

# The Barry Gray Centenary Concert

8<sup>th</sup> November 2008

The Royal Festival Hall

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## Barry Gray Centenary Concert

By Theo de Klerk

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> I flew back home after attending the Barry Gray Centenary Concert in the Royal Festival Hall on the south bank of the Thames in London the evening before. I had had a fantastic night – the first performance where Thunderbirds roared from the orchestra live since the unbeatable “Filmharmonic 78” concert by Barry Gray himself. It was so long overdue! I got goose bumps hearing the Thunderbirds incidentals and Zero-X taking off. So why did I mark the concert with a 7 out of 10 instead of a 9 out of 10 I wondered. And then it occurred to me: I was there both as an admirer of Barry Gray’s work but also as a seasoned concert audience member.

### A fan’s verdict

So let’s start with the 9 out of 10. The concert event was long overdue and may not be repeated for many years given the problems to organize such a big happening. The Philharmonia Orchestra and a group of soloists and vocalists had to be booked, the Hall secured. Sound, light, publicity – it was all done by a few people, partly as labour of love, and they pulled it off.

It all happened because Katie Ford noticed that 2008 was Barry’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and it should not go by unnoticed. Together with her friend Ralph Titterton they were in an ideal position to provide the Barry Gray scores and François Evans eagerly wanted to conduct the orchestra and Crispin Merrell to play the piano. And with less than a year to go, the whole event got organized. Just for making it happen and give many fans of the music of Barry Gray and me a great evening in their life, Ralph, Katie, François, Crispin and all others involved must be applauded.

Such a shame that the hall was only two-third full, but an accomplishment given the limited publicity made for it. Concerts with Wagner, Beethoven, Haydn, Barber, Copland and other classical composers come “a dime a dozen”. Film music concerts are once a year in Ghent (Belgium). Barry Gray concerts only rarely. So seize the opportunity when you can! Fortunately for those unable to attend (with valid reason): the concert was recorded by six cameras and many microphones so a future DVD or CD release is a possibility if financially viable.

On to the program. The public had a high percentage of loyal Gerry Anderson show fans.

Apart from the music, this proved to be a nice occasion to meet old friends and fans again from the UK as well as mainland Europe and catch up on the old days. We were treated by an overambitious program – one that had to be shortened by two pieces in the end to avoid running into overtime and unforeseen extra payments. We were given:

Before the interval:

Century 21 Ident  
Thunderbirds opening titles and Sun Probe incidentals  
Supercar Suite  
Fireball XL5 Suite  
Robot Man  
Four Feather Falls and Two Gun Tex of Texas songs  
Thunderbirds –Terror in NY City suite  
Captain Scarlet singles and title theme  
Doppelgänger Theme / Sleeping Astronauts  
Zero-X  
Thunderbird Six Theme

After the interval:

Stingray Theme and Aqua Marina  
Stingray's Big Gun incidentals  
Joe 90's Theme and International Concerto  
Secret Service Theme  
UFO Titles and Identified incidentals  
Space:1999 Opening titles  
Thunderbirds Theme encore

My verdict of 9-out-of-10 is based on my Barry Gray admirer's goose bumps hearing Thunderbirds, Zero-X and Stingray. I suspect original music sheets were used as the music was spot on. But with a dynamics that can never be captured on CD, DAT or other medium – let alone MP3 or AAC. For this real life experience alone it was worth it. The low bass when Sun Probe's fuel tanks are lowered, the Zero-X assembly: it doesn't quite sound like that from your expensive stereo set at home. And the Doppelgänger and Sleeping Astronauts themes with the odd Ondes Martenot synthesizer were beautifully handled by soloist Pascale Rousse-Lacordaire. Barry would be proud.

The title theme of Stingray was less impressive – the action-packed drumbeat sounded more like a drum falling down the stairs. Yes, the orchestra goofed up now and again – but with only one rehearsal before the concert it shows their professionalism to be able to play most without problems.

The vocal group replacing the Mike Sammes Singers of the past was Voces8. Apparently highly professional with many awards for classical music according to the programme booklet, but mostly out of place for the songs that Barry wrote. Only as close harmony group in Secret Service they did well.

Most other instrumental themes were orchestrations close to the original, but not "the" original. They sounded more like the City of Prague orchestra renditions available on Silva Screen CDs. Still highly enjoyable but without the goose bumps.

