

THE WORLD ENCOMPASSED

This programme is a single piece, divided into two, representing in musical terms Francis Drake's circumnavigation of the globe. Drake's journey was the third around the world and the first English expedition: Magellan had died during the first, 1519 - 1522; and Andrés de Urdaneta had completed the second, almost by chance.

Drake was born in Tavistock, Devon in 1544, son of a farmer. The family moved to Kent, where Edmund, his father, began to minister to the navy; the twelve-year-old Francis was put to sea in a neighbour's coastal trader. By the age of twenty, he had inherited that same boat, and at 23 made his first voyage to the West Indies in the company of his second cousin, Sir John Hawkins. A second adventure almost led to disaster and death at San Juan de Ulua, and gave Drake a life-long hatred of the Spanish and Catholics. He vowed revenge, and it came swiftly. In 1572 he made an audacious raid on the Spanish Main (Panama), where Peruvian gold and silver was loaded onto ships for passage to Spain. Drake captured the town of Nombre de Dios and a huge consignment of treasure, and returned to Plymouth in 1573.

This success was the springboard for the far more dangerous expedition to raid the Pacific coast of the Americas. It was financed as a joint-venture, with investors such as the Earl of Leicester, Sir Francis Walsingham, Sir Christopher Hatton and, probably, the Queen herself. They were to be handsomely rewarded, to the tune of £47 for every £1 invested. Drake himself put up £1,000 of his own money.

He set off from Plymouth on 15th November 1577 with five ships (*The Pelican, The Elizabeth, The Marigold, The Swan & The Benedict*) and 164 men, four of whom also played viols: Simon Wood, Thomas Meckes, Richard Clarke & "George a Musician". Storms forced the fleet into Falmouth and then back to Plymouth; but, after repairs, they set off again on 13th December the same year.

The earliest published narrative of Drake's voyage was Richard Hakluyt's *The Principall Navigations* of 1589, here he takes up the story:

The 25. day of the same moneth we fell with the Cape Cantine, upon the coast of Barbarie, and coasting along, the 27th day, we found an Island called Mogador, lying one mile distant from the maine, betweene which Island and the maine, we found a very good and safe harbour for our ships to ride in, as also very good entrance, and void of any danger.

On this Island our Generall erected a pinnase, whereof he brought out of England with him foure already framed, While these things were in doing, there came to the waters side some of the inhabitants of the countrey, shewing forth their flags of truce, which being seene of our Generall, he sent his ships boate to the shore, to know what they would: they being willing to come aboard, our men left there one man of our companie for a pledge, and brought two of theirs aboard our shippe, which by signes shewed our Generall, that the next day they would bring some prouision, as Sheepe, Capons and Hennes and such like, whereupon our Generall bestowed amongst them some linnen cloth and shoes and a iaveling, which they were very ioyfully receiued, and departed for that time.

The next morning they failed not to come agayne to the water side, and our Generall againe setting out our boate, one of our men leaping ouer rashly a shore, and offering friendly to imbrace them, they set violent hands on him, offering a dagger to his throte if hee had made any resistance, and so laying him on a horse, carried him away, so that a man cannot bee too circumspect and warie of himselfe among such miscreants.

This was off the coast of Marocco; by 17th January 1578, they had reached Cape Blanco, where they captured several Spanish & Portuguese "Carvels". They left *The Benedict* here, exchanging it for a Spanish vessel of about 40 tons. They learned that salt, meat and victuals were to be had in **Mayo** in the Cape Verde Islands, so left on 22nd January and arrived there on 27th. Here they found grapes growing in winter and saw coconuts for the first time, causing wonder and amazement. They sailed on to the Island of Saint James (S. Iago) where they took their first prize:

*Being before this Island, we espied two ships under sayle, to the one of which we gave chase, and in the end boarded her with a ship boate without resistance, which we found to be a good prize, and yeilded to us good store of wine, which prize our Generall committed to the custodie of M. Doughtie, reteining the Pilot, (this was **Nuño de Silva**) sent the rest away with his pinnase, giuing them a Butte of wine and some victuals, and their wearing clothes, and so they departed.*

*The same night we came with the Island called by the Portingals, **Ila del fogo**, that is, the burning Island: in the Northside whereof is a consuming fire, the matter is sayd to be of Sulphure, but notwithstanding it is like to be a commodious Island, because the Portingals haue built, and doe inhabite there.....*

Being departed from these Islands, we drew towards the line, (the equator) where we were becalmed the space of 3. weekes, but yet subiect to diuers great stormes, terrible lightnings and much thunder: but with this miseries we had the commodities of great store of fish, as Dolphins, Bonitas, and flying fishes, whereof some fell into our shippes, where hence they could not rise againe for want of moisture.

