



Peter Warlock Béla Bartók

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Warlock and Bartók

Saturday 2 October 2004 at 1pm

Imre Varga's fourth statue of Béla Bartók will be unveiled

on the traffic island outside South Kensington Station
between Melton Court and Malvern Court, London SW7

*Promoted by the Peter Warlock Society in conjunction with the Hungarian Cultural Centre
as part of Magyar Magic – Hungary in Focus 2004 a year long celebration of
Hungarian art and talent, supported by the Hungarian Cultural Ministry*

The celebrated Hungarian sculptor, Imre Varga will be coming to London from 27 September to 4 October this year as a guest of the Hungarian Cultural Centre to see the unveiling of his fourth statue of Béla Bartók. It will follow his statues of Bartók in Budapest, Brussels, and Paris where the square has been renamed after the composer. Born in Siófok in 1923, Varga graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Budapest in 1956 and won the Kossuth Prize in 1973. In 1984 he exhibited at the Venice Biennale. Notable statues of his are of Prometheus, a Piéta, St Stephen, St Francis, Ferenc Rákóczi, Lenin, Raoul Wallenberg, Sir Winston Churchill and Béla Bartók. 300 of his works are now to be found in eight different countries of the world. England is to be the ninth, but how many statues of composers will this now make in London?

Béla Bartók (1881–1945), the most significant Hungarian composer of the last century, was inspired principally by a love for his native folk music. Choosing exile in America in 1939, he died there five years later. His music, melodic but characteristically dissonant, includes the opera *Duke Bluebeard's Castle*, the *Concerto for Orchestra*, three piano concertos, six string quartets, and a remarkable set of 153 graded piano pieces called *Mikrokosmos*.

Peter Warlock (1894–1930), the most significant English songwriter of the last century, was inspired by the music of Delius, Bartók, and Elizabethan & Celtic music and culture. His music includes a suite *Capriol*, 150 songs, several exquisite carols, and 600 Elizabethan transcriptions. As it was Peter Warlock who was instrumental in bringing Bartók to London for the first time in 1922, the Peter Warlock Society, in conjunction with the Hungarian Cultural Centre are arranging this unveiling. They also arranged with English Heritage for a blue plaque for Bartók at 7 Sydney Place, London SW7. It was unveiled by David Mellor and Felix Aprahamian in 1997.

Friday 1st October 2004 will start a week of Bartók festivities

On Friday 1st October at 6.30pm, Peter Laki will give a talk on Béla Bartók at the Hungarian Cultural Centre, 10 Maiden Lane, London WC2 (booking 020 7240 8448). The unveiling day's activities on Saturday 2nd are given overleaf. On 4,5,6 October *Bluebeard's Castle* and *The Miraculous Mandarin* with the Budapest Opera Company will be performed at the Sadlers Wells Theatre (booking 0870 7377737). On 8 October, the Third Piano Concerto with Hélène Grimaud, Pierre Boulez and the LSO will be performed at the Barbican (booking 020 7638 8891)

Further details from Malcolm Rudland

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