

Richard Barnard

Springfields Songs

Mezzo Soprano

Clarinet in B \flat

'Cello

Commissioned by La Folia as part of the 'Continuing the Conversation' project at Springfields Residential Home in Okehampton, 2020

Inspired by music therapist Meg Brand's exchanges with residents at Springfields Residential Home, particularly Joan, Sally, Fay, Tom, Ann and Pat.

Supported by PRS for Music Foundation



Music © Richard Barnard 2020

The text uses words and lyrics spoken and sung by residents during the music therapy sessions

1. Making a Connection

Underneath the orchids
By the lily seat,
That's where we used to,
Where we used to meet.
Oh, Danube so blue.

2. Far Rhythms

What would me mother say
If she could see us now?
It's too ridiculous for words;
Playing African music in Devon!
Fantastic!

3. Blackbird

There's a song in my heart
That no blackbird can sing

I could clear a church in two minutes if I sang!

There's a song in my heart;
A song a blackbird used to sing.
As he sat me on his knee
And told me of trees
And the birds and the bees
There's a song in my heart.

4. Sounds I Had Forgotten

You've reminded me of sounds I had forgotten.
When clouds are grey
You've reminded me of sounds I had forgotten.
Tidings of comfort and joy
Sounds I had forgotten.
All is calm, all is bright
Hello, Piccadilly!
Farewell, Leicester Square!
My heart's still there.

5. Play

Play something less melancholy!
It doesn't make sense just sitting about
You're a fast man, always so fast!
How do I make it like a song?
Diddly biddly boo, Bing, Bang, Bong!

Belinda was a lady
Who wished to go to sea.
In order to attain this end
She begged the Admiralty to send
her off with any kind of craft
A cruiser, TB, tug or raft...

When out on the lawn
there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed
to see what was the matter.

Away to the window
I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters
and threw up the sash.

...A ship of forty thousand tons
With perfectly enormous guns.
She hadn't been an hour afloat
Before she called the ship a boat!
...
A thing that's seldom done at sea
Except in grave emergency.

If we want to make some noise, we will make a bloody noise!
Where's my play thing?

6. From Us, To You, Goodnight

To you, goodnight.
From us, to you, goodnight.
And that is the end of it for us tonight
All shut down; close up; finish forever. Goodnight.

All this for a fish
And a very fine fish. Goodnight.
And a very fish indeed. Goodnight.

See you a bit later, you're going to have lunch with us, are you? Yes?
We'll have a good lunch today.
That's us. Goodnight.
Closed down a little early, perhaps.
Thank you for a lovely, lovely supper.
Yes very, very good. Thank you. Goodnight.

Well I was going to say see you tomorrow,
But I'm afraid I will be on the high seas on the way to America.
Goodnight from us to you.
We're going to have a smash up celebratory dinner for tonight,
Then go to the dance at the Palladium.
Then we can go to bed
And sleep until tomorrow morning.