From the first day of our departure from the Islands of Cape Verde, wee sayled 54. dayes without sight of land, and the first land that we fell with was the coast of Brazil, which we sawe the fift of Aprill in the height of 33. degrees towards the pole Antarctike.

This is a long way down the Brazilian coast, almost on the boarder with Uruguay. They entered the great River Plate, and went as far as the river became fresh water, then returned to the sea and further down the Patagonian coast. They killed seals for food, of which there was great abundance; but kept going down the coast looking for a suitable safe harbour; this (**Port Desire**) they found on 17th May at 47 degrees 30 minutes South and where they first encountered the **Patagonian Indians**:

(Drake's nephew, also called Sir France Drake, published *'The World Encompassed'* in 1628):

...the people of the country did shew themselves unto us, with leaping, dancing and holding up their hands, and making outcies after their manner. Wherefore the Generall caused immediately a boat to be in readinesse, and sent unto them such things as he thought would delight them; as knives, bells, bugles &c. whereupon they being assembled together upon a hill, sent down two of their company, running one after the other with a great grace, trauersing their ground as it seemed after the manner of their warres, by degrees descending to the waters side very swiftly.

This people go naked, except a skin of furre which they cast about their shoulders, when they sit or lye in the cold. They weare their haire very long, but lest it might trouble them in their trauell, they knit it up with a roll of Ostrich feathers. Some of them within these rolls sticke on either side of their heads a large and plaine feather shewing like hornes afarre off: So that such a head upon a naked body might very nigh resemble diuels.

Their whole brauery and setting out themselves standeth in painting their bodies with diuers colours, and such workes as they can deuise. Some wash their faces with sulphure; some paint their whole bodies black, leauing onely their neckes behind and before white, much like our damosels that weare their squares, their neckes and breasts naked.

They have cleane, comely, and strong bodies: they are swift of foot and seeme very active. Neither is anything more lamentable then that so goodly a people and so liuely creatures of God, should bee ignorant of the true and liuing God.

They carried on southwards. They put in at Port St Julian in order to provision & rationalise their fleet and prepare for what they knew would be one of the most arduous parts of the journey - the passage through the Straights of Magellan. However, before this could be achieved, Drake had to deal with a near mutiny; and it was lead by his friend, Thomas Doughty. The journals are all rather cagey about this episode, but whatever it was that Doughty had done, he was tried and found guilty. He was then offered three choices: he could return to England with one of the ships, and face further trail there; he could remain in South America alone; or he could be executed. He chose the last of these. He dined with Drake the night before his execution, and then the next morning, took communion with him as well, then was beheaded.

This unsettling episode could have been the end of the expedition: instead Drake gave a speech which united the crews, urging sailors and gentlemen to work together.

They left on 17th August and on 21st reached the Straights. By this time, two of their original vessels had been deemed not worthy to continue, so were burned. Upon entering these dangerous waters, Drake changed the name of his ship from *The Pelican* to *The Golden Hinde*, in order to honour his principal backer, Sir Christopher Hatton, whose crest incorporates such an animal.

This streight is extreme cold, with frost and snow continually, the trees seeme to stoope with the burden of the weather, and yet are greene continually, and many good and sweete herbes doe very fruitfully grow and increase under them.

The 24. of Aug. we arriued at an Island in the streights, where we found great store of foule which could not fly, of the bignesse of geese, whereof we killed in lesse than one day 3,000, and victualled our selues thoroughly therewith.

The 6. day of September we entered the South sea at the Cape on head shore.

The seuenth day wee were driuen by a great storme from entering into the South sea two hundred leagues and odde in longitude, and one degree to the Southward of the streight, in which heighth and so many leagues to the Westward, the fifteenth day of September fel out the Eclipse of the Moone at the houre of sixe of the clocke at night, but neither did the Eclipticall conflict of the Moone impaire our state, nor her clearing againe amend us a whit, but the accustomed Eclipse of the seas continued in his force, wee being darkened more than the Moone seuen fold. (Hakluyt)

The storms lasted for weeks, and drove the ships far to the south. *The Marigold* was lost with all hands, and *The Elizabeth* turned back to England. Drake didn't know he was alone, and hoped to meet his two other ships further up the coast of South America.

