

## Trails for ORATORIO

### Series intro.....

**MUSIC:** Saint-Saëns: Oratorio de Noël CD 69080 # 6

**KANE:** December and January Sunday mornings on Radio 4.... Another short season of Oratorios, presented by me Ciaran Kane. There's one which is a 'secular' oratorio, one whose composer called it a 'cantata', and for December, three are Christmas season works, by Berlioz, Saint-Saens and Benjamin Britten. "Oratorio", Sunday mornings, after the 10 o'clock news

**MUSIC:** s a m e to end

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December:

**MUSIC:** Mendelssohn: Paulus CD 4634 disc 2 # 1

**KANE:** This is the opening chorus of part 2 of Mendelssohn's first great oratorio, "Paulus" 'St Paul'. I *ended* an earlier series of Oratorio programmes with part 1: so I decided to *continue* the story for this *new* series of "Oratorio", which begins this coming Sunday morning at 10 a.m. on Radio 4

**MUSIC:** s a m e

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December:

**MUSIC:** Britten: Saint Nicolas CD 28163 # 9

**KANE:** The legends of St Nicholas, a 4<sup>th</sup> century Middle Eastern bishop were once familiar to people all over Europe and into Asia minor. His connection with Christmastime made him the origin of Santa Claus, And 60 years ago this year, Benjamin Britten wrote a 'cantata' about him. Britten's "Saint Nicolas", in full, is *this* Sunday's "Oratorio" on Radio 4, after the 10:00 a.m. news.

**MUSIC:** s a m e

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December:**

**MUSIC:** Saint Saëns : Oratorio de Noël CD 69080 # 10

**KANE:** From 'Oratorio de Noël' by Camille Saint-Saëns, who's not generally known for his church or religious music but was organist for over 20 years at one of the most prestigious churches in Paris. His Christmas oratorio is so short it fits completely in the Sunday morning "Oratorio" programme, with time left for a little Bach as well. Sunday, 10:00 a.m., Radio 4

**MUSIC:** s a m e

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December:**

**MUSIC:** Berlioz: L'Enfance du Christ CD 44153 disc 1 # 11

**KANE:** Berlioz was not known as a particularly *religious* man, but he wrote what he called a 'sacred trilogy' on the Childhood of Christ. The words, too, are his: not following the bible, but an imaginative and in places deeply touching story. And his writing of it started off with a musical prank. "L'Enfance du Christ" is the 'Oratorio' on Sunday morning, 10:00 to 11:00 on Radio 4

**MUSIC:** s a m e

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January:

MUSIC: Handel: Solomon 93 R 02 disc 2 # 10

KANE: The arrival of the Queen of Sheba, the best-known bit of Handel's late Oratorio, "Solomon". It's the prelude to Act 3 of what's quite a *long* work with a number of *lovely* arias and what's been claimed to be Handel's *best* choruses. A much-*edited* "Solomon" is *this* week's 'Oratorio' on Radio 4, on Sunday morning after the 10:00 am news.

MUSIC: s a m e

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January:

MUSIC: McCartney: Liverpool Oratorio CD 15493 disc 1 # 13

KANE: From *this* Sunday morning's 'Oratorio' on Radio 4, the "Liverpool Oratorio" by ex-Beatle and citizen of the city, Sir Paul McCartney. His first serious venture into the world of classical music, written in 1991 in collaboration with American composer and conductor, Carl Davis. 'Oratorio', this time a 'secular' one, on Radio 4, Sunday morning after 10.

MUSIC: s a m e

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January:

MUSIC: John Knowles Paine: St Peter GM 2027CD-2 disc 2 # 21

KANE: The final chorus of "St Peter", an oratorio by 19<sup>th</sup> century pioneering American composer John Knowles Paine, America's first *professor* of music, who taught at Harvard for 44 years. "St Peter" was first heard in 1873, and you can hear an *edited* version of it in this week's 'Oratorio' programme on Radio 4, Sunday morning, 10:00 a.m.

MUSIC: s a m e

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January:**

**MUSIC: Elgar: The Dream of Gerontius CD 6042/3 disc 1 # 25**

**KANE: “Praise to the Holiest”, the “big” chorus from Edward Elgar’s “The Dream of Gerontius”, one of the numbers from that work in this Sunday morning’s ‘Oratorio’ programme. The ‘Dream’ is a setting of a long poem by Cardinal Newman, and we’ll only have time for a *selection* from the continuous musical score ‘Oratorio’ is on Sunday morning, just after 10.**

**MUSIC: s a m e**

**Series intro.:**

**MUSIC:**

**KANE:** The mini-series of “Oratorio” on Sunday mornings in May continues into June, with samples from the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, around the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup>, and from the 1760s: on subjects as diverse as Judas Iscariot, St Paul, Joan of Arc and the Prodigal Son story: ORATORIO, Radio 4, Sunday 10 a.m.

**MUSIC:** s a m e