

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2010

# The Music and Song of the West Gallery

A workshop for singers and instrumentalists (A=440)

tutored by *The Mellstock Band*

followed by an evening concert at 7.30pm

**Community Hall, New Radnor, Powys**

**Registration from 10.00am. Workshop 11.00am – 5.00pm**

It has been said of West Gallery music that 'if we had hymns like that in our churches today they wouldn't be empty'. 'West Gallery' music was a vigorous, melodic style of worship at its height between 1700 and 1850. Thomas Hardy wrote much about the singers and players of the West Gallery in his novel *Under the Greenwood Tree*. The vivacious and contrapuntal style of singing and playing was popular with parishioners who wanted to do more than sit in silence during services. In much of the early West Gallery music the melody line is given to the tenor, with an underpinning bass harmony, contra-tenor and a treble voice or voices above. Eventually, the singers and instrumentalists of the West Galleries were replaced by harmoniums or organs and the vigour of the West Gallery music was lost.

The Mellstock Band has been at the forefront of the West Gallery music revival for some time. Their concerts and workshops are a unique combination of singing, instrumental music and readings, evoking an earlier, more simple time. Their name comes from Thomas Hardy, who gave the fictional title of Mellstock to his home parish of Stinsford. The band play versions of instruments that would have been current in Hardy's time, and the unique blend of instruments and singing create afresh the spirited richness and excitement of English village band music.

**There will also be an evening concert by the Mellstock Band at 7.30pm.**

Meals will be available at The Radnor Arms, from 5.30pm, pre booked, 2 courses for £7.

(Choice of menu is on next page of this booking form or ring 01547 560394.)

**Prior booking is essential.** Cost: £14 for members of BMEMF, £16 for non-members.

Concert tickets *when booked at the same time as the workshop*, £8.

To enrol please complete and return the attached slip, with a cheque payable to BMEMF, by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at the latest, to the co-ordinator: Cathy Alderson, Oaklands, Beggar's Bush, Evenjobb, Presteigne, Powys. LD8 2PB. Tel: 01547 560394. email: cathy.alderson@googlemail.com. (Write *BMEMF* in the subject line, please).

Post this form, with your cheque, payable to BMEMF, by **28<sup>th</sup> February 2010**, to:

Cathy Alderson, Oaklands, Beggar's Bush, Presteigne, Powys. LD8 2PB.

Please enrol me/us for the West Gallery workshop on Saturday 13th March 2010

Name(s) .....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Telephone.....email.....

Enrolment will be confirmed by email, *together with directions to New Radnor*.

Please enclose SAE if you would like confirmation by post.

Instrument..... Voice: please circle: S A T B

I enclose a cheque payable to BMEMF for the workshop £.....

..... tickets for the concert £.....

..... meals @ £7.00 each £.....

Grand Total £.....

## **Radnor Arms pub menu for BMEMF workshop attendees**

### **Main Course**

Steak and Kidney Pie

or

Breaded Scampi

or

Vegetable Lasagne

### **Pudding**

Apple and Blackberry Crumble

or

Rhubarb Crumble

or

Selection of Ice Creams

Price for meal £7.00

For further details telephone 01547 560394