INTERMISSION

Drake and his men were the first Englishmen to be on the Pacific Ocean, and they were surprised to find that the coast of South America went off to the North East, rather than the North West, which most maps of the time suggested. The Spanish were totally unprepared for any attack on this side of the continent, and Drake had an easy time robbing them blind. Here's Hakluyt on his first encounter:

...and drawing towards [the coast of Chile] we met neere to the shore an Indian in a Canoa, who thinking us to have bene Spaniards, came to us and told us, that at a place called S. Iago, there was a great Spanish ship laden from the kingdome of Peru, for which good news our Generall gave him diuers trifles, whereof he was glad, and went along with us and brought us to the place which is called the port of Valparizo.

When we came thither, we found in deed the ship riding at anker, hauing in her eight Spaniards and three Negroes, who thinking us to have bene Spaniards and their friends, welcomed us with a drumme, and made ready a Buttizio of wine of Chile to drinke to us: but as soone as we were entered, one of our company called Thomas Moone began to lay about him, and stroke one of the Spaniards, and sayd unto him, Abaxo Perro, that is in English, goe downe dog. One of these Spaniards seeing persons of that qualitie in those seas, all to crossed, and blessed himselfe: but to be short, we stowed them under hatches all saue one Spaniard, who suddenly and desperately lept ouer board into the sea and swamme a shore to the towne of S.Iago, to giue them warning of our arriuall.

Having re-provisioned themselves:

"there was besides a certaine quantity of fine gold of Baldiua and great crosse of gold beset with Emeraulds, on which was nailed a God of the same mettall, wee spent some time in refreshing our selues, and easing this ship of so heauy a burthen"

They headed off north in the hope that they would meet again their compatriots at the appointed meeting place of 30 degrees. They were disappointed not to see them, so they pressed on further up to the equator. Here's 'The World Encompassed' again:

As we sayled aong, continually searching for fresh water; we came to a place called Tarapaca, and landing there we lighted on a Spaniard who lay asleepe, and had lying by him 13 barres of siluer, waighing in all about 4000 Spanish ducatts: we would not (could wee haue chosen) haue awakend him of his nappe: but seeing we, against our wills, did him that iniury, we freed him of his charge, which otherwise perhaps would haue kept him waking, and so left him to take out the other part of his sleepe, in more security.

On 13th February 1579, they came to Lima, and found 12 ships at anchor in the harbour with all their sails ashore being repaired, so secure the Spanish felt in this part of the world. Drake rifled the ships and took enormous quantities of gold, silver, plate, coin, silk, linen and so on. But the greatest prize was the news that the *Cacafuego*, a treasure ship, has recently sailed. Drake cut the stays of the ships in the harbour and set off in hot pursuit:

John Drake (Drake's brother) goying up into the top, descried her about three of the clocke, and about sixe of the clocke we came to her and boarded her, and shotte at her three pieces of ordinaunce, and strake downe her Missen, and being entered, we found in her great riches, as iewels and precious stones, thirteene chestes full of royals of plate, foure score pound waight of gold, and sixe and twentie tunne of siluer. The place where we tooke this prize, was called Cape Francisco, about 150 leagues from Panama.

As Drake might have said, the voyage had been "made" with this exceptional bounty. They continued up the North American coast past Mexico and up past present-day California. The chronicles mention 48 degrees North, which is

almost exactly where present day Victoria stands; but then say that, in late May, that it was extremely cold, and the sailors complained, the ropes were stiff and rain fell as ice. All of which has suggested that they were in fact a good deal further north than 48 degrees, and looking for the Northwest passage in the region of Vancouver or further north. In fact, Hakluyt mentions that Drake had considered trying to return to England via the Northwest passage, thus confirming that the purpose of the voyage had not been to circumnavigate the world.

Having decided that it was too cold up there, they returned south to 38 degrees and put up at a convenient bay. 38 degrees is just north of San Francisco bay, now called Drake's Bay, though how exactly accurate the chronicle's are is open to question. Here they met the Miwok Indians:

In this Baye we ankered, and the people of the Countrey, hauing their houses close by the waters side, shewed themselves unto us, and sent a present to our Generall.

When they came unto us, they greatly wondered at the things that we brought, but our Generall (according to his naturall and accustomed humanitie) courteously intreated them, and liberally bestowed on them necessarie things to couer their nakednes, whereupon they supposed us to be gods, and would not be perswaded to the contrarie: the presents which they sent to our Generall, were feathers, and calcs of networke.

