



GORTON  
PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

125 th year

ORCHESTRAL  
CONCERT



STOCKPORT TOWN HALL

SUNDAY

21st OCTOBER 1979

7.45 p.m.

Programme 5p

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Conductor John Crosdale  
Leader Margaret Rarity

PROGRAMME

Overture - THE ITALIAN GIRL IN ALGIERS. ROSSINI

Gioacchino Antonio Rossini was born at Pesaro in 1792 and died near Paris in 1868. He studied composition and 'cello at Bologna but it was as a composer of opera that he made his name, completing 36 operas in a period of 19 years between 1810 & 1829. He was immensely popular in England; his five month stay here in 1823 earned him the remarkable figure of £7000. The opera "The Italian Girl in Algiers", whose sparkling overture we are to hear this evening, was first performed in Venice in 1813, its London premiere following in 1819.

FINLANDIA SIBELIUS

Jean Sibelius, born in Finland in 1865, was arguably Finland's greatest composer. After intensive study in Helsinki, Berlin and Vienna, he was awarded a government pension in 1897, when he was 32, & this enabled him to devote himself solely to composition. By the time of his death in 1957 he had achieved a considerable output in all fields but has always been famed for his tone poems so frequently based on Finland's heroic legends, or on her struggle for freedom. Although a short work, "Finlandia" is undoubtedly one of his most popular. It dates from 1899 and is based on themes of traditional Finnish character. Many argue that the early part of the work represents Finland's struggle against oppression and the hymn-like melody at the end is thanksgiving for deliverance.

SYMPHONY No. 92 in G. HAYDN

Franz Joseph Haydn was born in Rohrau in 1732 and died in Vienna in 1809. Haydn's parents were both keen amateur musicians and their son began his career as a choirboy in Vienna Cathedral. After his voice broke, he earned a meagre living teaching until, in 1760 he became Kappelmeister to the influential Esterhazy family and soon became the most famous composer of the day. His output was wide, although it is chiefly for his symphonies that he is remembered today. He wrote over 100 and is known as "The father of the symphony". Symphony No. 92 is in 4 movements and is sub-titled "The Oxford", reminding us that in 1792 whilst on a visit to England, he was awarded an Hon. D. Mus. degree by the University there.

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INTERVAL

(15 minutes)

The second half of this evenings concert is devoted to music for the dance.

Suite - COPPELIA DELIBES

Clément Philibert Léo Delibes was a noted French composer who lived from 1836 - 1891. His musical training was at the Paris Conservatoire and his real fame came as a composer of successful ballets. His music is full of melody and grace. "Coppelia" tells the tale of a toy-maker who is tricked by villagers into believing that his most beautiful doll has come to life.

Waltz - WINE WOMEN & SONG STRAUSS

Our next item is one of the most famous waltzes by the 'Waltz King' of Vienna, Johann Strauss.

Suite - SLEEPING BEAUTY TSCHAIKOWSKY

Peter Ilyitch Tchaikowsky was born in Viatka in 1840 and died in St. Petersburg in 1893. He turned to music after abandoning his earlier career in the Russian Civil Service & studied at St. Petersburg under Rubenstein. His personal life was frequently troubled and tortured: a disastrous marriage lasted only 11 weeks but after this he began his famous relationship with the wealthy widow Nadezhda von Meck. Although the two never met she provided him with a pension to allow him to continue to compose. Tchaikowsky's ballets are among the most famous of the classical repertoire: their scores are certainly amongst the most tuneful. The setting of the famous fairy story of the young Princess who slept for 100 years after pricking her finger on the spinning wheel of the Wicked Fairy was first produced in St. Petersburg in 1890. A "retouched" version by Stravinsky was premiered in London in 1921.