother moves with the three children to her family home of Leith Hill Place near Dorking, Surrey.
- 1887 Charterhouse.
- 1890 Royal College of Music (studies composition with Parry and organ with Parratt).
- 1892 Trinity College, Cambridge to study history (composition lessons from Wood, organ lessons from Alan Gray).
- 1894 Mus. B.
- 1895 Royal College of Music again (composition this time with Stanford). Becomes organist of St Barnabas, South Lambeth.
- 1897 Marriage to Adeline Fisher and period of study in Berlin with Bruch.
- 1898 F.R.C.O.; leaves St Barnabas.
- 1901 D.Mus.
- 1903 begins collecting folk songs.
- 1904 becomes musical editor of *English Hymnal* (published 1906).
- 1905 moves to Cheyne Walk, Chelsea; first Leith Hill Festival.
- 1908 studies with Ravel in Paris.
- 1910 *Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis* performed Gloucester; *A Sea Symphony* performed Leeds.
- 1911 *Five Mystical Songs* performed Worcester.
- 1914 *A London Symphony* performed London; enlists as private in R.A.M.C.
- 1916 service in France and Salonika.
- 1919 professor of composition at R.C.M.
- 1921 conductor of Bach Choir (to 1928).
- 1922 *A Pastoral Symphony* performed London; Mass in G minor performed.
- 1925 *Songs of Praise*.
- 1926 *Sancta Civitas* performed Oxford.
- 1928 *Oxford Book of Carols*.
- 1929 moves from London to 'White Gates' near Dorking.
- 1930 *Job* performed Norwich.
- 1935 Symphony No 4 in F minor performed London; awarded O.M.
- 1943 Symphony No 5 in D performed London.
- 1944 inherits Leith Hill Place from his brother and gives it to National Trust.
- 1948 Symphony No 6 in E minor performed London.
- 1951 *The Pilgrim's Progress* staged Covent Garden; death of Adeline.
- 1953 *Sinfonia Antartica* performed Manchester; marriage to Ursula Wood and move to Hanover Terrace in Regent's Park.
- 1956 Symphony No 8 in D minor performed Manchester.
- 1958 Symphony No 9 in E minor performed London; dies London, 26th August.



