

Girlfriends (1986)

Instrumentation: 011.sax.asax – tpt – pno – acoustic gtr – keyboard – vlc.db

Commissioned and premiered by the Oldham Coliseum Theatre in May 1986.

Set in Norfolk in 1941, *Girlfriends* takes a heartfelt look at the many issues faced by the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in the Second World War.

"It's the most inspiring musical revival of the year... largely due to the emotional force of Goodall's yearning, aching melodies that float and linger in the air and memory. Goodall's music is so exhilaratingly good at establishing its atmosphere of nervous anxiety and simmering personal tensions on a World War II air force base"

The Stage Reviews (Mark Shenton)

The Hired Man (1984)

Text: Book by Melvyn Bragg. Music and lyrics by Howard Goodall

Instrumentation: tpt – harp* – pno – harpsichord* – db – (optional string quartet)

First performed at the Nuffield Theatre, Southampton in 1984.

"The real drama lies in Goodall's music: his lean, unfussy scoring and his rousing choral ballads. He writes recognisably English and pungently individual music"

The Sunday Times (John Peter)

"Howard Goodall's score is one of the finest I have heard in a British musical in years it has its own cumulative choral virility and the ability, in a simple duet about marital survival, to penetrate one's emotional defences... It has a real sense of social breadth and captures the ancestral pull of the land."

The Guardian (Michael Billington)

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Howard Goodall

A Winter's Tale
the dreaming
The Kissing-Dance
Silas Marner
Days of Hope
The Hired Man
Girlfriends

*An EMMY, BRIT, Gramophone
and BAFTA award-winning composer of
choral music, stage musicals,
film and TV scores*

*'... to my mind (and ears) the best contemporary
British composer of musicals we have...'*

Mark Shenton – Theatre Critic

FABER **ff** MUSIC

Howard Goodall CBE is a composer of choral music, stage musicals, film and TV scores and is a well-known TV and radio broadcaster – his BBC TV series, *Howard Goodall's Story of Music*, won him followers worldwide in 2013.

Since the premiere of his first major stage success, *The Hired Man*, Goodall has penned many from London's West End to Off-Broadway, garnering countless awards, including Ivor Novello and TMA Awards for Best Musical. They have also been seized upon eagerly by amateur groups and high schools. He is currently working with Gurinder Chadha and Charles Hart on a musical adaptation of the film, *Bend it like Beckham*, due to open in London's West End in May 2015.

A Winter's Tale (2005)

Text. Book by William Shakespeare, Howard Goodall and Nick Stimson. (Lyricist) Howard Goodall
First performed at The Sage Gateshead, UK.

A musical take on the play by William Shakespeare. The 2012 production at the Landor Theatre won the Off West End Theatre Award for Best New Musical.

'Like the dreaming the show was written specifically for young people to perform, but stands up beautifully now for a more experienced cast, too, and yields darker, richer musical and dramatic colours in the process – to my mind (and ears) the best contemporary British composer of musicals we have – to take a problem play and turn it into a glorious opportunity.'

The Stage (Mark Shenton), 13 November 2012

the dreaming (2001)

Text. Charles Hart

Instrumentation. piano, 2 synths, saxophone/clarinet, recorder/crumhorn, percussion & double bass

First performed by the National Youth Music Theatre at Northcott Theatre, Exeter in 2001.

Based on Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *the dreaming* is another successful collaboration between Goodall and writer Charles Hart. It translates the original play into a pre-WWI West Country idyll, where a small community moves between village and magical woodland in a score that is fuelled by English folk and choral traditions.

'Tim Rice once said that you need at least ten great numbers to make a successful musical. You more or less have those by the interval in this show.'

Daily Mail (Michael Coveney), 2002

The Kissing-Dance (1999)

Text. Charles Hart

Instrumentation. tpt – pno – keyboard – accordion – vl.vlc.db

First performed at the Brighton Festival, UK in 1998 by National Youth Music Theatre.

Based on Oliver Goldsmith's play *She Stoops to Conquer*, *The Kissing-Dance* is a tale of match-making, mischief and misunderstanding, dished out with a good helping of disguise and deceit...

'For all the comic absurdities of the plot, this is that rare beast: a genuinely intelligent musical that is performed with evident pleasure by its largely young cast.'

The Guardian (Lyn Gardner), 28 March 2011

Silas Marner (1993)

Text. Howard Goodall (adaptation of George Eliot's novel, Silas Marner)

Instrumentation. 1110 – tpt.tuba – keyboard – harp – strings

First performed at Bullring, Birmingham, UK in 1994 by City of Birmingham Touring Opera,

Composer writes – "Unlike many 19th Century novels which are quite gloomy, *Silas Marner* is very positive about human nature and has a wonderful redeeming ending. It raises issues concerning parenthood which are relevant today and also very close to my heart.

'Goodall manages to turn out one thumping good tune after another... The melodies are strong, singable and hummable, but never trite.'

(The Times on the concert performance of Silas Marner at the Salisbury Festival in September 1993)

Days of Hope (1991)

Text. Renata Allen

Instrumentation. 2 gtr – pno – db

Set in Spain, in the dying moments of the Spanish Civil War. The story begins with a family celebrating the marriage of the daughter, Sofia, to an English volunteer, but the wedding meal is tinged with anger at Franco and his fascists. The family's plan to flee to England is made harder as, over the course of the evening, various visitors bring different perspectives upon their condemnation of Franco, of Mussolini and Hitler for their intervention, and of Britain's non-intervention.

'... he does have a unique way of charming us with expected and predictable rhyming verses. But it is indeed his music which stands out; with its mix of hypnotic rhythm and melancholic nostalgia it is very easy on the ear.'

One Stop Arts (Joe Crystal) 15 October 2013