

**GORTON  
PHILHARMONIC  
SOCIETY**

**129th YEAR**



**CONCERT**

**STOCKPORT TOWN HALL**

**FRIDAY 22nd JULY 1983**

**7.30 p.m.**

Conductor Colin Touchin  
Leader John Wilson  
Soloists Tom Bangbala (Violin)  
Stephen Threlfall (Cello)

PROGRAMME

The NATIONAL ANTHEM

Overture 'Midsummer Night's Dream' Op. 21 (1826)  
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy  
(1809-1847)

This work was written as a concert overture, and seven-  
teen years later, Mendelssohn added the other pieces of inci-  
dental music to accompany Shakespeare's play, incorporating  
themes of the earlier work. The overture is one of the most  
beautiful; there are themes for the fairies of Oberon's  
realm, the lovers' moonlight walk and the realistic braying  
of the donkey; there is a festive flourish for the royal  
hunt and the work ends quietly, as it began, with a dreamy  
set of simple chords.

Concerto in A minor, Op. 102 (1887) Johannes Brahms  
for violin, cello and orchestra (1833 - 1897)

Allegro Andante Vivace non troppo

This beautiful work is equal to all Brahms' concerti and  
is receiving many performances nowadays to redress an unfortu-  
nate neglect. The first movement opens with a cadenza for  
both solo instruments and is built on a very grand scale,  
with impressive motifs and very arresting rhythms; the second  
subject is a highly memorable and lyrical melody. Throughout  
the work, the solo parts are as responsible as the orchestral  
parts for harmonic and melodic development, making a complete  
and unified composition of the very finest skill and maturi-  
ty. The simplicity of the middle movement balances the  
weight of argument of the first; and the final movement is a  
highly virtuosic rondo, incorporating many subsidiary themes,  
based on folk material, and providing a lively and fitting  
conclusion to this extraordinary masterpiece.

INTERVAL (15 minutes)

Overture 'Die Fledermaus' Johann Strauss II

Johann Strauss II was born in October 1825, the eldest  
son of a man famed throughout Vienna for his dance music.  
1862 saw his marriage to the first of his three wives,  
Henrietta Treffz, a singer of repute and it was she who  
caused him to devote more time to composition. In 1874, he  
produced "Die Fledermaus", a model of classical operetta and  
destined to remain the most successful of his major works.

Suite 'Swan Lake' Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky

Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky was born in Viatka in 1840 and  
died in St. Petersburg in 1893. His music has long been popu-  
lar in the West mainly due to its wealth of melody and bril-  
liant orchestration. "Swan Lake" is one of his most  
well-loved works, although the premiere in 1877 at the  
Bolshoi Theatre was a dismal failure. This evening we are  
playing four movements:-

Scene; Dance of the Swans; Hungarian Dance; Waltz.

Selection 'The Desert Song' Sigmund Romberg

Sigmund Romberg was born in Hungary in 1887 and died in  
New York in 1951. He was a popular composer of operettas and  
film music. He settled in New York in 1913 and later moved  
to Hollywood, where he produced some of the best loved operet-  
tas ever written. The well-loved tunes of the Desert Song,  
the romance and lure of the Red Shadow and the Desert Riffs  
have made this a perennial favourite.

Fantasia on British Sea Songs. Sir Henry Wood.

Sir Henry Wood's name is indelibly linked with the Prome-  
nade Concerts. It was in 1893 that Robert Newman, the Manag-  
er of the Queens Hall, London, offered Henry Wood the  
conductorship of a new Queens Hall Orchestra. So began the  
Henry Wood Promenade Concerts which he conducted, from 1895  
to 1941, when the Queens Hall was destroyed in an air raid.

This piece has long been considered indispensable for the  
last night of the Promenade Concerts Season.

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We are especially pleased to welcome back as soloists  
tonight two musicians who played with the "Gorton" in their  
formative years. Tom was orchestra leader and Stephen leader  
of the cello section. Both are now members of the B.B.C.  
Philharmonic Orchestra.