In the 1950s at Hanover Terrace

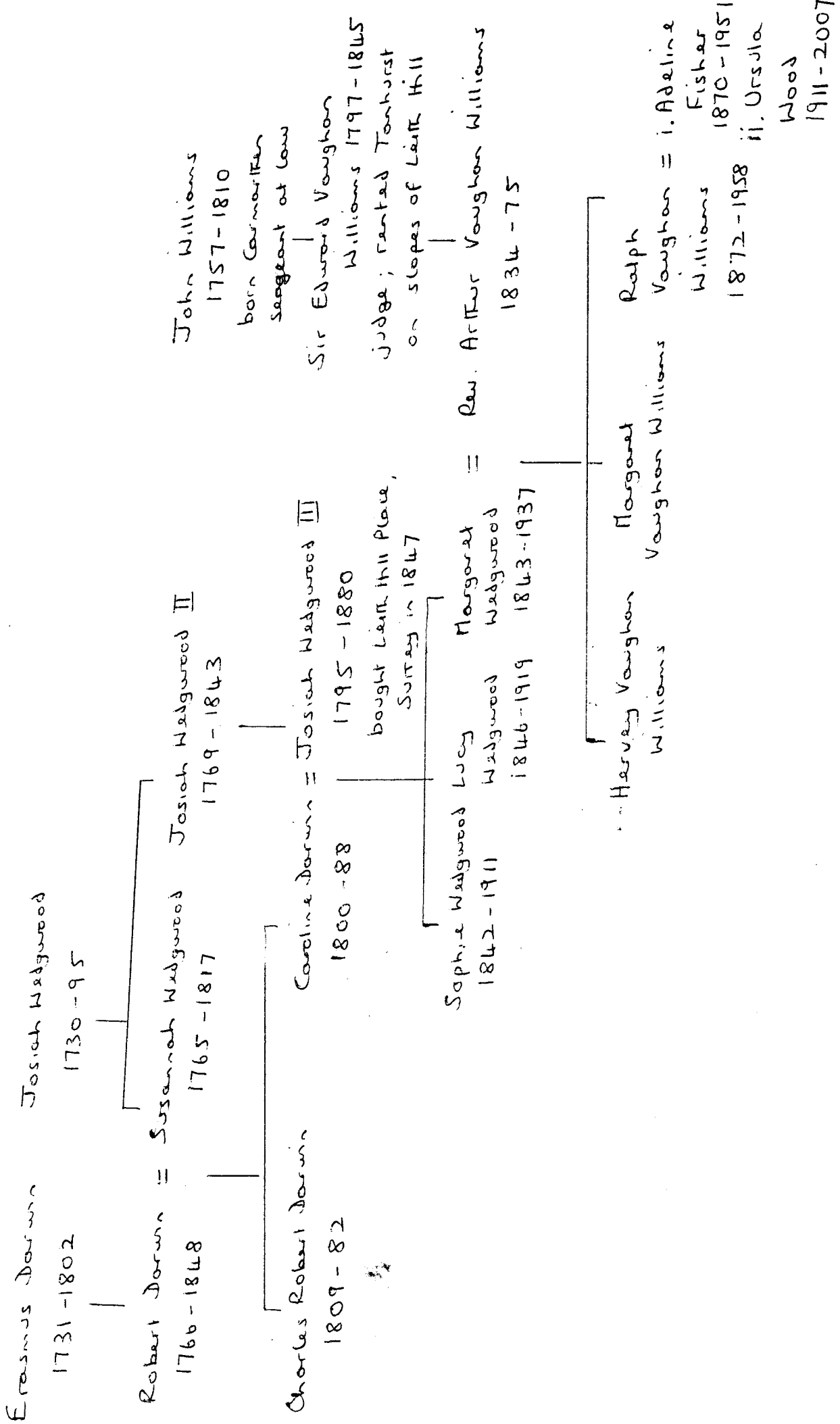
In the 1890s



St Barnabas, South Lambeth

# RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

## A SIMPLIFIED FAMILY TREE



Martin Shaw's scheme "to place England on its feet as a musical nation" (1917)

SCHEME No. 1 - DESTRUCTIVE

1. The abolition of all schools, colleges and academies of music.
2. The giving up of the concert habit.
3. A bonfire of pianos, classical music and drawing-room songs.
4. The painless extinction of all concert "artistes".

SCHEME No. 2 - CONSTRUCTIVE

1. The singing of English nursery-rhymes to all children in the nursery, as part of their upbringing.
2. The teaching of folk-song and new music, written in the English manner or idiom, in universities and schools, public, private and elementary.
3. The establishment of civic music guilds in every town and village.

\* \* \* \* \*

Vaughan Williams' own compositions printed in the hymnbooks

EH English Hymnal (1906)  
SP Songs of Praise (1925)  
SPE Songs of Praise (Enlarged) (1931)  
EHR English Hymnal (Revised) (1933)

Hymn Tunes

|                  |   |                        |
|------------------|---|------------------------|
| Down Ampney      | <i>Come down, O Love divine</i>                 | EH and all later books |
| Randolph         | <i>God be with you till we meet again</i>       | EH and all later books |
| Salve Festa Dies | <i>Hail thee, Festival Day</i>                  | EH and all later books |
| Sine Nomine      | <i>For all the saints</i>                       | EH and all later books |
| Cumnor           | <i>Servants of God, or sons</i>                 | SP, SPE                |
| Guildford        | <i>England, arise!</i>                          | SP, SPE                |
| King's Weston    | <i>At the name of Jesus</i>                     | SP and later books     |
| Magda            | <i>Saviour, again to thy dear name we raise</i> | SP and later books     |
| Oakley           | <i>The night is come like to the day</i>        | SP, SPE                |
| Abinger          | <i>I vow to thee my country</i>                 | SPE                    |
| Mantegna         | <i>Into the woods my master went</i>            | SPE                    |
| Marathon         | <i>Servants of the great adventure</i>          | SPE                    |
| White Gates      | <i>Fierce raged the tempest</i>                 | SPE, EHR               |

Descants

|          |  |         |
|----------|--|---------|
| Crüger   | <i>Hail to the Lord's Anointed</i>         | SP, SPE |
| Eventide | <i>Abide with me</i>                       | SP, SPE |
| Helmsley | <i>Lo! he comes with clouds descending</i> | SPE     |

The unison setting of *Let us now praise famous men* was also included in Songs of Praise