

BATH DAILY CHRONICLE 30th January, 1906

FOLK SONGS

‘To the Editor of the Bath Daily Chronicle.’

Sir,- As a staunch supporter of the Municipal Orchestra, might I ask a few lines of your valuable space to call attention of lovers of music in Bath to an event of unusual interest and importance, the appearance of Mr Cecil Sharp at the Pump Room next Saturday?

Mr Sharp is well known throughout Britain, not only as an accomplished musician, but as an energetic collector of folk songs. In the last three years he has gathered among the country people of Somerset, no less than 800 or 900 traditional songs, which but for his enthusiasm might have been lost to the country. The songs are of the most divine character, grave and gay, pathetic, humorous and jovial, and many are of surpassing beauty. Mr Sharp is to give in the afternoon and evening three brief lectures or ‘caneries’ on folk song, with vocal illustrations from Miss Mattie Kay; and in celebration of his visit, Mr. Gustav Von Holst, by the kind permission of Mr. Max Hermann, will conduct two selections of old-world ditties, which he has just completed, the one based on Sharp’s ‘Folk Songs from Somerset’, and the other on Baring Gould’s ‘Songs of the West’. Thirty six songs in all will be performed at the two concerts. Mr. Sharp has done not a little for Somerset. Will not Somerset and Bath in particular do something for him? I trust he will have a royal reception.

GEORGE B. GARDINER

(Member of the Folk Song Society)