

# Advance Information Sheet

## Far From the Fashionable Crowd

### *The People's Concert Society and Music in London's Suburbs*

Alan Bartley

London during the late-Victorian and Edwardian periods was a hive of cultural activity. Music was everywhere, and not only in the concert halls of the West End.

*Far from the Fashionable Crowd* is a long-overdue history of the many organizations that brought classical music to the working classes of the time. It tells of music by the great composers being given a reception by East-End audiences that astonished contemporary writers and commentators. Esteemed instrumentalists such as Kreisler, Myra Hess and Solomon played to eager audiences in cloth caps, mufflers and shawls, while packed crowds were enthralled by chamber music in shabby halls from Bethnal Green to Bermondsey.

Particular emphasis is given to the activities of the People's Concert Society and its main offspring, the South Place Sunday Concerts, since they were the most enduring.

But the suburban middle classes were also enjoying Bach, Brahms and Beethoven, and contemporary concert life in London's more superior outlying districts is here compared with that of the East End.

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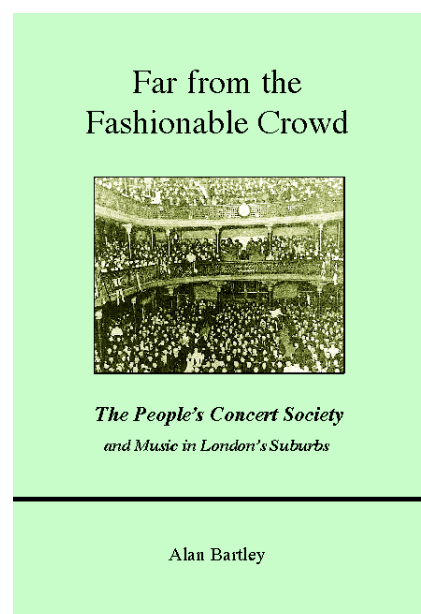
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Layerthorpe

YORK YO31 7ZQ

Tel: 01904 431213. Fax: 01904 430868

Email: enqs@yps-publishing.co.uk



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