The concert finished a little rushed with the unlisted Encore – the Thunderbirds March. Therefore the Space:1999 incidentals (referred to as "19-9" by Brian Blessed) were skipped entirely. During the Thunderbirds March a video clip was shown made from home movies shot of Barry Gray. It ended with a portrait of the great little composer. That portrait I think would have been proper to be shown during the entire concert.

### **A concert goer's verdict**

For fans who really come for their favourite music, the evening was almost perfect. For those more familiar with other concerts and expecting similar professionalism, there were more slip-ups noticeable. This results in my giving it a 7 out of 10 as a concert goer instead of Barry Gray friend and admirer.

The comments that follow are strictly my opinion – some may disagree. But here is why the final three points of ten were not obtained.

The countdown sequence of Thunderbirds (one of the few film bits shown on the projection screen above the orchestra during the music), shouted out by compère Brian Blessed, was off by one. Thunderbird 1 was long gone before the music caught up.

Brian overacted his bit but that seems to be him. I could do without. He (too) regularly mentioned Gerry Anderson and pointed to the box where he was, presumably sitting. But no spotlight, no movement in the box. Was he there? We assume so but never know. Besides, this is a Barry Gray concert and he should get all attention, not Gerry.

The lighting was terrible. Whoever did it had no cues and no clue. When Brian mentioned a vocalist the person had either disappeared from stage or was hidden in the crowd. No spotlight to point him or her out. And when the lights moved, they shone straight into the hall; blinding the audience on the very few occasions something was shown on screen to accompany the music.

The audio mixing and amplification overall was poor. An orchestra of the size of the Philharmonia doesn't need amplification and only subtle mix is needed to highlight certain instruments. I saw the soundmixer's indicators regularly, if not mostly, run far into the red and beyond.

The people at the mixing table seemed to be asleep while standing and moving their arms. The first Ondes Martenot keys were hardly heard. The harmonica on Four Feather Falls was initially unheard. Several other soloists or main instruments drowned in the sound that came more from the speakers above than from the orchestra. This also made it difficult to distinguish the instrument positions as their amplified sound came from above rather than from left, middle or right.

Secret Service Theme suffered from requiring bells and a real organ. The bells were tingles rather than what a bell sounds like, the organ was behind a film screen and sounded muffled – not the prominent role it takes in the real theme. Here a microphone might have helped. Or if it was there, the sound mix failed entirely.

Finally some notes on the souvenir booklet which is lavishly illustrated and contains many comments from friends, fans, fellow-musicians as well as an updated biography of Barry Gray. A bit pricy at £10, as all souvenir books seem to be, but worth having.

Some minor nit-picks however. The Filmharmonic concert was in 1978, not 1979. I know, because I was there and have the program and ticket to prove it, as well as the slides of the pictures printed of that concert.

And the picture on page 20 shows Barry in the Piccadilly Line from Cockfosters in the mid-70s. I know – I took the photograph.

**Derek Wadsworth, composer "Into Infinity: The Day After Tomorrow", "Space: 1999 Year Two".**

I can hardly believe the scale of your production and the perseverance it must have taken to realise this dream.

I send you my heartfelt congratulations on this great achievement.

It will be a night to remember.

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**Colin M. Taylor, fan.**

At the moment, I'm still too full of it to say more than WOW!

And a very hearty Thank You from the three of us!

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**Crispin Merrell, composer "Space Precinct", "Lavender Castle", "New Captain Scarlet", and guest pianist on "Doppelganger" and "International Concerto".**

To Ralph and Cathy,

Thank you for the tremendous work you have both put in to making last night's performance possible.

I shall look upon it with great fondness, not least because it was in honour of the great man, but, also, because it was my first performance, playing the piano, with a symphony orchestra, the London Philharmonic to boot! It was wonderful to share it with you, my family and friends. I shall never forget it.

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**Katie Bleathman, fan.**

Ralph, the concert was really, really enjoyable and has given us lots of wonderful memories. Please pass on our thanks to everyone involved!

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**James Fielding, fan.**

Ralph, I won't repeat what I have already said on the Fanderson mailing list & Facebook page. Only this - you are a legend. Thank you.

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Congratulations to all involved in last night's concert, particularly to Ralph & Cathy for all their hard work. From 1993 preserving the Barry Gray archive, to all the CD releases, it climaxed with a fantastic two hour concert in 2008. A memory I will certainly treasure. I'm sure everyone who went will have their favourite

highlights of the evening. Mine are as follows...

