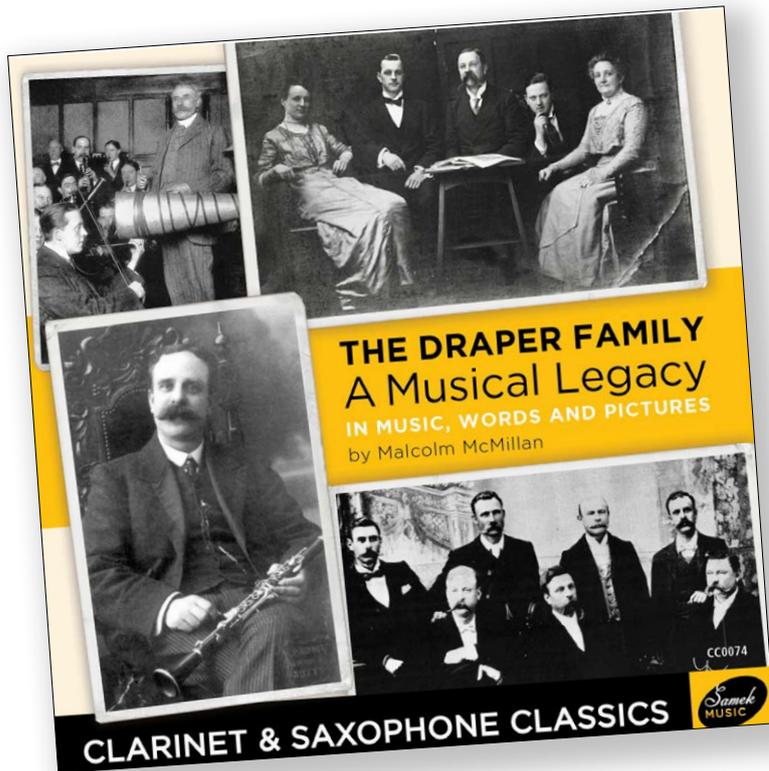


Clarinet Classics CC0074
Release Date 2019
Barcode: 5023581007423

THE DRAPER FAMILY A Musical Legacy IN MUSIC, WORDS AND PICTURES

by Malcolm McMillan



- **Rare and extensive Musical Legacy in music, words and pictures of the Draper Family.**
- **78 tracks, carefully restored recordings containing a wealth of repertoire.**
- **Digital only release is a significant new addition to the recording catalogue.**
- **A compilation of rare recordings now made available for all listeners to enjoy.**

Ever since my first visits to London as a junior exhibitor at R.C.M. in 1961 the one clarinetist everybody talked about and respected was Charles Draper who had died ten years earlier. He had taught most of the finest players in our country and had been a renowned Principal Clarinet in many orchestras since the beginning of the century. He had taught Frederick (Jack) Thurston, the author of my beloved study book and also Ralph Clarke, my teacher at full-time R.C.M. It wasn't until later I learned he came from a Welsh musical family and had a nephew, Haydn Draper, whose playing probably had more influence on my own development through his pupil Reginald Kell. And then, even later, I learnt of another nephew - Mendelssohn, who had had a successful career playing bass clarinet in several London orchestras. The last of the Draper family included in this family biography is Charles' son Paul Beaumont Draper - a bassoonist and founder member of the famous British Melos Ensemble.

Orchestral musicians in this country don't get a lot of praise for what they do and sympathy for the life-styles they have to endure to even exist! In this un-exhaustive account of a very influential musical family I've tried to piece together their lives and achievements in a novel way, by the means of computer technology. At the end of the article I've listed their outputs on radio broadcasts and commercial discs, from which one can hear extracts and purchase copies of the complete recordings. Malcolm McMillan (Author)

Including chamber, solo and works with orchestra by Brahms, Beethoven, Verdi, Bizet and Haydn together with popular favourites with band, arranged by members of the Draper family.