

**GORTON
PHILHARMONIC
SOCIETY**

127th YEAR

ORCHESTRAL CONCERT

STOCKPORT TOWN HALL

FRIDAY 2nd OCTOBER 1981 7.45 p.

Conductor Colin Touchin
Leader John Wilson
Soloist Jeremy Munro
(Baritone)

Suite "Sigurd Jorsalfar" GRIEG

Norway's most famous composer was born in 1843, the son of the British Consul in Bergen. He was first taught the piano by his mother, prior to study at Leipzig from the age of 15. In 1862 he returned to Bergen and rapidly made a name for himself as a pianist, although he was always interested in composition and frequently performed his piano pieces. He went to Denmark for 3 years but from 1866 settled in Christiania (Oslo) and helped to organise the Norwegian Academy of Music from 1867. He concentrated his studies now on Norwegian folk music which coloured his compositions so strongly. Although less well known than "Peer Gynt", tonight's suite has long been a favourite with Gorton audiences and features the memorable tunes and distinctive orchestrations which have made Grieg's music so popular.

PROGRAMME

Overture "Il Signor Bruschino" ROSSINI

Gioacchino Rossini was born in 1792, the son of professional musicians. His musical studies began at an early age and centred on the horn and the piano, as well as singing. He first came to the public notice with a one act opera "La Cambiate Di Matrimonio" written when he was only 18; and by the age of 25, he had already seen the success of "L'Italiana in Algeri" (1813) "The Barber of Seville" (1816) and "La Cenerentola" (1817). In 1824 he moved to Paris, where he composed for the court of Charles X and held the post of "Inspector General of Singing in France". In 1829 "William Tell" was produced at the Paris Opera, and represented probably his greatest success. He then retired from opera composition completely, although he did not die until 1868, leaving a fortune estimated at over £1 million. Although "Il Signor Bruschino" is not one of his most famous operas, its overture carries all the hallmarks which have made his overtures such firm concert favourites.

Soloist JEREMY MUNRO

Selection "Iolanthe" SULLIVAN

Arthur Sullivan, born in 1842 was the son of a military bandmaster, who became Professor of Brass Band at the Royal Military School of Music. By the age of 11, Arthur had become a chorister at the Chapel Royal and the following year saw the publication of his first anthem in London. He studied composition at the Royal Academy with Sterndale Bennett and completed his training in Leipzig. The success of his one act opera "Cox and Box" brought him the attention of William Schwenk Gilbert and so began one of the famous musical partnerships ever, which, with the aid of Richard d'Oyly Carte, resulted in the 14 operas known as the Savoy Operas. These were favourites of Queen Victoria and in 1883 she knighted Sullivan. "Iolanthe", one of the most popular of the operas, tells the unlikely tale of Iolanthe, a fairy; her improbable relationship with the Lord Chancellor of England and through him, the amazing impact of a group of fairies on the House of Lords.

Sinfonia No. 2 COLIN TOUCHIN

This original composition by this evening's conductor was commissioned by the North West Arts Association and received its first performance by the Alderley Edge Orchestra last year. We are delighted to be able to give another performance this evening. Colin Touchin has composed several works, some of which have been broadcast by the BBC.

*** + DAM BUSTERS MARCH ***

Waltz "Voices of Spring" JOHANN STRAUSS

Johann Strauss II was born in 1825, the son of Johann I, already considered to be the father of the waltz in Vienna. The waltz is derived from a German country dance, the landler, which had achieved popularity in 18th century Vienna and it was the elder Strauss, and Lanner who did so much to make Vienna the centre of the waltz.

JEREMY MUNRO taught English before entering the RNCM in 1979. While at Oxford University he sang in New College Chapel Choir and the Schola Cantorum; recording for Decca, CRD and the BBC. Two College Scholarships and an award from the Peter Moores Foundation enable Jeremy to continue his studies at College.

Despite his own musical talent Johann I discouraged his son and the young boy took violin lessons in secret and, when only in his late teens, founded his own orchestra, which marked the beginning of a lasting and famous rivalry between father and son. The younger Strauss seemed able to compose lilting waltzes with ease and earned himself the title "The Waltz King". Most followed a similar pattern: five expertly orchestrated waltz sequences introduced by a Prelude and concluded with a Coda. Tonight's waltz, however, had one unique feature: it originally included a soprano soloist, although this evening we are to hear the now more famous orchestral version.

He won a place on the Live Music Now Scheme and was highly commended in the NW Arts Young Musicians Platform. He has made several Song and Oratoria appearances whilst at College and sang Don Alfonso in December 1980 for the RNCM production of "Così fan Tutte". Additionally he sang the title role in Hoddinott's opera "The Trumpet Major" which received its World Premiere in April 1981 at the RNCM.

4 3 Elizabeth INTERVAL
March "Youth of Britain"