

CONTEMPORARY REFERENCES 1900-1909

SELECTED FROM THE DATABASES BRITISH NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE 1900-1909 AND TIMES DIGITAL ARCHIVE

During the Edwardian decade, Ketèlbey remained a fairly shadowy figure. He began it as a jobbing conductor of shows around the country, including his own opera *The Wonder Worker*. He ended it conducting in music halls. Though he settled down to marriage and a regular job with Columbia Graphophone, I have not found these documented in contemporary newspapers. Only a handful of his compositions were performed regularly. - TMCc

This selection of articles omits repeated adverts, and also most references to concert programmes which merely list works performed without any value judgement.

The Stage, Thursday 8th February, 1900

MR. ALBERT W. KETELBEY, L.Mus., T.C.L. late Mus. Dir., Opera Comique). Offers invited. Permanent address, Berkeley Chambers, Bruton St., Bond St., W.

[Ketèlbey advertised his services regularly in *The Stage*. He was still disengaged on 22nd March]

Torquay Times and South Devon Advertiser, Friday 23rd March 1900

LOCAL NEWS. PLEASANTSUNDAY AFTERNOONS.

There was a fair attendance on Sunday, when the address was given by Mr. F.G. Dimmock... Miss Pitt Nind sang "The City of Rest (G.F. Lloyd) and "The Heavenly Message" (A.W. Ketelbey), being accompanied upon the piano by Mrs. Aplin ...

The Stage, Thursday 19th July 1900

MR. ALBERT W. KETELBEY, L.Mus., T.C.L. late Musical Director, Opera Comique). Autumn, Morell and Mouillot's *Geisha*...

The Era, Saturday 28th July 1900

MR. ALBERT W. KETELBEY Thanks Morell and Mouillot for Releasing, Owing to Production of my New Opera ...

THE WONDER WORKER

Articles between 4th August and 23rd October 1900, when Ketèlbey was heavily involved with this opera, are on a separate webpage.

The Era (London), Saturday, November 10, 1900; Issue 3242

ADVERTISEMENTS & NOTICES.

MR ALBERT W. KETELBEY, L.Mus.T.C.L., Late Mus. Dir. Opera Comique, Composer and Conductor, "The Wonder Worker" Comic Opera, on Tour.

[This was the last day of *The Wonder Worker's* tour, so he had to start looking for work]

The Stage, Thursday 7th February 1901

WOLVERHAMPTON. GRAND...

The provinces are to be introduced to yet another stage girl – *The Casino Girl*, which commenced its tour at Wolverhampton on Monday... The musical conductor was Mr. A.W. Ketelbey, who for a first night kept the orchestra and chorus well together

Dundee Courier, Tuesday 30th April 1901

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE. "THE CASINO GIRL"

Last night Mr Lederer's Company produced "The Casino Girl" at Her Majesty's Theatre before a fairly large audience for a Monday night... The chorus sang well, but scarcely with sufficient strength for the band, which was ably conducted by Mr Albert W. Ketelbey...

The Stage, Thursday 2nd May 1901

DUNDEE – HER MAJESTY'S...

Mr. George W. Lederer's Co. are here this week with *The Casino Girl*... Mr. A.W. Ketelbey conducts vigorously and effectively...

The Era, Saturday 26th October 1901

The New and Successful Song, "ABERFOYLE." Composed by Albert W. Ketelbey, Composer of "The Wonder Worker" Comic Opera. Free for Pantomime. A certain success for Principal Boy or Girl or Fairy Queen. Pathetic Words. Beautiful Melody. Harmonised Refrain. Applications for Professional Copy invited (principals only).

[[One wonders why a Fairy Queen would be singing about an obscure Scottish town](#)]

The Stage, Thursday 7th November 1901

MR. ALBERT W. KETELBEY, L Mus.T.C.L., Composer and Conductor (late Mus. Dir. Opera Comique). Composer, Comic Opera, *The Wonder Worker*; also successful new song, "Aberfoyle." Disengaged for London and Suburbs. 5, Vigo Street, Regent Street, W.

South Bucks Standard, Friday 22nd November 1901

THE WHITE HART MUSICAL SOCIETY. SECOND CONCERT OF THE SEASON.

The second concert of the season in connection with the White Hart Musical Society took place on Tuesday, and like its predecessor, passed off with the utmost eclat. ... Mr. Treflyn David next appeared, and as it some five or six years since this fine vocalist was last heard in Wycombe, he was listened to, perhaps, with added interest. He at once established himself a prime favourite by his magnificent rendering of Ketelby's pretty song, "Aberfoyle"; Mr. David had selected a song which afforded him plenty of score in which to display his abilities, and it may unhesitatingly be said of him that he is one of the very best of the many fine tenors who have delighted Wycombe audiences. ...

