

11th May 1978



**GORTON
PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY**

124th year

**ORCHESTRAL
CONCERT**



STOCKPORT TOWN HALL

1978 SEASON

Programme 5p

THURSDAY 11th MAY 1978

Conductor John Crosdale
Leader Albert Carter
Soloist Ruth-Christine Parkinson

P R O G R A M M E

OVERTURE 'RAYMOND'

THOMAS

Charles Louis Ambroise Thomas was born in Metz in 1811 and died in Paris in 1896. He was a student at the Paris Conservatoire where he won many high awards, notably the Rome Prize of 1832. He became well known in Paris as the composer of both light and serious operas. In 1871 he was appointed director of the Conservatoire and from that moment his compositions almost ceased. 'Raymond' was one of his most successful operas and was first performed in 1851.

FESTIVAL of SPRING

THOMAS

The second example of Ambroise Thomas' work which is to be played tonight is the suite which is a ballet divertissement from his opera 'Hamlet', first performed in 1868.

PIANO CONCERTO in A MINOR

GRIEG

Edward Hagerup Grieg was born in Bergen in 1843 and died there in 1907. His mother, herself a fine pianist, became his first teacher before he was sent abroad to study at Leipzig eventually returning to settle in Norway. He first came to prominence when he founded a musical society at Christiania (now Oslo) which he conducted for thirteen years. He married his cousin, Nina Hagerup, who was an excellent singer and she did much to popularise his songs. He also came to the notice of Liszt who encouraged him greatly and was much impressed by the piano concerto we are to hear tonight. The work is in three movements.

INTERVAL (15 minutes)

OVERTURE 'PLYMOUTH HOE'

ANSELL

John Ansell was born in 1874 and died in 1948. He trained at the Guildhall School of Music and first became known in London as the Musical Director of various theatres. He became more widely known between 1925 and 1930 when he worked for the B.B.C. and today it is for his light popular overtures that he is largely remembered. Of these, Plymouth Hoe is probably the most famous.

ROSES from the SOUTH

STRAUSS

We need say no more than that this is one of the most famous waltzes of Johann Strauss the younger.

THREE BAVARIAN DANCES

ELGAR

Edward William Elgar (1857-1934) was the son of a Worcester organist and music-seller. He became known as a violinist and teacher but gradually became accepted as a composer, especially following the success of the 'Enigma Variations', composed when he was forty-two. These three dances form part of his choral suite 'From the Bavarian Highlands'.

THE WALTZ DREAM

OSCAR STRAUSS

Oscar Strauss (1870-1954) was born in Vienna but became a naturalised Frenchman in 1939. He was first known as a theatrical conductor and later as the composer of light operas, one of which, 'The Chocolate Soldier', was based on Shaw's play 'Arms and the Man'. Tonight's selection however, is from his rather less known operetta 'The Waltz Dream'.

Acknowledgment....

The Society thanks the Greater Manchester Council, North West Arts and Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council for the use of the piano at this concert.