Meeting up with other members of Fanderson & fans of Barry's work. Stephen & Lynn, Katie & David, Phil, Andy, Duncan & Larry. All wonderful people. Its always a pleasure to see Glo & Virgil, who looked spiffy in his tux. After years of correspondence, I was finally able to meet Theo & Micky in person. I also bumped into Hiro from Japan who also came to the Pinewood HD21 event. Amazingly he timed his holiday especially to come to the concert. I spoke & met so many people during the evening, its hard to remember everyone's name!

The concert programme was well worth £10.00. Very nicely laid out, every page in glossy colour, full of Barry's doodles & artwork, a nice updated biography, never seen before photos, Barry's notes etc. A very good read. Nice Job on the design & layout Mike. I encourage anyone who couldn't attend the concert, order one from Fanderson sales (if made available) as its a really nice addition to the collection.

As for the music & performance itself? For me, it was electric & emotional. Yes, there was a little mistake here & there at the start. But remember, nothing like this has been done before. Although did Brian Blessed attend rehearsals? He seemed to miss his cue in some places. The choice of music for the evening was very well chosen, representing everything from Four Feather Falls to Space 1999. Even Robot Man was performed, what a fun song & performance from VOCES8. What a nice find they were, they sang The Secret Service brilliantly.

My favourite pieces from the evening were Zero-X (still buzzing from it now), Captain Scarlet suite, Four Feather Falls, Formita 5 & UFO. I feel that a special mention should be made to Crispin Merrell. I was looking forward to the International Concerto suite & was pleased when it was announced that he would be playing the piano on it. I was lucky enough to be sitting right above the stage in a box & just over head of where Crispin was playing the piano. So I had an excellent birds eye view of his performance. He played it flawlessly. But more to the point, without sheet music! Brilliant. I have the photo to prove it too.

Did anyone notice the funny moment at the end of Thunderbird 6? As Francois swiped his baton, his sheet music flew off the music stand & Brian Blessed managed to catch it in time on the last note. Very funny. I hope it was caught on film. Like everyone else, I can't wait to see the concert released on DVD & CD. Patience is a virtue! Oh! and lets hope that lovely film montage of Barry's home movies set to the Thunderbirds theme gets included on the DVD. It was so sweet to see him laughing & playing to the camera. The footage of him at home playing the keyboards & editing tape reels...wow!

Thank you Barry, for giving us the music. Thank you Ralph for preserving it.

I'm now going to dig out my 7" of Robot Man & sing the Robot parts with a voice changer. Brilliant.

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**Jemma Bird, leader of our team of London helpers, assisting with Central London publicity.**

Hope you are all well, and congratulations for the brilliant event.. Barry Gray would of been proud! The ending of the concert nearly made me cry!

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**Elliot Pavelin, fan.**

I would also like to offer my congratulations to everyone involved in the Barry Gray Concert last night. It was a real treat and thoroughly enjoyable. The programme is very expertly presented and a great read and very informative.

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**Anthony 132720, fan.**

I have only been home for about 2 hours as I post this, I did not get home until about 5.30pm this afternoon as I stayed in London until mid afternoon wandering around, my feet are killing me now.

What can I say about the Barry Gray concert last night, marvellous absolutely marvellous, yes there were the odd timing issues, a few missed cues and a 'bum' note or two, but it did not distract from a truly entertaining and magical night, it was a definitely not to be missed event, great stuff.

It nice to see so Fanderson faces again, being able to catch up and have a chat, however I am sorry to have missed some of you too, mind you it was easy to miss people due to he size of the place and the RFH having multiple bars.

Ralph, very well done with the concert, as I mentioned it was a marvellous concert and you should be rightly proud of the evening. Fingers and everything else crossed that the concert will see the light of day on DVD and CD.

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**Martin Townley, fan**

Good morning to you Ralph.

Hi mate, just a few lines to say thank you and well done (and I am sure that I speak for many) on all your hard work from planning to executing Saturdays Barry Gray concert. It must have been a mammoth task but I can assure you Ralph it was worth every moment.

