



MARTIN & SHAN GRAEBE

Martin and Shan Graebe sing together in harmony, drawing from a repertoire of English traditional songs, particularly those collected by Sabine Baring-Gould in Devon and Cornwall – though they also slip in a few of the songs that Martin has written. Martin has spent many years researching Baring-Gould's life and work and is an acknowledged authority on his folk song collection. He has given talks about Baring-Gould at festivals, conferences in the UK, USA and Australia as well as to local groups in the community from which the songs originally came.

Shan discovered Cecil Sharp's collection when she was at school and has used song extensively in her work as a speech and language therapist with children who have severe learning difficulties. In recent years she has joined Martin in his research into the Baring-Gould collection as well as sharing her knowledge about the way the voice works through workshops and individual coaching.

We are happy to accept bookings for folk clubs, folk festivals and other events. As well as singing together in concerts and other formats we are able to offer workshops and talks on topics related to our interests and research in folk song.

What we offer:

- Traditional English songs in distinctive two part harmony
- Talks and performances on Sabine Baring-Gould and his folk song collection as well as other aspects of English traditional song
- A unique range of workshops and coaching on the singing voice for performers

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TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

TALKS ABOUT SABINE BARING-GOULD

As a result of his expertise on the Victorian folk song collector, Sabine Baring-Gould, **Martin** is able to offer a continually developing range of illustrated talks about this remarkable man.

“A Dear Lover of Songs” An introduction to Baring-Gould’s life and work with an overview of his folk song of his contribution to English traditional song.

“Sweet Nightingales - The real people behind the songs.” Baring-Gould spent more than fifteen years going among the ordinary people of Devon and Cornwall, and wrote about many of them. From these account and with additional material from his research Martin reveals more about the people who gave Baring-Gould their songs.

Other talks that Martin has given in recent years include

‘Devon by Bicycle and Dog-cart’ - The collaboration between Baring-Gould and Cecil Sharp

‘Sabine’s Women’ - Sabine Baring-Gould and the collection of songs by and from women in Devon and Cornwall

‘Pixies, Padfoots and Popular Antiquities’ – Sabine Baring-Gould and folklore

‘To Widdicombe Fair - Sabine Baring-Gould’s quest for folk-life in Devon and Cornwall.”

‘When we went a Gypsying’ - Sabine Baring-Gould's Dartmoor expeditions in search of song

‘All the Trees They do Grow High’ - Baring-Gould and the Ballad

‘The Folk Next Door’ - Baring-Gould in Cornwall

‘Farewell Heat and Welcome Frost’ - Sabine Baring-Gould’s journey to Iceland (1862)

Many of the talks are illustrated and we can bring the necessary equipment, including projector and screen. Most of the talks also include (live) musical examples.

WORKSHOPS ON THE VOICE

Shan is, by training, a speech and language therapist. In recent years she has tutored individuals and small groups at folk song schools and festivals. In response to participants’ requests for further information and practical experience, she has developed the following workshops:

How your voice works. This workshop is not a conventional voice work-out. It is an illustrated talk with opportunities to discuss aspects of using the voice and to ask questions. This workshop has now been run a number of times and has proved very lively and interactive and has scored highly in subsequent feedback. Running time 50-60 minutes.

How to handle your nerves. In this workshop Shan offers some thoughts on dealing with nerves and techniques that help to manage nervous energy effectively. Skills in memorising songs are important in this context and will be covered in the workshop, with practical exercises. Running time 50-60 minutes.

Giving your voice carrying power. Participants will hear about different ways of using our voices and how to achieve a strong voice that will carry. This workshop is mostly practical. Running time 50-60 minutes.

Keeping your voice healthy. All singers should have a concern about keeping their voices working well, and what to do when they are experiencing problems. This talk will highlight some of the main issues and explain the reasons behind the advice. Running time 50-60 minutes.

Breathing for singing. A practical workshop in which participants are helped to understand the way the diaphragm provides the motive power for singers' voices and will learn techniques for breath control while singing. Running time 50-60 minutes.

Each talk is supported by a clearly written 'handout', These can be downloaded from our web-site, www.martinandshan.net and can be e-mailed or sent to participants on request.

OTHER WORKSHOPS

Finding out about folksong. In this workshop Martin offers a guide to research into traditional song for those who want to find new songs to expand their repertoire or to explore the origins of the songs they sing. (Illustrated).

Songs from the West. Martin and Shan teach a selection of songs from the Baring-Gould collection, using a specially prepared song-book which is made available to participants.

Warm-up Songs. A workshop in which Shan teaches a selection of short, easy to learn songs and rounds which are useful as warm-up and voice development activities for individuals and groups.

THEMED CONCERTS

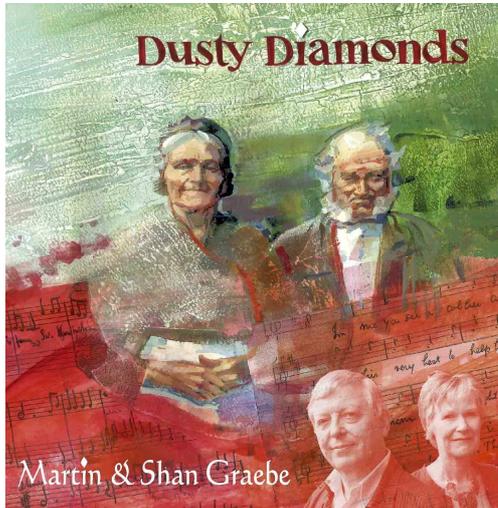
Martin and Shan also offer special features that combine songs and readings, based on Sabine Baring-Gould's work. We currently offer three such programmes, each timed to work in a one hour slot:

'Songs of the West'. A selection of songs and readings from the Baring-Gould song collection, together with illustrations and other explanation that bring his work to life.

'All at Sea with Baring-Gould.' A programme selected from the many songs from or about the sea that Baring-Gould collected, with readings from his published and unpublished work.

'Old Country Life' – a picture of English rural life in the late Nineteenth Century drawn from Baring-Gould's writing and illustrated with songs from the people who lived the lives he describes.

MARTIN AND SHAN'S CDs



Martin and Shan's second CD, '**Dusty Diamonds**' was released by Wildgoose in 2008. It includes songs from the Baring-Gould collection, together with a few collected by Cecil Sharp in the South-West of England. There are also two songs written by Martin. Accompaniments by Keith Kendrick on concertina and Nick Wyke and Becki Driscoll on fiddle. Further details can be found on:

www.martinandshan.net and on www.wildgoose.co.uk

"A fresh and beautifully realised approach to English traditional song ... Seriously satisfying."
Clive Pownceby, English Dance and Song

"This is, by far, the best CD I've heard from 'revival' singers this year" (2008)
Chris (Yorkie) Bartram, Shreds and Patches

"Martin and Shan are real tradition-bearers"
The Living Tradition (May/June 2009)

Their earlier CD, '**Parallel Strands**', is still available. It brings together Martin's own songs and several from the Baring-Gould manuscripts. Accompaniments are provided by a great team of musicians including Paul Burgess, Jeff Gillett, Keith Kendrick, Barry Lister, Paul Sartin, and Paul Wilson with additional vocals by Doug Bailey, Lynne Heraud, Barry Lister and Pat Turner. The CD has been produced by Doug Bailey of Wildgoose Records, WGS 323CD. For details see:

www.martinandshan.net