


**GORTON PHILHARMONIC
SOCIETY**

122nd Year

**ORCHESTRAL
CONCERT**



**FRIDAY, 22nd OCTOBER, 1976
at 7.45 p.m.**

AT STOCKPORT TOWN HALL

Programme : 5p

Conductor John Crosdale

Leader Tom Bangbala

Soloists Olga Gracelj (Soprano)
Ruth-Christine Parkinson (Piano)

PROGRAMME

OVERTURE — “EGMONT” Beethoven

Born in Bonn in 1770, BEETHOVEN came from a very musical family, and by the age of 13, was already a court musician. He studied in Vienna, receiving some tuition from Mozart and from the age of 22, Vienna became his home, where he was supported by wealthy music-lovers. At the age of 30, he began to suffer from deafness, and although his loss of hearing became total, he continued to compose until his death in 1827. His overture Egmont is part of his incidental music for Goethe's drama, first performed in 1810. Egmont was a Flemish nobleman who led the independence struggle against Philip of Spain, but who was finally beheaded by the Duke of Alva in 1567.

SYMPHONIC VARIATIONS FOR PIANO AND ORCHESTRA Franck

CESAR AUGUSTE FRANCK was born in Liege in 1822 and died in Paris in 1890. He was the son of a banker, but his father was determined to give him a musical education, which culminated at the Paris Conservatory where he was awarded several prizes. He spent most of his life involved in church music and became noted for his organ improvisations. At the age of 50 he became organ professor at the Paris Conservatory but he was 68 before he received any success as a composer, with the premiere of his String Quartet. The following month, he was involved in an accident with a horse bus, and died from his injuries. After his death, however, the brilliance and mastery of some of his work was realised, especially this set of variations, a dazzling display of virtuosity for piano with orchestra.

SYMPHONY No. 6 in B Minor Tschaikowsky

Probably the most popular composer ever to emerge from Russia, PETER ILYITCH TSCHAIKOWSKY was born in Viatka in 1840, and died in St. Petersburg in 1893. Although he began a career in the Civil Service, he quickly turned to music and studied under Anton Rubinstein. Following the break-up of his disastrous 11 week marriage, he found a patron in Nadezhda Von Meck, a wealthy woman who provided him with an annual income, although they never met. He wrote six symphonies in all, the final one dating from the year of his death, and often known by the title 'Pathetique', an invention of Tschaikowsky's brother Modeste. Although in four movements, tonight we are to hear the third only; an exciting and dramatic march for full orchestra.

INTERVAL

(20 minutes)

during which time Coffee and Ice-Cream will be available.

DANCE OF THE TUMBLERS Rimsky-Korsakov

Born in Novgorod in 1844, RIMSKY-KORSAKOV was reared on a country estate and so had a deep knowledge of Russian folk music. Although he began a naval career, the early musical influences were too great, and he dedicated himself to composition, becoming professor at the St. Petersburg Conservatory in 1871. He was an important member of the group of Russian nationalist composers, known as 'The Five', and also a noted orchestra conductor. The piece we are to hear tonight is one of his most famous short orchestral showpieces and comes from his opera 'The Snow Maiden'. RIMSKY-KORSAKOV died near St. Petersburg in 1908.

SUITE — “THE BARTERED BRIDE” Smetana

BEDRICH SMETANA was born in Bohemia in 1824 and died in Prague in 1884. He showed considerable talent from the age of 5, and became famous in Prague as a teacher. He received great encouragement from Liszt and after a spell in Sweden, he returned to Prague where, from 1866, he became chief conductor of the national Theatre. He resigned in 1874 suffering from a nervous complaint, and tragically died ten years later in a lunatic asylum. The suite of dances we are to hear this evening, however, suggests little of this tragedy. They date from 1866 and are strongly nationalistic in character, especially the famous Polka.

SONGS :

1. Hark! the Echoing Air Purcell
2. Rose Softly Blooming Spohr
3. Come Scoglio (from *Così fan Tutte*) Mozart

SUITE — “THE THREE ELIZABETHS” Coates

*ERIC COATES was born in Hucknall in 1866 and died in Chichester in 1957. He trained at the Royal Academy of Music and began his professional career as a viola player. He then became famous as a composer of light music. This suite is in three movements. The first movement, *Halcyon Days*, reflects the times of Elizabeth I; the second, *Elizabeth of Glamis*, depicts the Queen Mother with her Scottish background, and finally the march *Youth of Britain* represents Princess Elizabeth, now the Queen.*

SOLOISTS :

Our soloists this evening are OLGA GRACELJ, a soprano from Yugoslavia, who has been in Manchester for three years, studying at the Royal Northern College of Music; and RUTH-CHRISTINE PARKINSON, a member of the viola section of the orchestra who was educated at Chethams School and is also now studying at the Royal Northern College. We are especially pleased that Ruth-Christine can play this evening for she is a native of Stockport.