



GORTON  
PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

125th Year

ORCHESTRAL  
CONCERT



STOCKPORT TOWN HALL

Friday

25th May 1979

7.45 pm.

Programme 5p

FRIDAY 25th MAY 1979

Conductor John Crossdale  
Leader Margaret Rarity  
Soloists - Stephen Briggs (baritone)  
Neil Smith (guitar)

PROGRAMME

Overture- RUSSLAN and LUDMILLA GLINKA

Michael Glinka was born in Smolensk in 1804 and died in Berlin in 1857. He grew up on his father's estate where he became familiar with Russian folk music which was to be a considerable influence in his later work. He went to St. Petersburg where he studied with John Freid and from there went to Italy to study opera with Bellini and Donizetti. This led him to the decision to write a native Russian opera and, after a period of study in Berlin, he returned to Russia where, in 1836, he wrote 'A life for the Czar'.

This was followed by 'Russlan' with the libretto based on a poem by Pushkin, and the first performance was in St. Petersburg in 1842. The first London performance was in 1931. The full opera is seldom performed but its sparkling overture has remained a firm favourite in the concert hall.

Songs- Toreador's song (Carmen) BIZET  
Cavatina (L'Elisir d'Amore) DONIZETTI

CONCERTO de ARANJUEZ RODRIGO

Joaquin Rodrigo was born in 1902 and this concerto is the most popular of his many works and is arguably the best known work for guitar and orchestra. It was published in 1939 and premiered in 1940 where it met with immediate success.

It is in three movements all of which are full of melody and are strongly rhythmic. The first movement has a strong folk music feeling and opens with a strummed motif for guitar alone. This dominates the whole movement despite a sustained melody on the violins. The second is noted for a beautiful melody on cor anglais accompanied by guitar chords, and for two cadenzas for the soloist. The third movement again opens on guitar and the orchestra join in a spirited dance although, following a final downward flutter from the soloist, it ends quietly.

INTERVAL

(15 minutes)

THREE HUNGARIAN DANCES

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 his son's early musical training was done locally. At the age of 20 he came to the notice of Joachim and Liszt both of whom helped to further his career. Following a spell in Germany, he eventually settled in Vienna where he remained until his death. His music output is very varied but these dances are probably the most popular of all his compositions. They were originally written for the piano but later versions were for violin solo and the orchestral one which is played this evening.

MINUET and TRIO from SYMPHONY No. 40 in G Minor MOZART

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in Salzburg in 1756 and died in Vienna in 1791. He was a noted child prodigy and from the age of 6, he toured the courts of Europe with his father and sister. Amongst his enormous output of compositions he wrote 41 symphonies, the final three of which all date from 1788. The Minuet and Trio became adopted as the standard form for symphonic third movements at this period. It consists of a minuet, a three beats to the bar dance, followed by a contrasting trio, after which the original minuet is repeated.

Songs- Rose Marie FRIML & STOTHART  
Desert Song ROMBERG  
I talk to the trees (Paint your Wagon) LERNER & LOEWE  
They call the wind Maria (Paint your Wagon) LERNER & LOEWE

Selection - 'WEST SIDE STORY' BERNSTEIN

Leonard Bernstein was born in Massachusetts in 1918. He studied at Harvard and the Curtis Institute and is known as a fine conductor, pianist, and composer of both serious works and stage musicals. Of these, West Side Story, premiered in 1958 has been the most outstandingly successful. It is based on the story of Romeo and Juliet but the warring families of the Montagues and Capulets have been transformed into two rival New York gangs known as The Jets and The Sharks.