

**GORTON
PHILHARMONIC
SOCIETY**

130TH YEAR



CONCERT

MANCHESTER TOWN HALL

FRIDAY 18TH MAY, 1984

7.30 p.m.

Conductor Colin Touchin
 Leader Morris Saleh
 Soloist Andrew Fletcher

PROGRAMME

SYMPHONY No. 39 in E flat (K 543) Mozart
 Adagio-Allegro: Andante: Allegretto: Allegro

This is the first of Mozart's last three symphonies, all written in the summer of 1788 within two months. Despite the recent death of his father and the growing financial and health problems, the work is almost entirely joyous and full of bonhomie and optimistic phrases. There is a gentleness, too which rarely grows edgy or agitated as in the quite oppositely characterised Symphony No. 40. It has often been said that Mozart's last three symphonies sum up his character and musical achievements better than any other composer's mature works.

CONCERTO for Organ, Strings and Timpani Poulenc

'Les Six' was a name given to a group of six French composers in 1920 by the music critic Henri Collet who selected Poulenc amongst those of 'Les Nouveaux Jeunes' whose music achieved a certain notoriety for their advanced ideas; the others were Auric, Durey, Honegger, Milhaud and Tailleferre, and they worked under the influence of Satie and Cocteau, themselves recognised eccentrics'

In 1938, Poulenc wrote this organ concerto, which is unique in its instrumentation and in its individual treatment of the organ. It contains passages of serene beauty and gay tunefulness, as well as dramatic climaxes and statements of almost tragic grandeur; it is one of the most complete displays of musical emotions ever written.

INTERVAL

FESTIVAL OVERTURE Wallis

This work was written in 1937 by the then Musical Director of the Society to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Gorton Philharmonic Society's concerts in Belle Vue Gardens.

It is based on two fairly straightforward motives stated by the celli and horns after the initial trumpet flourish: in style, it inhabits a very similar soundworld to McCunn's 'Land of the Mountain and Flood', and contains many passages of skilful distribution of the material and orchestration.

ADAGIO for Organ and Strings

Giazot

For long believed to be the work of Tomaso Albinoni, it is now confirmed that the piece so well loved for its simple beauty is in fact by a lesser known Italian composer who based his work on two thematic ideas and a figured bass by Albinoni: hence the perhaps understandable scholarly confusion. Whatever it is destined to remain in the list of best-loved works for many music-lovers for years to come.

ORGAN SOLOS

Impromptu

Viern

Cortège et Litanie

Dupr

SELECTION 'Andrea Chenier'

Giordano

Most successful with stage works, Giordano was largely self taught until studying with Serrao at the Naples Conservatoire. His use of verismo techniques was more remarkable than his genuine compositional inspiration, however, and his works are more dramatically entertaining than spiritually stimulating. This opera, from 1896, is in four acts, to a text by Luigi Illica. Its first performance in this country was in London in 1903 and it was given an 80th anniversary performance in Manchester last year.

EMPEROR WALTZ

Strauss

Is there anything left to say about one of the most popular waltzes written by one of the greatest composers of waltzes ever?