

Constant Lambert

Audio Guide transcript of National Sound Archive recording

His major contribution was to Ballet, both as composer and musical director; both sound extracts to follow will reflect this. First you will hear Lambert talking about ballet music, and then a few bars from his Ballet "Pomona", written at the Sitwell family home at Renishaw, Derbyshire and first performed in 1927.

‘When judging stage music, the theatre itself is the only criteria. And when we have Tchaikovsky’s ballets in the theatre, we realise that he is to the ballet what Verdi was to the opera. Unfortunately, Tchaikovsky’s gift for ballet was insufficiently realised in his own life time, and he was only asked to write two other ballets: *The Sleeping Beauty*, possibly his greatest creation in any genre, and *Castazette*, a ballet whose score runs to 500 pages and contains many passages equal in charm to the well known Castazette suite, which is only a selection from it.’