

**GORTON PHILHARMONIC
SOCIETY**

122nd Year

89th Season — Belle Vue

**ORCHESTRAL
CONCERT**

**FRIDAY, 21st MAY, 1976
at 7.45 p.m.**

Programme : 5p

Conductor John Crosdale
Leader Tom Bangbala
Soloist Mary Conway (Soprano)

PROGRAMME

Overture — “THE MASTERSINGERS” Wagner

RICHARD WAGNER was born in Leipzig in 1813, and died in Venice in 1883. He took music seriously from an early age, and had his first symphony performed when he was 19. His opera, “The Mastersingers” was first produced in Munich in 1868 and is based on the activities of the guilds of mastersingers which flourished in Germany in the middle-ages. The overture is based on themes from the opera which, at the climax, are combined simultaneously on the orchestra.

Waltz — “A BALL” and “MARCH TO THE SCAFFOLD” ... Berlioz

HECTOR BERLIOZ was born in 1803 at Grenoble and died in Paris in 1869. His father intended him to be a doctor but he studied music instead. These pieces are two of the five movements of “The Fantastic Symphony”, a work inspired by his love for the Irish Shakespearian actress Henrietta Smithson, whom he later married. She is represented in each movement by a theme on clarinet.

Symphony No. 2 in D — 1st Movement Brahms

JOHANNES BRAHMS was born in Hamburg in 1833 and died in Vienna in 1897. His father was a double bass player in a theatre orchestra and Brahms had music lessons from an early age. His work was championed from the start by Liszt and Schumann, but it was not until later in life that he began to write symphonies. The second symphony dates from 1877 and tonight we shall hear the first of its four movements.

INTERVAL

(20 minutes)

during which time refreshments are available in the foyer and licensed bars.

SCHEHEREZADE Rimsky-Korsakov

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV, born in Novgorod in 1844, first began a career as a naval officer before turning to music. His work was always strongly influenced by national folk music. His suite, Scheherezade, is based on the legend of 1001 Arabian Nights. The Sultan was so convinced of the falseness of women that each of his wives was put to death on their wedding night. Scheherezade, however, so delighted him with her stories that she was spared. Throughout the suite, Scheherezade's voice is represented by a solo violin. Tonight we shall hear two of the four movements.

SONGS :

O my beloved father (Gianni Schicchi) Puccini

Song to the moon (Rusalka) Dvorak

Enos - Hills of Donegal - arr. Sanderson

Selection — “SOUND OF MUSIC” Rogers

TO END OUR CONCERT — Once again we invite you to enjoy the songs of one of the most popular musicals ever written.

MARY CONWAY is making a most welcome second appearance with us, the first being September, 1974. She is a post-graduate student at the Royal Northern College and has sung leading roles in several of their operatic productions.