

**GORTON
PHILHARMONIC
SOCIETY**

128th. YEAR

ORCHESTRAL CONCERT

MANCHESTER TOWN HALL

FRIDAY 14th MAY 1982

7.45 p.m.

Conductor

Colin Touchin

Leader

John Wilson

PROGRAMMEOverture 'The Barber of Seville'Gioacchino Rossini

The story of 'The Barber' (the original play is by the French author, Beaumarchais) with its brilliantly drawn characters and amusing situations was a source of inspiration to several composers, and Rossini's opera is one of the finest of the comic opera genre, bearing comparison with Mozart's 'Marriage of Figaro' - the sequel which Beaumarchais wrote to continue his criticism of the eighteenth century aristocracy whilst being hilariously entertaining. The overture of Rossini's work is vivacious and well balanced, beginning with an arresting series of short phrases and an expressive oboe solo, then plunging into the lively comic music, firstly in the minor then in the major as the work comes to a typical crescendo and climax.

Concerto for organ and orchestraGeorge Frederick Handel

Handel's organ concerti appeared in two batches, the first in 1733 (the six known as Op. 4) and the second as Op. 7 in 1760 (after his death). The original manuscripts of most are still extant, but not always perfect (considering the haste with which his music was written and the lack of ruled paper, it is an everlasting surprise that so much music was written at all) nor do they agree always with the contemporary printed orchestral parts. He also was not averse to using music he (and at times, other composers) had written earlier, and there are in the sixteen concerti several cases of whole movements being lifted from, say a trio sonata, to the organ with only minor alterations to fit the new combination of instruments.

Symphony No. 2 in D major (two movements)Johannes Brahms

3. Allegretto grazioso quasi andantino
- Presto ma non assai
4. Allegro con spirito

Brahms did not finish his first symphony until he was 43, although he had sketched ideas much earlier. This remarkably late stage in a composer's career for such an acceptable music form means that the four symphonies of Brahms are more uniformly good and successful than those of any other composer, for his compositional technique is glorious assured. Between the first and second symphonies (the second, Op. 73 was completed one year later in 1877) there is a contrast similar to that between Beethoven's fifth and sixth symphonies: after the long years spent on the dramatic and demanding first, Brahms clearly felt the need to write a light carefree piece, so here the woodwind receive especial prominence, imbuing the work with a similarly pastoral flavour.

INTERVAL

The Music Man was never a great musical, but this selection comes over very well with some excellent orchestration (by Felton Rapley). The tunes to look out for, and join in with are 'Lida Rose', 'Gary, Indiana', the delicious 'Till there was you', 'My White Knight' and 'Goodnight, my someone' which turns out to be none other than a slow version of the deservedly famous 'Seventy-six Trombones'. We respectfully encourage your imagination to augment our healthy brass.

Salut d'AmourEdward Elgar

Elgar's short orchestral and chamber music pieces are absolute masterpieces of style: his was quite simply the best salon music of the day, and, had he not discovered his astonishing musicality in the great symphonies, concerti and oratorios, he would still be remembered today for such gems as 'Salut d'Amour', 'Chanson de Matin' and 'Chanson de Nuit'.

Pizzicati from the ballet 'Sylvia'Leo Delibes

Delibes is well remembered for the delightful scores of his ballets, and this particular short piece has received especial renown for the use made of it in spoofs of ballet in more recent years. It also charmed the film 'Fantasia' (Walt Disney's miraculous cartoon to classical works which took many years to receive the acclaim it merits) and has been heard in snippets in Tom and Jerry and other cartoon scores. There always has been something unintentionally amusing about strings plucked instead of bowed and it is now difficult to appreciate that this work would not originally have sounded as amusing to the audiences of the time as it does to us today.

Ballet EgyptienAlexandre Luigini

Allegro mon troppo: Allegretta:
Andante sostenuto: Andantino espressivo

The Ballet Egyptien of Luigini is one of a corpus of music about which reference books, publishers and the like are unambiguously reticent: suffice to say that there are four very melodious, very varied sections which display a fair degree of orchestral expertise and includes some attractive colour and balance effects.

Overture 'Tannhauser'Richard Wagner

The operas of Wagner are unique masterpieces: no other composer has come near to the statement of complete art which was his intention in creating the long, intense and dramatic stories of love and fate. The story of Tannhauser concerns his personal fight to conquer his sensuality and return to the pure life of a Christian Knight.

RICHARD EGARR is from York and attended the Choir School of York Minster. In 1976 he came to Chetham's School of Music to study organ and is now in his final year. In October he will take up the Organ Scholarship at Clare College, Cambridge.