

Angela Carter's Folksong and Music Session

RWA Bristol 2pm Sunday 5th March 2017

'Folksong and Ballad' was a little-known fortnightly song session held in a quirky room above the Lansdown pub in Bristol in the 1960s, run by Angela Carter along with her then husband Paul, a singer, musician and sound-recorder for Topic Records.

This recreation of a typical traditional music session includes ballads central to Angela's studies at Bristol University. In 1964, Angela began to sing. Some of the 120 songs which she listed from this time were also sung by her husband. One of these, 'Fanny Blair', hand-written by Angela for Paul to learn, is on display in a side gallery at the RWA.

Angela's understanding of folksong narratives developed through performance among singing friends in these exuberant sessions. The only known recording of Angela singing and playing her English concertina will also be heard, for the first time in fifty years.

There may be some organic changes to the programme, in keeping with the 'haphazard- odds and ends' element of communal folk-music, which Angela particularly enjoyed.

Fanny Blair

Fare thee Well Cold Winter

Reynardine

Medley of Polkas

Golden Slippers and Pretty Redwing

Recollections of field-recording jaunts

The Banks of Red Roses

The Streams of Lovely Nancy

Jackie Monroe

The Handsome Cabin Boy

The Week Before Easter

The Verdant Braes of Skreen

Interval – 10 mins

Rosie Upton

Danny and Rod Stradling

Marianne McAleer

Harry Langston concertina/

John Shaw dulcimer/

Geoff Woolfe melodian/

Dave Byrne guitar/Brian Ainley fiddle/

Tom Randall concertina

Tom Randall

Rosie Upton

John Shaw

Polly Paulusma

Dave Byrne

Rod Stradling

Marianne McAleer

Traditional waltz tunes

Part 2 Cont. overleaf



Interval (Cont.)

Recording of Angela Carter 1967

Tune—The Briar Bush

The Bonny Bunch of Roses

The Banks of The Nile

The Maid on The Shore

The Bloody Gardener

William Taylor

Lucy Wan

Kind Friends and Companions

Singing 'The Flower of Sweet Strabane', and playing polka tunes on English concertina

Rod Stradling melodian

Danny and Rod Stradling

Harry Langston

Marianne McAleer

Rosie Upton

Geoff Woolfe

Polly Paulusma

Marianne McAleer

'Folksong has its own historicity, which is not necessarily that of the history books, having been composed for other purposes. Armies are enlarged or shrunk... all to suit the singer'

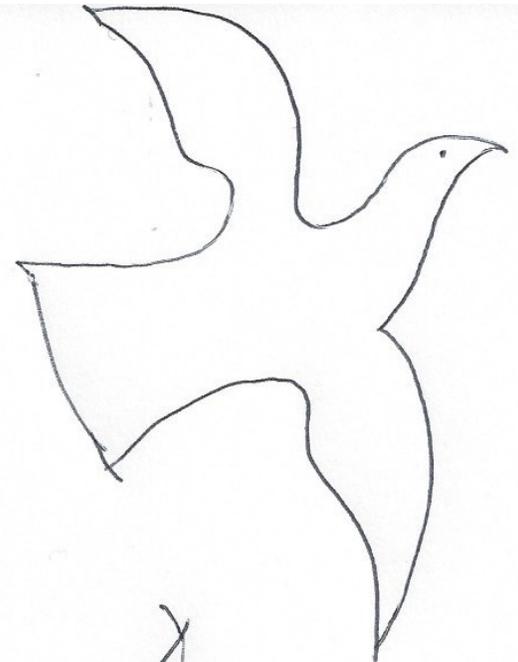
'..the richness and allusiveness of imagery in folk poetry, which reaches on through singing almost on a subliminal level, means one's appreciation grows with one's knowledge.. one's imagination, one's ability to think in images oneself...'

'One learns more about the importance of style from hearing Davy Stewart, the wild and passionate Scots tinker singer, than one ever will learn from looking at books....'

Angela Carter 1964

'Now is the Time For Singing'

Bristol University Magazine *Nonesuch*



Illustration, 'Angela Singing' copyright:

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