To say it is the best evening that I have enjoyed in years would be an understatement, from start to finish everyone's performance from Brian Blessed to Voces8 was non other than first class all the way, the selection of suites of music could not have been better, and I felt that Barry himself was with us in spirit enjoying the fantastic tribute to a musical genius who in my opinion will never be bettered or even equalled.

The atmosphere within the hall was electrifying, everything went to plan, and I also enjoyed meeting up with many old faces from Fanderson after the concert some I hadn't seen for twenty years.

My one hope is that this concert would get televised or indeed released on DVD, as I feel that there are so many other people out there who would remember Barry's music and in turn boost sales of the CD sales of the Silver screen releases, of which I myself as you know have played a small part.

Congratulations also on the magnificent brochure produced for the concert, again very professionally done and I was also very impressed with the visuals of Barry's life that were playing during the Thunderbirds march. A thousand thanks my old friend, when you have recovered from all your hard work on this project I hope that maybe in a couple of years time that there may be the chance of another event on the same subject. I say again though that it would be hard if not impossible for me anyway to better Saturdays event.

Well done Ralph.  
Very best wishes  
Your old Fanderson mate  
Martin.

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**Yad Jaura, fan**

Ralph,

I just wanted to say "thank you" for organising the wonderful concert of Barry Gray's music on Saturday night. It really was a very special night. When the orchestra began with the Thunderbirds Opening Titles, the hairs on the back of my neck stood up - the tingling sensation was amazing! I thought everyone involved performed spectacularly bringing the music of the maestro to life live for the very first time. Reading through the programme made the history a little clearer and I'd like to thank you and your colleagues for dreaming up and then executing the vision for the concert - you did a truly wonderful job.

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**Russell Jalland, fan.**

Hi Ralph,

Thank you so so much for Saturday!!!!!!!!!!!!,  
And for everything you've done to keep his memory alive.

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**Tim Mallett, Kindred Productions, and co-producer of the Barry Gray CD titles for Fanderson and Silva Screen Records.**

Hi Guys,

Just wanted to add my voice to the many people who would like to thank you for a wonderful evening.

I can't begin to describe what a pleasure it was to hear Barry's music played in such a prestigious setting by accomplished musicians. The evening was magical

and parts of the performance were spine tingling, particularly the Doppelganger (great piano piece Crispin!) and Captain Scarlet suites.

I know there were one or two minor hiccups and I can only imagine the stress from time to time behind the scenes but as part of the audience I was aware of very few problems - in fact, there was a tremendous buzz in the bar at the interval. I overheard many positive comments from conversations there and it truly was a joyful and for some an emotional experience.

Voces 8 surpassed all my expectations with their wonderful performance, it brought a huge smile to my face from time to time. I loved the fact that they took it all quite seriously but with a knowing twinkle of "cheese" in their eyes! On paper the choice of the Robot Man song seemed strange but as part of the evening it added a little variety and some nice comedy moments. For me, The Secret Service performance was the highlight though - stunning!

Mike - the programme was FAB with the usual attention to detail and little touches throughout which added to the excitement of the audience.

Great work Francois! It was a huge undertaking which you pulled off brilliantly. I've lived and died this music while we've been producing the cds but you still managed to take my breath away on a number of occasions with your interpretations. I loved some of the work you did with the strings on the Scarlet numbers.

Ralph, Cathy, Francois and the team we are in your debt, your tireless efforts and considerable talents brought Barry and his music back to life for a spell binding evening.

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**Amanda Wilcock, Barry Gray's daughter**

Dear Ralph

I just wanted to say a huge 'thank you' for a really wonderful evening on Saturday. I'm only sorry we didn't have the strength to go to the party afterwards and thank you in person!

It was thrilling to hear such a superb selection of Barry's music played so well and with such enthusiasm by a fantastic orchestra led by a great conductor - we loved Voces8 too! The atmosphere in the auditorium was wonderful - so many people who loved Barry's music and welcomed the opportunity to participate in the evening with all their heart. I'm sure you were far too busy worrying about the technical side of things to be able to appreciate this, but I just wanted you to know that it was a really 'feel-good' event. It was lovely to see so many hundreds of people smiling and entering into the spirit of the music.

You and Cathy must have worked so hard to achieve such a wonderful result, and you must be justly proud of yourselves. Barry would have adored the evening, and it was a great tribute to him.

Thank you so much again, and I hope we shall meet up before too long.

