



**GORTON
PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY**

123rd year

**FESTIVAL
CONCERT**



**FREE TRADE HALL
MANCHESTER**

**SATURDAY
10th DECEMBER 1977
at 7.30 p.m.**

Programme 10p

Conductor
Leader
Soloist

John Crosdale
Margaret Hughes
Jack Rothstein (violin)

PROGRAMME

Overture – 'RUY BLAS'

Mendelssohn

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy was born in Hamburg in 1809 and died in Leipzig in 1847. His father was a banker, but Felix's consuming passion from an early age was music, his music for 'Midsummer Night's Dream' being written at the age of seventeen. Ruy Blas was composed when he was thirty, for a play by Victor Hugo and received its first performance in 1839.

ADAGIO for STRINGS

Barber

Samuel Barber is a modern American composer, born at West Chester, Pennsylvania in 1910. He studied at the Curtis Institute and was awarded many musical prizes. The Adagio is the slow movement from a string quartet rearranged for full string orchestra.

CONCERTO in D MAJOR (OPUS 35) for violin and orchestra

Tschaikowsky

Allegro moderato: Canzonetta: Finale

Peter Ilyitch Tschaikowsky was born in 1840 and died in St. Petersburg in 1893. He became a civil servant but abandoned this for a career in music and studied at St. Petersburg under Rubinstein. He was the first Russian composer to achieve widespread popularity in the west. He wrote only one concerto for the violin and this dates from 1878. This was an interesting period in his life, as in 1877 he married – disastrously – parting from his wife nine weeks later. He then came into contact with a wealthy widow who became his patron and gave him an annual allowance.

The concerto is an attractive work but presents such technical problems for the soloist that Auer, to whom it was dedicated, refused to perform it, and it was premiered by Adolph Brodsky, at one time professor of violin at the Royal Manchester College of Music.

The work is in three movements, the two fast and dynamic outer movements being divided by a lyrical canzonetta.

INTERVAL (20 minutes)

Refreshments on sale at various points in the hall,

Licensed Bar in the Circle Lounge

MUSIC from VIENNA

The life of the Strauss family and their place in the history of Vienna in the nineteenth century is legendary. This half of the concert concentrates especially on the music of the younger Johann Strauss.

Overture – 'DIE FLEDERMAUS'

This was the most famous of all Johann's operettas. The first performance was at the Theater an der Wien in April 1874 and its overture has remained a sparkling favourite ever since.

EGYPTIAN MARCH

As well as his waltzes, he also wrote many marches. Frequently these were composed to celebrate particular events. This march commemorates the opening of the Suez Canal.

THUNDER AND LIGHTNING POLKA

This polka received its first performance under the title 'Shooting Stars' in 1868. After the premiere, there were amendments to the score and it reappeared later that year under the present title. It is one of the most famous of all his polkas, and there are over one hundred.

WIENER BLUT WALTZ

Although Strauss was only six years old when he published his first waltz – later published as 'Erster Gedanke' – his great waltzes nearly all date from the 1860's. Wiener Blut (Vienna Blood) came at the end of this decade, and dates from about 1871. Its themes later formed the basis for a pastiche operetta, produced after his death in 1899.

AUF DER JAGD. POLKA SCHNELL

This fast polka – 'At the Hunt' – was first performed in the Volksgarten in Vienna. It is based on themes from the operetta 'Cagliostro in Wien' which was performed in February 1875.

Overture – 'LIGHT CAVALRY'

Suppé

Contemporary with, though not a member of the Strauss family, Francesco Suppé-Denielli wrote over one hundred and fifty operas and operettas which achieved great popularity especially in Vienna where he died in 1895. 'Light Cavalry' was produced in 1866 and was a favourite for many years. It was performed in New York in the early 1880's and its overture has remained one of the most played light orchestral pieces ever written.