The Era, Saturday 18th January 1902

MARGATE. THEATRE ROYAL.

Mr Denis Coyne's musical repertoire company is still here, and this week a triple bill has been presented, the items including comedy, farce, and burlesque. The curtain-raiser each evening has been the operatic farcical comedy *Cupid the Conqueror*. In this piece Miss Fannie Milton has sung each evening the popular song, by A.W. Ketelbey entitled "Aberfoyle," with success...

Kent and Sussex Courier, Wednesday 5th February 1902

NEW YEAR'S RECEPTION BY THE MAYOR AND MAYORESS.

... The following was the programme of entertainment of the Scarlet Mr E's (under the direction of Mr H.G. Groves:-

... Song with chorus... "Aberfoyle"... Ketelby. Mr E. No.3.

... Song with chorus... "The Swashbucklers"... Ketelby. Mr E. No.3.

[[No copy of *The Swashbucklers* is known to still exist](#)]

London Evening Standard, Tuesday 23rd December 1902

HAMMOND & CO. ... "Six Musical Impressions," by Albert W. Ketelbey, are tasteful little pieces of designed simplicity ... Of the songs sent by this firm, the best are "Broken Toys" and "Aberfoyle" by Albert W. Ketelbey.

[[This review of the 6 Musical Impressions predates the copyright date and also the date a copy was deposited in the British Museum](#)]

Northern Whig, Saturday 24th December 1904

KNOCK INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

The pupils of the above school ... gave a musical entertainment on the 22nd December ...

The following programme was gone through: -

... piano duet, "Fete Champetre" (A.W. Ketelby), Misses N. and M. Deane ...

[The sheet music was deposited in the British Museum on 13th December. That two primary schoolchildren could have mastered the piece by 22nd suggests that it had been published in the summer at the latest]

The Scotsman Monday 17th April 1905

MUSICAL PUBLICATIONS

... Messrs Hammond & Co. have issued a batch of pianoforte pieces ... There are also two pieces by Anton Vodorinski, "Valse Brillante" and "Morceau Pathetique" likely to be useful to teachers...

Included in the same parcel is an agreeable song "He Sings" by Alfred Ketèlby.

Buckingham Advertiser and Free Press, Saturday 29th July 1905

BROOK HALL SCHOOL, ANNUAL PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

... On returning to the Schoolroom, the programme was resumed as follows ...

The pupils had during the programme been seated on the stage, attired in white dresses with light blue sashes. And now followed a floral cantata, "The Garland" (by Albert Ketèlbey) by eight of the pupils attired in Brittany costumes, of coloured skirts, with apron and fichu of white and starched caps, and carrying bouquets of flowers. The characters were: Margot (1st soprano), M. Wood; Christine (2nd soprano), C. Kibble; Village Maidens, N. Wood, G. Jones, E. Ward, E. Hughes, L. Dancer, and W. Price.

It is not only an exceedingly pretty piece, but also very pretty and pleasing in its theme. Briefly stated the girls meet and discuss the coming La Fête des Torses which is to be held in a little town of Brittany, when a prize is to be offered for the pretty garland of flowers. Margot and Christine, two rival beauties of the village, have each seen, and coveted for their garland, a starry flower growing high among the rocks. Margot desires the prize to buy luxuries for her invalid sister, and Christine overcoming her jealousy, dares the danger of the ascent of the mountain, and brings the flower to Margot, thus enabling her to win the prize.

The singing was extremely good throughout; indeed, the whole rendering of the piece gave evidence of very careful training, the solos and duet of the principal girls at the close being full of pathos, especially when the coveted flower, for the gaining of which the girl had risked her life, is handed over by her to her rival, for the benefit of the invalid sister...

Derby Daily Telegraphy, Tuesday 7th November 1905

HAPPY SATURDAY EVENINGS.

The Happy Saturday Evening preceding the society's anniversary is always a special one. The Temperance Hall was filled on Saturday, the great attraction being a return visit from the "Merrie Peasants," a very talented company [in fact a vocal quartet] ... The programme was as follows: Opening chorus (Ketelbey) Ye Merrie Peasants; ...song, "Aberfoyle" (Ketelbey), Mr. Trefelyn David ...