With very best wishes

Amanda

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**Voces8, our fantastic vocalists.**

Dear Tim,

Many thanks for your kind words. On behalf of all of VOCES8 I want to add to your words and say that it was a truly inspiring evening for us to be a part of - what wonderful music! We loved working with Ralph, Francois and the team, and to be working with the excellent Philharmonia was a pleasure. As you may have spotted, we spent a considerable amount of time memorising and choreographing our music, and I hope that all the Barry Gray/Gerry Anderson supporters felt that we captured the mood of the evening - that mix of fun and serious was, we thought, essential to our performance. To be singing the music that we have grown up with and loved was an emotional experience for us all. The Secret Service was a fun challenge!

We've received a number of generous emails today from members of the audience, and we can only respond by saying that it was a privilege to be involved in such a fantastic project.

Best wishes to all,

Paul and VOCES8

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**Quiller 003, fan.**

The highlight for me was watching the excerpts from 'Trapped in the sky' and 'Terror in NYC' accompanied by the orchestra. As far as I'm concerned, you can forget the arguments over the relative merits of re-mastered dvds, blu-ray or HD. I now realise that watching a TB ep with the backing of a live 80-piece orchestra is the ONLY way to do it!

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**Tony Bailey, fan.**

I was wondering why they tried to turn it into a disco, I have never been to a concert involving an orchestra with such a absurd light show. it added nothing but distraction which is probably why the mistakes happened and I also was distracted by it. The technicians seemed to be in another time zone, spotlights lagged behind the appearance of the guests and mic levels hastily adjusted after singers began...not what you'd expect from the RFH!

Apart from those gripes I thought it was a fabulous event and although well overdue timed to perfection for BG's Centenary.

Well done to all involved with the organisation and execution of the concert.

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**Derek Eaton, fan.**

A few thoughts on the Barry Gray concert at the weekend.

Thought the venue was a good choice and the programme was excellent (good value for a tenner).

Some of my fears were that I would not enjoy because it would be variations of the original were unfounded.

The first act was a lot stronger than second, some rumours that it overran and that the 2nd half was cut down could be true.

Following the programme notes - I think we only missed out on some of Joe 90 and the Breakaway Suite (this might be a bit only to some)

My favourite on the night besides Thunderbirds related ones was White as Snow which simply zipped along. Also I wondered what the hell the words were to the Secret Service and I don't think I have seen them anywhere.

Obviously there were a few things that did not go right on the night but it would be a shame to criticise an event that although not perfect is certainly the best Barry Gray / Gerry Anderson concert ever - unless someone's know differently. Perhaps this might encourage future events - Space 1999 concert?

"What a show!"

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**Richard Gunner, fan.**

Congrats to all involved in the concert, a truly amazing night, so a huge thanks from me!!

Highlights for me had to be White As Snow (which seemed to be a slight hybrid of the episode version and the commercial version - very enjoyable), Zero X, but I particularly enjoyed the Joe 90 end titles theme.

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**Clare, Manager of Voces8.**

Morning Ralph,

I would like to thank you for involving us in the project - it was a pleasure and a real honour to have been a part of it. The whole group found the experience on the day thrilling and unforgettable. Congratulations on all your hard work - it really was a success and all the feedback which we have received has been extremely positive.

Once again, thanks for everything - you, Cathy and your whole team were a real pleasure to work with and we hope to be able to work with you again in the future.

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**Derek Wadsworth, after the concert.**

Dear Ralph

Bravo! What a magnificent concert!

I can hardly imagine the efforts and pain you went through to make it work like that.

To my chagrin, I had to leave during the second half as I had to catch my train for an early start on Sunday morning.

However, I heard enough to see that it was a fabulous tribute for Barry.

His family must have been proud. And isn't Brian Blessed such good value?

I really think this would go well in America or other parts of the world - also other parts of this country, but no doubt you will want to simply put your feet up for a while after all that effort.

Well done!

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**Ian Fryer, current editor, FAB Magazine.**

Hi Ralph,

Sorry I never got a chance to speak with you after the concert - last train home and all that. I just wanted you to know how much I appreciated all the efforts you put into the concert, and I thought that it was an absolute triumph.

You must have been quite moved when the orchestra absolutely nailed tunes such as Dangerous Game and White as Snow. I know I was.

Any Anderson fan who knew about the concert and didn't come needs their head examining. I only wish it were logistically possible to do a concert every year, but I imagine the very thought would make your head spin.

