

**GORTON
PHILHARMONIC
SOCIETY**

128th. YEAR

ORCHESTRAL CONCERT

STOCKPORT TOWN HALL

FRIDAY 23rd. JULY 1982

7.45 p.m.

Conductor Colin Touchin
 Leader John Wilson
 Soloists Godfrey Stafford
 William Hay
 Shirley Kenyon
 Sally Edwards
 Charles Oldfield
 (horns)

P R O G R A M M E

Overture 'Banditenstreiche' Suppé
 Franz von Suppé (1819-1895) was an Austrian composer of Belgian descent, born in Dalmatia of an Italianised family!

From the moment of his appointment as conductor at the Josephstadt Theatre in Vienna he began producing a long series of highly successful operettas, farces and musical comedies that swiftly, if impermanently, conquered Europe.

He, however, always considered himself to be a serious composer and wrote several operas none of which ever got more than a half hearted reception and were soon forgotten.

Concerto for four horns and orchestra in F. Hübler
 Allegro maestoso: Adagio, quasi andante: Allegro vivace

My search to find something about Heinrich Hubler has failed except for the fact that he was born 1822; died 1894 and wrote this concerto in 1854, and apparently little else.

This piece does give the opportunity to our complete horn section to show its paces and we are always pleased to have our own members of the orchestra as soloists.

Ballet music from the opera 'Faust' Gounod

Charles Gounod was born in Paris 1818 and died in Saint-Cloud in 1893. He lived in England from 1870 to 1875 and whilst here he founded a choir which later became the Royal Choral Society. The opera 'Faust' is one of the most popular operas ever written and is so superior to his other operatic works that it was once rumoured that he could not possibly have written it! However, that is now discounted, and Gounod's 'Faust' forms part of practically every companies repertoire.

Ballet was usually completely incidental to the plot but at one time it was considered that public demand insisted that a ballet be included so composers usually obliged.

I N T E R V A L

(Fifteen minutes)

Academic Festival Overture

Brahms

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) was offered an honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy by the University of Breslau in 1879 and wrote this overture as an acknowledgment of this.

It received its first performance at Breslau and was not well received by the Rector, Senate and Faculty of Philosophy members who were sat in the front row. It had been described by Brahms as a potpourri of student songs but these turned out to be their beer party songs and not at all the songs that had been expected.

Selection from 'Kismet'

Wright and Forrest

This modern musical uses music which is based upon the themes of Alexander Borodin and is a fantasy which owes much to the Tales of the Arabian Nights.

Second Movement 'Andante cantabile' from Symphony No. 5 in E minor

Tschaikovsky

Peter Ilyich Tschaikovsky (1840-1893) had a brief period as a student of law and clerk in the Ministry of Justice but gave this up to study composition under Anton Rubinstein at the St. Petersburg Conservatoire. This symphony was written in 1888. At its first performance in that year the public were pleased, the critics doubtful and the composer wrote 'I have come to the conclusion that it is a failure'. Since the symphony has held its place in repertoire up to the present day it would appear he was not a good judge of his own capabilities.

Marche Militaire No. 1 in D Op. 51

Schubert

Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828) was already an accomplished violinist, pianist and composer by the time he was admitted as a chorister at the Imperial Chapel in Vienna at the age of eleven. Though his life was tragically short, he was a prolific composer and the catalogue of his works by O.E. Deutsche lists no fewer than 998 works.

Despite this enormous number, there was one field, opera, in which he was ill at ease. Indeed, of the ten operas he created, six were unfinished and one has disappeared. The other three were rarely, if ever, performed.

Finlandia Op. 26 No. 7

Sibelius

Jan Julius Christian Sibelius (1865-1957) studied at Helsinki Conservatoire and also Berlin and Vienna. In the period 1890-1900 his works expressed the aspirations of Finland towards a national musical culture and the six tone poems were written, of which Finlandia is one. These works showed an individual approach to the treatment of the orchestra which was further developed in his seven symphonies.

Finlandia has always been a very popular concert piece for orchestras and brass bands alike.