

**GORTON PHILHARMONIC  
SOCIETY**

123rd Year

**ORCHESTRAL  
CONCERT**

*3rd June 1977*

**1977 SEASON**

**AT STOCKPORT TOWN HALL**

Programme 5p

FRIDAY 3rd. JUNE 1977.

Conductor John Crosdale  
Leader Tom Bangbala

P R O G R A M M E

OVERTURE - 'ZAMPA' HEROLD

Louis Joseph Ferdinand Herold was born in Paris in 1791, the only child of an able pianist, and whose ability soon became apparent. In 1806 he entered the Paris Conservatoire where he studied with distinction, but it was composing for the theatre which really fascinated him. This fascination was developed further by a period spent in Naples as court pianist to Queen Caroline. When he returned to France, this Italian influence stayed with him. Zampa is a three act opera, first performed at the Opera Comique in May 1831 and was an immediate success although it is rarely performed today. The overture, however, has remained a great orchestral favourite. A few days before his death from a chest complaint in 1833, Herold remarked 'I am going too soon; I was just beginning to understand the stage'

SUITE - 'EL SALON MEXICO' COPLAND

Aaron Copland was born in New York in 1900. His music studies began early with piano lessons from his sister. He then spent a period in Paris with Nadia Boulanger and is now regarded as one of the leading spirits of contemporary American music. El Salon Mexico was inspired by a visit to that country in 1932 where he heard local folk music played in a dance hall. It is based upon three folk songs, La Jesuita, El Mosco and El Palo Verde. Copland said of the work 'it wasn't the music that I heard, but the spirit that I felt there that attracted me.... all that I could hope to do was to reflect the Mexico of the tourists.'

ELIZABETHAN SERENADE BINGE

This serenade is one of the most popular light orchestral items of this century and is particularly fitting in this concert, so near to the celebration of the Silver Jubilee.

INTERVAL (15 minutes)

SUITE - 'THE WATER MUSIC' HANDEL

George Frederick Handel was born in Halle in 1685 but subsequently became a naturalised Englishman. He had a sound musical education and in 1696 spent some time at the Court of Hanover, where he first became influenced by Italian opera. In 1710 he was appointed Kappelmeister to the court and it was at this time that he paid his first visit to England. A second visit followed in 1712, but he overstayed his leave and was still here when the Elector of Hanover succeeded to the English throne as George I. Handel never returned to Hanover. Although historical evidence suggests otherwise, romantic legend tells that George I decided to hold a river party in 1717 and Handel composed some music for this, thus healing the breach in their relationship which had existed since his failure to return to Hanover.

Although the original suite was written for eighteenth century instruments, and harpsicord, tonight's performance is an arrangement by the late Sir Hamilton Harty for modern orchestra.

SYMPHONY No. 9 in C. 'THE GREAT' SCHUBERT

Franz Peter Schubert was born in Vienna in 1797 and died at the very early age of thirtyone. His father was a school master and although Franz was one of a large family, only four survived. In 1808 he became a choirboy in the court chapel and so received a good education, despite the poverty of the family. In 1813, under pressure from his father he entered a training school for teachers, and became a full time teacher, but more and more time was spent on music until it became his whole life. His output of songs, chamber and orchestral music was tremendous, but the work we are to hear this evening is generally hailed as his masterpiece.

It dates from the year of his death, but did not receive its first performance until eleven years later in 1839. The symphony is known as 'The Great' to distinguish it from one in the same key written in 1818. The work is in four movements. The impression left by the work is one of tremendous rhythmic vitality, and is noted for the use of trombones in all four movements.