[The chorus was repeated the following year with no further identification, but may refer to the opening chorus of *The Wonder Worker*. This group of Welsh singers had also performed it at St James' Hall (Kingston upon Thames?), as reported in *Surrey Comet*, 18th October 1905]

Morning Post, Thursday 22nd March 1906

RECENT MUSICAL PUBLICATIONS.

A HAMMOND & CO. ... Although without octaves and presumably intended for small hands, Anton Vodorinski's "Bluette" , by reason of its legato passages, necessitates fingers and wrists well under control, which are herein provided with an ingenious piece of writing producing good results from small means.

The Musical World, Monday 16th September 1907

MUSIC.

The Heart's Awakening, by Albert W. Ketelbey. London: Novello's, 2s. Net

To graceful lines by Florence Hoare the composer has wedded equally graceful and expressively truthful music, which, while technically excellent, is capable of affording pleasure to audiences of average musical taste. Vocalists will no doubt find such songs especially welcome. Tenors – to whom the song will make its most urgent appeal – have too few of such songs in their repertoire.

The Scotsman, Thursday 26th September 1907

MUSICAL PUBLICATIONS

... "The Heart's Awakening," by Albert W. Ketelbey, is effective.

Cheltenham Looker-On, Saturday 5th October 1907

SONGS

"The Heart's Awakening," by Albert W. Ketelbey (Novello and Co., Ltd.) - A charming lyric by Miss Florence Hoare has been happily set to very appropriate music by Mr. Ketelbey. The song is distinguished by tenderness and grace, and it is not difficult to sing or play.

Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser, Monday 20th January 1908

TRINITY COLLEGE OF MUSIC

... The examiners for the practical subjects were ... and Mr. Albert W. Ketelbey.

Morning Post, Monday 27th April 1908

STEINWAY HALL.

Miss MARION SYDNEY. VOCAL RECITAL. TO-NIGHT, at 8. Assisted by Mr. HAROLD KETELBEY (Solo Violin) and Miss IRIS LABROW (Recitations). ACCOMPANIST – Mr. ALBERT W. KETELBEY.

Tickets, 7s. 6d. 5s., 2s. 6d. at hall and usual agents'. N. VERT, 6, Cork-street, W.

[\[The Ketelbey brothers performing together\]](#)

Western Daily Press, Monday 26th July 1909

MUSICAL NOTES.

... A lovely ditty, "My heart a-Dream," in which the stanzas from the pen of Florence Hoare have been set by Albert W. Ketelbey, is of an earnest pleading character. It is issued in two keys, respectively B flat and D flat.

Sheffield Daily Telegraph, Friday 30th July 1909

SOME NEW MUSIC. NOVELLO and Co.

... A batch of new songs yield several of more than passing interest. A.W. Ketelbey's "My heart a-dream" is a superior ballad of the type that tenors affect...

Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser, Wednesday 18th August 1909

NEW MUSIC. SONGS & INSTRUMENTAL PIECES.

... "My Heart a-Dream," by Albert W. Ketelbey, should be effective enough with a not too critical audience; it has a passage marked "molto appassionato", and it ends "allargando" on fortissimo chords. Surely nothing more is required by the ballad singer of to-day!

Cheltenham Looker-On, Saturday 4th September 1909

SONGS

..."My heart a-dream," by Albert W. Ketelbey (Novello & Co., Ltd.). – It would be difficult to find real inspiration for such words; still the composer has succeeded in writing some good music. The voice part is vocal and the accompaniment grateful to play.

Lancashire Evening Post, Friday 15th October 1909

VILLAGE SCHOOL CHOIRS

... The first prize went to Wrea Green School Choir, conducted by Mrs T.H. Myles, which has already a reputation in the Fylde. The test piece was Ketelbey's two-part song, "Come o'er the Woodland." The pace of the Wrea Green choir was brisk, the adjudicator said, and perhaps a shade hurried, but

it was extremely pretty as rhythm. All the little dainty accents were excellent use of. It seemed to be no trouble for the choir to sing. They were awarded 75 marks...

[This song was frequently used in school competitions, as was *The Mountaineer*]

Morning Post, Saturday 30th October 1909

BECHTSTEIN HALL.

KETÉLBÉY. TO-NIGHT, at 8.

Vocalist – Miss AMY DURANT. At the Piano – HAMILTON HARTY.

Tickets, 10s. 6d., 7s. 6d., 5s., 2s. 6d., and 1s., at hall and usual agents'. Concert-Direction E.L.

ROBINSON, 7, Wigmore-street, W.

[This appears to be a concert devoted to Ketèlbey's music. No further information has been found]