



**GORTON PHILHARMONIC  
SOCIETY**

121st Year  
88th Season - Belle Vue

**ORCHESTRAL  
CONCERT**



**FRIDAY, 12th SEPTEMBER, 1975  
at 7-45 p.m.**

Programme : 5p

Conductor ..... John Crosdale  
 Leader ..... Tom Bangbala  
 Soloist ..... May Craig (soprano)

## PROGRAMME

### Overture—"THE ITALIAN GIRL IN ALGIERS" ..... Rossini

*Gioacchino Rossini (1792-1868) studied at the Conservatory of Bologna as a student of 'cello and composition. The music of Mozart was a particular cult with him and his companions called him "the little German". Rossini was an exploiter of the orchestral crescendos, and noted in his day for "noisy" effects, but his lasting success is due to his musical gifts and theatrical flair.*

### Overture—"MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM" ..... Mendelssohn

*In 1843 King William IV. of Prussia commissioned Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) to write a complete series of pieces to be played as incidental music for a gala performance of "A Midsummer Night's Dream", which was to be presented on the monarch's birthday. Mendelssohn succeeded so well in this that the pieces are still very often to be heard when the play is performed. They have now become one of the most popular of all concert works. The overture, however, had been written in 1826 when Mendelssohn was only seventeen years old.*

### SONGS :

Waltz Song ..... Puccini  
 Pace, Pace mio Dio (Force of Destiny) ..... Verdi

### IN THE STEPPES OF CENTRAL ASIA ..... Borodin

*This is a symphonic poem composed in 1880 by Alexander Borodin (1834-1887). The work represents the approach and passing of a caravan and was written to accompany a tableau vivant.*

### SLAVONIC DANCE No. 6 ..... Dvorak

*Antonin Dvorak (1841-1904) became influenced by the national feeling in Smetana's music whilst a viola player in the Czech National Theatre orchestra which was conducted by Smetana. Thus the Slavonic Dances were written in folk music vein, but were all "original". The dances were originally for piano duet but were later orchestrated by the composer.*

## I N T E R V A L

(20 minutes)

during which time refreshments are available in the foyer and licensed bars

### Overture—DI BALLO ..... Sullivan

*Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900) is best remembered for his stormy partnership with W. S. Gilbert. Sullivan wrote much serious music including a symphony and a religious cantata. The concert overture Di Ballo uses dance rhythms and was composed during 1870.*

### A SHROPSHIRE LAD ..... Butterworth

*George Butterworth (born 1885 and killed in action on the Somme in 1916) was an English composer who collected English folk songs. Their influence is shown in the orchestral rhapsody "A Shropshire Lad", which was based on a song-cycle composed by Butterworth to poems of Housman.*

### SONGS :

One fine day (Madame Butterfly) ..... Puccini  
 Almost like being in love (Brigadoon) ..... Loewe

### Selection—"FIDDLER ON THE ROOF" ..... Bock

*This is a recent musical play about the poor, but mainly happy Jewish community of the village of Anatevka in Czarist Russia. It concerns the local milkman and the problems caused by his three daughters wishing to marry apparently most unsuitable husbands, and finishes with the persecution of the villagers and their enforced emigration.*

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*I wish to welcome our soloist, May Craig, who is making her first appearance with the orchestra. In recent years she has established herself as one of the Manchester Opera Society's leading sopranos and has taken the roles of Leonora (Force of Destiny) and Amelia (Masked Ball) in recent productions.*