Anyway - bloody well done!

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**Zoe, fan.**

I just wanted to agree with everyone else on here, and say how brilliant the concert was on Saturday. If Barry had been there, I'm sure he would have been thrilled. Kudos to Ralph and everyone involved in setting that up...bloody marvellous it was! Despite the odd error, particularly in the 2nd half, it was just the best evening I could have had for my birthday \*g\*

The setting at the Festival Hall was just perfect too, although it would have been nice to have a set place to meet everyone - I'm sure we'd have seen a lot more people that way, rather than the various different bar areas there were - but hey, that's not a complaint. It was just lovely to see everyone again, including glimpses of Alan Shubbrook and his wife and David Graham.

And the programme was outstanding! Wonderful work and lots of gorgeous piccies made for a fab keepsake. If anyone is wondering whether to buy the programme, DO SO NOW, before they all sell out. You will not regret it.

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**James Fielding, fan adding further comment...**

Hi Francois,

I went to the Barry Gray concert on Saturday night & thought it was fantastic. The choice of music for the evening was very well chosen, representing everything from Four Feather Falls to Space 1999. Even Robot Man was performed, what a fun song & performance from VOCES8. What a nice find they were, they sang The Secret Service beautifully.

My favourite pieces from the evening were Zero-X (still buzzing from it now), Captain Scarlet suite, Four Feather Falls, Formula 5 & UFO. I was looking forward to the International Concerto suite & was pleased when it was announced that Crispin would be playing the piano on it. I was lucky enough to be sitting right above the stage in a box & just over head of where he was playing. So I had an excellent birds eye view of his performance. He played it flawlessly. Brilliant.

I liked the funny moment at the end of Thunderbird 6, as you swiped his baton, your sheet music flew off the music stand & Brian Blessed managed to catch it in time on the last note. Very funny. I hope it was caught on film. I can't wait to see the concert released on DVD & CD. I hope that lovely film montage of Barry's home movies set to the Thunderbirds theme gets included on the DVD. It was so sweet to see him laughing & playing to the camera. The footage of him at home playing the keyboards & editing tape reels...wow!

Many thanks for conducting a wonderful evening! I hope something like this will happen again in the future.

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**Gian Gamba, concert orchestrator.**

Dear François

I have to say I really enjoyed myself yesterday evening. I saw your passion and dedication and the music was bloody good. I thought the audience reacted very well and the big roar at the end can only signify the concert has been a success. At the end I saw your emotions almost bursting out but you managed somehow to keep your composure. I am very proud of you and I am also proud to have been involved with this project. Sorry I did not come to the rehearsal but I felt like an expecting father who wants to see the gender of his baby only at the moment of birth. The concert was the moment of birth.

Have a good rest, you deserve it!

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**Ben Foster, arranger and conductor Doctor Who, and Torchwood.**

Dear Ralph - I am just writing to pass on my sincere thanks and congratulations to you for what was a truly memorable and at times incredibly moving evening of Barry's music.

I will never forget hearing the Thunderbirds and Scarlet pieces that in my mind are so quintessentially Gray in sonic terms come back to life - it was just as if I was at the original sessions in his front lounge !!

You had a great audience and you could feel the excitement and anticipation in the hall.

I do hope this will not be the last such event, and although it was not the case on this occasion I still offer my services to you for the future. I still think a concert playing scores live to picture with dialogue and effects and a big screen could be a winning combo !

The programme was just wonderful - what a great read.

Anyhow - I hope you are getting a chance to rest up after your marathon of organisation !

The super 8 montage at the end was the most moving tribute - what a great guy he was !

But Bravo to you Ralph - it was FAB !

**Mark Hourahane, fan.**

HI François,

Well, I made it to the concert.... but only just! We got in as they were closing the doors. I have to say your suggestion of seating location was excellent, I think we had just about the perfect spot!

I enjoyed the concert very much, as did my friend. I was somewhat worried about what she'd think - she's American so not familiar with most of Gerry's shows or Barry's work, plus she's mostly into classic punk and ska, so it is really deviating from her usual taste in music! I'm pleased to say she was very willing and found that she liked it.

It was nice to see Pascale perform, although I wonder how many people noticed the 'misprint' in the programme - that was an Ondéa, not an Ondes Martenot!! I haven't seen or heard one in person before, though, so that was great!! It really is quite impressive, isn't it?