But this adoration of the god-like newcomers turned into something rather horrific:

The women remaining on the hill tormented themselues lamentably, tearing their flesh from their cheekes, whereby we preceiued that they were about a sacrifice. In the mean time, our Generall, with his companie, went to praier, and to reading of the Scriptures, at which exercise they were attentiu, and seemed greatly to be affected with it. (Hakluyt)

In the time of which prayers, singing of Pslames, and reading of certaine Chapters in the Bible, they sate very attentiuely: and obseruing the end at euery pause, with one voice still cryed, Oh, greatly reioycing in our exercises. Yea they tooke such pleasure in our singing of Pslames, that whensoever they resorted to us, their first request was commonly this, Gnaáh, by which they intreated that we would sing. (The World Encompassed)

The Indians made great display of deference to Drake and his men, singing, dancing and ritually cutting and tearing their flesh, to the horror of the Europeans. Drake eventually named the land *Nova Albion* because of the white cliffs, and because it reminded them of home, now further away than ever. Drake also erected a plaque, or monument of brass, nailed to a post, with Queen Elizabeth's name, the date of their arrival, claiming the land for Elizabeth, with an engraving of the Queen and a sixpence. It was claimed this was discovered in California in the 1930s, but has, sadly, recently been proved a fake.

On 23rd July, to the grief of the Indians, the Golden Hinde set sail to cross the Pacific.

And so hauing in our view but aire and sea, without sight of any land for the space of full 68, dayes together, wee continued our course through the maine Ocean, till September 30. following, on which day we fell in kenne of certaine Islands, lying about 8 degrees to the Northward of the line.

They continued on through the myriad islands until 3rd November, when they arrived at the Moluccas, which was their goal, for the abundant cloves on the islands. They were persuaded to trade with the king of Ternate, and with much ceremony, the king came aboard the Golden Hinde:

Soone after, the Kings himselfe repaired, accompanied with 6. grave and ancient persons, who did their obeisance with maruelous humilitie. The King was a man of tall stature, and seemed to be much delighted with the sound of our musicke, to whome as also to his abilitie, our Generall gave presents, wherewith they were passing well contented. (Hakluyt)

our ordinance thundred, which wee mixed with great store of small shot, among which sounding our trumpets, and other instruments of musick, both of still and loud noise, wherewith he was so much delighted, that requesting our musick to come into the boate, hee ioyned his Canow to the same, and was towed at least a whole houre together. The king being thus in musicall paradise. (The World Encompassed)

Having traded as much as they needed, they set off once more, aware of how far they were from home. But even a sailor such as Drake could not prevent them from being blown off course and striking a reef in one of the dangerous passages between islands. This was 9th January 1580, and they struck the reef at 8pm and were aground on it until 4pm the following day. In order to free themselves, they threw some of their precious cargo overboard: 3 tonnes of cloves, 8 canon and 'certaine meale and beanes' - no mention of gold or silver - and with a change of wind the following day, they were free.

After stopping briefly at Barateve, they sailed on to Java, where, again, Drake used his 'musick' to show courtesy and honour to the king:

The 13. of March our general himself went ashoare, and presented the king with his Musicke...

One day amongst the rest, viz. March 21. Raia Donan (the king) coming aboard us, in requital of our musick which was made to him, presented our generall with his country musick, which though it were of a very strange kind, yet the sound was pleasant and delightful:

They hauled up the ship onto the land and fitted it out, scraping the bottom of the shellfish that had clung to it, and generally prepared themselves for the long haul home.

We tooke our leaues and departed from them the 26. of March and set our course West South West, directly towards the cape of good hope, or Bon Esperance, and continued without touch of ought, but aire and water, till 21. May, when we spied land.

Iuly 15. we fell with the land again about Rio de Sesto, where we saw many negroes in their boates a fishing.

The 22. of the same month, wee came to Sierra Leona. We found ourselues under the Tropick of Cancer August 15.

And the 26. of Sept (which was Monday in the iust and ordinary reckoning of those that had stayed at home in one place, but in our computation was the Lords day or Sunday) we safely with oiyfull minds and thankfull hearts unto God, arriued at Plimoth, the place of our first setting forth after we had spent 2 years 10 monthes and some few odde daies beside, in seeing the wonders of the Lord in the deep, in discovering so many admirable things, in going through with so many strange aduentures, in escaping out of so many dangers, and ouercoming so many difficulties in this our encompassing of the neather globe and passing round about the world, which we haue related.

The Golden Hinde was later taken to Deptford where the Queen came aboard. Drake was knighted aboard the ship, but the Queen did not dub him herself, for fear of offending Philip of Spain, whom Drake had robbed so spectacularly. The wealth he brought back with him not only paid his backers handsomely, but repaid the national debt.