

Cavalcade of Music

by Harry Wood

transcribed and annotated

by Maurice Powell

1892

Derby Castle

My first year as conductor. I have a photograph (no longer extant) taken this year, in which my young brother, Haydn, is included. He is in his ninth year. The comedian Harry Randall is also in the photo. He is a great favourite at the Castle. ²

Harry Randall's popular song was *I'm Little Teddy Brawn from Douglas*. (In London it is entitled *I'm Little Teddy Brawn from London*. If he is in Margate it is *I'm Little Teddy Brawn from Margitt*.) ³ The chorus of the songs runs thus:

A brawn hat, a pair of brawn shoes,

A brawn face with the sun and lots of booze.

Some brawn's in my pocket which I don't care if I blues,

I'm little Teddy Brawn down at Douglas.

He also used to sing (Joseph Tabrar's) *For the Sake of the Little Ones at Home*.

At Whitsuntide Miss Marie Lloyd was the artiste. Her great song was *Oh! Mr Porter, What Shall I Do?* She also sang *Twiggy Voo, My Boys, Twiggy Voo* and *I Asked Johnny Jones and Now I Know*.

In addition to the artistes just named, the following came to the Derby Castle this year, and for many years after. (Harry Wood then lists twenty-four music hall stars and their most popular songs, many of whom appeared regularly in Douglas during the 1890s, and some during the decades before World War I. Here are the most significant: Dan Leno, Vesta Tilley, Lottie Collins, Albert Chevalier, Gus Elen, Hetty King, Little Tich, Mark Sheridan and Charles Coburn.)

Concerning the Canadian - American comedian R. G. Knowles, he relates one of the few anecdotes in *Cavalcade*:

I remember a very amusing incident showing the quick-wittedness of this comedian. I was conducting his show, and during his performance, said to my young brother, Haydn, who was sitting near me: 'Immediately Knowles begins to leave the stage, take my place'. Haydn did so. Knowles was back on stage in a moment and, looking down at the orchestra said: 'Good gracious Mr Wood, how you've shrunk' (I am portly, and my brother was a thin little lad).

Dance Music played at the Palace and Derby Castle:

Valse: *Chantilly* by Waldteufel; *Ferryman John* by (Otto) Roeder; *Ever Thine* by (Edwin H.) Prout; *Laetichita (?)* by (Phillip) Farbach; *Elfin Reigen (?)* by Gung'l; *Illustrationen (?)* by Johann Strauss; *Consortien op. 260* by Josef Strauss; *Edinburgh (?)* by Bonnisseau; *Juanita* by (Emile) Toska.

Polka: *Zigzag op. 248* by (Émile) Waldteufel; *Merry Bells* by Dan Godfrey.

Schottische: *(La) Belle View* by (Daniel) Imhof.

Lancers: *La Fille du Madame Angot* by Lecocq arr. Coote.

Concert programmes at the Palace and Derby Castle:

Overture *Ungarische Lustspiel op. 108* by Béla Kéler

Selection from *Maritana* by (William) Wallace

Cornet solo *The Soul's Awakening* by (George Percy) Haddock

Piccolo solo (Polka) *The Wren* by E. Demare

Gavotte *Les Cloches du Monastère* by (Lefébure-) Wely

Cynthia, a Right Merry Dance by (William Michael) Watson

Judex from *Mors et Vita* by Gounod

Suite from *Henry VIII* by Arthur Sullivan.

1. Haydn Wood took his first violin lessons from his elder brother Harry, frequently played in his brother's orchestra, and played violin solos up to the time when he left the Island to study at the Royal College of Music.

2. Harry Wood's recollections are inaccurate here; Harry Randall first appeared at the Derby Castle was in August 1893.

3. The song *Little Teddy Brown Down at Margit* was composed by J. Bernard Dickson and published in 1895.