I was impressed with the performance... congratulations on doing a marvellous job! I did notice the guitarist peering at his score much in the same way my Dad does over the steering wheel when he's lost! Surely enough, a couple of bum notes followed... although I don't think it was noticed by many. He said something after the Joe 90 theme, I only caught the first part of what he was mouthing... "Fu....."! heh. At least it added to the entertainment value!

The organisation of the concert was excellent - well done to you, Ralph and Cathy for that. So yes, an excellent night indeed! Actually, I asked Julie what she'll remember the most from her two weeks here, and her first answer was "all of Saturday". Praise indeed!

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**Tony, Fanderson Committee assistant.**

Last Saturday evening, can I just say what a brilliant concert it was, I really enjoyed it and by the looks of it so did everyone else. The couple of small error's and the odd missed cue were nothing to moan about and it did not spoil the night one bit, because when it was good it was very very good, hey it was live and this sort of stuff happens when its live. It would have been nice to have had the missing pieces, but if they could not be put into the allocated time slot without you suffering additional cost's then that was fully understandable as well, no complaints there.

The whole night was something to remember for years to come, (apart from the terrible weather), and I hope that you feel rightly proud of what you and your colleagues achieved last Saturday, 10 out of 10 from me.

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**Ian Dickerson, The Saint Club.**

I see nothing..... ..but high praise all over the internet!

Well done both of you (Ralph and Cathy)!

So what are you going to do to top that?!!

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**Theo de Klerk, fan**

I've looked through the Barry Gray program souvenir booklet several times now and I'm really astonished by the quality of it. The pictures are mostly sharp (except where I did not shoot them sharp at Filmharmonic 79 in a dark Albert Hall on 400 ASA), the layout is perfectly done - nothing to fault the booklet (ignoring an occasional typo or incorrect photo caption).

Paper, layout, contents - it all makes sense and looks wonderful. A true souvenir in remembrance of Barry Gray. I'm happy to have been able to provide the photos and cards you used for it.

Far better than the Filmharmonic 79 book that is 3x as thick but only has 5 pages of worthwhile material. The rest is adverts.

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**Simon Gray, Barry's son.**

Dear Ralph

As you know we were thrilled with the Concert and thought the whole evening FAB

It was a wonderful tribute to my Father. The evening not only reminded us of all of his unique talent, his wonderful music but also what a very special, kind and wonderful man he was. Lots of happy memories came back together with tears of pride and gratitude that he became my Dad.

Thanks a million Ralph and to everybody else who contributed to very special event

Yours Simon

## Thunderbirds Concert

Anything can happen in the next two and a half hours

It's a cold, wet and windy Saturday evening. An ominously dark River Thames snakes its way past the Royal Festival Hall on London's South Bank. People scamper inside, seeking shelter and warmth from the inhospitable autumnal weather. Suddenly, a crack of thunder, the flash of lightning, Brian Blessed's voice booms around the inside of the packed auditorium, counting down from five, to tell us that Thunderbird's are GO!

The Philharmonia Orchestra led by Francois Evans, blast off into a blistering rendition of the opening titles of Gerry Anderson's seminal classic and start a night of celebration for the centenary of composer Barry Gray.

Before the concert, I asked Mr Anderson how important he thought the musical score was to his work, he replied that like anything, the special effects, the story, the script, the acting, it was all integral to the success of the work, but the music was the acid test, could the piece still excite with the sound turned off? He went on to say that the continuing appeal of his shows was down his honesty to the audience. David Graham (the voice of Brains in the Thunderbirds amongst others) agreed, saying that this very appeal to generation after generation defines Gerry Anderson's shows as classics.

But back to Barry. The rest of the evening featured sublime pieces of music from Supercar, Fireball XL5, Stingray, Joe 90, Captain Scarlet and the Mysterones, UFO and Space 1999 together with other work from Four Feather Falls and The Secret Service with Pascale Rousse-Lacordaire on the Ondes Martenot and the wonderful Voces8 providing vocals for the Stingray titles and the haunting Aqua Maria as well as the quirky Robot man.

It was a marvellous evening, invocative of childhood afternoons in front of the telly yelling in excitement at the Supermarionation exploits of WASP, Captain Scarlet and International Rescue. Barry Gray, we salute you!

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