



GORTON
PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

125 th year

ORCHESTRAL
CONCERT



STOCKPORT TOWN HALL

FRIDAY

20th JULY 1979

7.45 pm.

Programme 5p

Conductor John Crossdale

Leader Margaret Rarity

Soloist Clare Hogan (Mezzosoprano)

PROGRAMME

Overture - BARBER of SEVILLE ROSSINI

Gioacchino Antonio Rossini was born at Pesaro in 1792 and died near Paris in 1868. He trained as a 'cellist at Bologna but soon became widely known as an operatic composer - he wrote 36 operas in 19 years! Of these, The Barber of Seville is among the most important.

It is a comedy opera based on a libretto by Beaumarchais and was first produced in Rome in 1816. Its London premiere followed in 1818 and its popularity has remained ever since.

SOMERSET RHAPSODY HOLST

Gustav Theodore von Holst was born near Cheltenham in 1874. He was from a musical family with British and Swedish ancestry. He studied at the Royal College of Music under Stanford and began his career as a trombonist before becoming Director of Music at St. Paul's School for Girls in London, and for whom he wrote the well known St. Paul's Suite. During the first world war, he organised musical activities amongst the troops (having dropped the 'von' from his name!) The work we are to hear this evening is a short orchestral item which dates from 1907 and was a product of his interest in folk songs. He died in London in 1934.

Songs - Softly awakes my heart (Samson and Delilah) St. Saens

The Kerry Dance Molloy

Where corals lie (Sea Pictures) Elgar

O don fatale (Don Carlos) Verdi

Waltz - WIENER BLUT JOHANN STRAUSS II

The story and music of the Strauss family are legendary. 'Wiener Blut' (Vienna Blood) gave its themes and its name to a pastiche operetta based on previously unpublished non-operetta works and was first produced after his death in 1899. Strauss had originally agreed to select the pieces for the operetta but became too ill to do so and the task was completed by Adolph Miller, chorus master at the Theater an der Wien.

FANTASIA on 'GREENSLEEVES'

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

The theme 'Greensleeves' has a long history. Some historians have attributed the composition to Henry VIII although this is unlikely. It is mentioned twice in Shakespeare's 'Merry Wives of Windsor', and by other writers of the period. There have been many ballads set to the tune and during the Civil War (1640-1645), it became a 'party song' of the Cavaliers. From this period, the tune is frequently referred to as 'The Blacksmith' and as such, there is a reference to it in Samuel Pepys' diary for 23rd April 1660.

When the English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) wrote an opera based on the life of Falstaff - 'Sir John in love' the melody provided an ideal basis for an orchestral interlude. The work is scored for flute and string orchestra.

Songs - Danny boy Weatherley

Spanish lady Hughes

O mio Fernando (La Favorita) Donizetti

O rest in the Lord Mendelssohn

The Holy City Adams

Selection - CARMEN BIZET

Georges Bizet was born in Paris in 1838 and died there in 1875. He studied at the Paris Conservatoire where he was awarded the Rome Prize and then tried to make his name as an opera composer. He had moderate success with 'The Pearl Fishers' and 'The Fair Maid of Perth'. He then turned his attention to setting Prosper Mérimée's story 'Carmen'. The success was not immediate and Bizet died three months after its first performance, not realising that he had composed the most popular opera ever written.

CLARE HOGAN was born in Dorset in 1954 and attended Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School and the Winchester School of Art and Music. She entered the Royal Northern College of Music in 1976 to study with Caroline Crawshaw.

Whilst in Winchester Clare took part in several opera workshop productions and has sung the roles of Luzuki (Madame Butterfly), Marcellina (Marriage of Figaro) and the Sorceress (Dido and Aeneas). More recently she sang the role of Hermia in Britten's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' in an opera excerpt production at the college.

She appears tonight by kind permission of the Principal of the Royal Northern College of Music.