

**GORTON
PHILHARMONIC
SOCIETY**

127th YEAR

ORCHESTRAL CONCERT

STOCKPORT TOWN HALL

FRIDAY 17th JULY 1981 7.45 p.m

Conductor John Crosdale

Suite "Peer Gynt"

GRIEG

Leader John Wilson

Soloist John Gough (Piano)

PROGRAMME

All the items in tonight's programme are by request

The Children's Overture ROGER QUILTER

Roger Quilter was born in 1877 and died in 1953. He was educated at Eton and then continued his musical studies in Germany. His work covered a wide range of music and his songs have remained popular, especially his settings of Shakespeare. Among his orchestral items, the Children's Overture has always been a favourite with all ages, its title reflecting that the overture's main themes are well-loved nursery rhymes.

Symphonic Variations for piano and orchestra FRANCK

The Franco-Belgian composer, Cesar Franck, was born at Liege in 1822 and died in Paris in 1890, the result of an accident with an omnibus a few months previously. His family moved to Paris when he was 13 and he studied at the Paris Conservatoire although he was already becoming known as a piano virtuoso at that age. From his early thirties he virtually abandoned the piano for the great passion of his life, the organ, but the piano work which we are to hear this evening has remained one of the favourite pieces for that instrument. It is a single-movement work with attractive scoring for the orchestra and dazzling passages for the solo piano.

Symphony No. 39 (Minuet & Trio) MOZART

Born in January 1756, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was the seventh child of Leopold Mozart, himself a gifted musician. Only he and his elder sister Marianne survived infancy and both inherited prodigious talent. By the age of 6 the young Mozart was already undertaking successful musical tours of Munich and Vienna and by the age of 8 a tour of London was undertaken, during the course of which he produced his first symphony! By 1771 Mozart was composing seriously and at a phenomenal rate. By 1781 he had completed 25 symphonies but the work load took its toll and he was rapidly becoming exhausted. Indeed his three final and greatest symphonies were composed in 6 weeks in 1788, only 3 years before his death in 1791. The Minuet & Trio (the third movement) of Symphony 39 in E flat is one of his best-loved symphonic movements, written in a form first introduced by Haydn, whom he so greatly admired; and featuring the clarinet, a new instrument in 1788 and included in only a few of Mozart's symphonies.

INTERVAL (15 minutes)

Norway's most famous composer, Edward Grieg, was born in 1843, the son of the British consul in Bergen. He was taught the piano by his mother and at the age of 15 was sent to study at Leipzig Conservatory, although he was not happy there and returned home to Norway when his studies were completed. By the time he was thirty he had already achieved public acclaim, especially with the publication of his piano concerto in 1869, of which he gave the first performance. In 1874, Ibsen invited Grieg to compose incidental music for his play Peer Gynt, a commission which the composer took very seriously and which occupied him for two years. His labours have given us one of the best-loved of orchestral suites, from the gentle orchestrations of "Morning" to the drama in the "Hall of the Mountain Kings".

The Land of the Mountain and the Flood MacCUNN

Hamish MacCunn was a Scottish composer and conductor born in Greenock in 1868. He became one of the first students at the Royal College of Music in London where he studied composition with Parry and Stanford. His output was not great but his overture has always held a place in the orchestral repertoire in Britain. It gained renewed popularity in the 1970's when used as the theme music for the BBC series "Sutherland's Law".

My Fair Lady LOEWE

To conclude our concert this evening we are pleased to present a selection from the musical based on Bernard Shaw's play "Pygmalion". It tells the story of Professor Higgins who finds a Cockney flower seller, Eliza Doolittle, and determines to educate her to be "a lady". The suite includes such favourites as "I'm getting married in the morning", "On the street where you live" and "I could have danced all night".

JOHN GOUGH was born in Chester in 1957 and in 1971 entered the Junior Exhibitioner's Department of the Royal Manchester College of Music to study with Marjorie Clementi. He was subsequently awarded a North-West Arts Association Scholarship, and in 1975 entered the Royal Northern College of Music on an Associated Board Scholarship. He graduated in 1979 with First Class Honours and a Performance Diploma with Distinction and also won the prize for the most promising student. He then continued as a post-graduate student studying with Gordon Green.

He played several concerti with the R.N.C.N. Symphony Orchestra under Guest Conductors Neville Marriner and Walter Susskind and given many concerts and recitals over the North West.

In September 1980, he was invited to join the Staff at the Junior School at the Royal Northern College of Music.