



MID-PENNINE
association for the arts
presents



Jake Thackray

STATUES

Closing time on Sat'day it was dark;
Me and Uncle Samuel were lying in the park,
Toes towards the moonlight, noses in the flowerbeds
But we know that what we saw - we saw.
She was naked she was cast in bronze
Standing in the lake amidst the Corporation swans
He was millstone grit he was Sir Robert Walpole
And we know that what he said - he said:-
"Lady is the water cold tonight?
Or does the milky moonlight warm your heart to me
Or must I hanker for a hundred years again
And neverendingly gaze upon your flanks, your face?"
Well, me and my Uncle Sam, oh constable, well we were right on her side
Poor darling, she was shy, and she had her pride
And nowhere to hide.

We were there we saw the aged sire
Shaking with a century of petrified desire
Climbing from his pedestal, all stiff and sooty
And we know that what we saw - we saw.
He began to tremble and to sway
We were drunk as penguins but we saw him clear as day
Clumping to the water's edge, Sir Robert Walpole
And we know that what he said - he said:-
"Lady is the water cold tonight?
Because the silky moonlight warms my heart to you
So let the devil take the park attendant first
My heart may burst, so I'm not waiting any longer lady."
Me and my Uncle Sam, Inspector, well then we both got to our feet
Poor darling she was sweet, and not very old
And awfully cold.

We rolled up our sleeves we got to work;
Went for him like buffaloes, like windmills gone berserk
He fought like a tiger, we've the scars to prove it,
And we know that what we've got - we've got.
We hung like death we did our best
He was big and gritty and he fought like one possessed
He was much too good for us was Robert Walpole
He put us down and out and he strode on.
"Lady was the water cold last night?
Was it the creamy dreamy moonlight warmed your heart?
Oh little nymph, we both did what we could,
But it's so strange, you're infinitely changed today."
Well, me and my Uncle Sam, your worship,
Well we both feel something's not right
Today she wears a smile, her face is alight
And her eyes are bright
Ever so bright.

J. Thackeray.



Jake Thackray is a Leeds man, and it was there, singing in the Tap Rooms of Kirkstall Road, that he was discovered by a BBC radio producer. His style of song, and of presentation, however, owes much more to a firmly-rooted French lineage than to any English tradition.

A graduate of Durham University, Jake was working as a teacher in France when he met, and came under the influence of, the brilliant - and extremely popular - French poet/chansonnier, Georges Brassens (cf Georges Brassens by Alphonse Bonnafé; Poètes d'Aujourd'hui 99, Editions Pierre Seghers, 1963). Jake has since adapted a number of Brassens' songs into English, and his own original compositions bear similar stylistic marks.

After travelling widely in Europe, Jake returned to teach in Leeds, and was soon broadcasting regularly in the BBC's Northcountryman series. Television then stepped in, and after several appearances on the regional Look North programme, Jake abandoned teaching, moved south and was quickly signed for The Frost Programme and for the BBC's series of Beryl Reid Shows. He is currently resident on the very popular Braden's Week, a show which has made him one of the most sought-after performers in the country.

The originality and range of Jake Thackray's talent can be sampled on his LP record, Last Will and Testament of Jake Thackray, and on his single Lah-di-dah coupled with The Black Swan.

His present tour for the Mid-Pennine Association for the Arts will be as follows:

Monday 21 April 1969 at 8.30pm:	White Hart Hotel, Todmorden
Tuesday 22 April 1969 at 8.30pm:	Big Window Hotel, Burnley
Wednesday 23 April at 8.30pm:	Station Hotel, Earby
Thursday 24 April 1969 at 7.30pm:	College of Further Education, Nelson
Friday 25 April 1969 at 10.30pm:	Century Theatre, Broadway Car Park, Accrington

NEXT WEEK...

The return, by popular request, of THE BARROW POETS on tour to Nelson, Bacup, Accrington, Barnoldswick and Burnley.

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