

**GORTON  
PHILHARMONIC  
SOCIETY**



**128th. YEAR**

**FESTIVAL CONCERT**

**STOCKPORT TOWN HALL**

**SATURDAY 4th DECEMBER 1982**

**7.30 p.m.**

Conductor Colin Touchin  
 Leader John Wilson  
 The ALMA SINGERS Conductor Kathryn Goolden  
 Accompanist Tony Heaton

Radetzky March JOHANN STRAUSS  
 Three Bavarian Dances EDWARD ELGAR

PROGRAMME

The NATIONAL ANTHEM

Overture 'OBERON' CARL MARIA von WEBER

Oberon was Weber's last opera, first performed at Covent Garden on April 12th 1826. A very sick man at the time, he came to England and supervised rehearsals and conducted some performances: he became utterly exhausted and died on June 4th, just before he was due to return home. Such hard work is not surprising, for the difficulties of mounting the fairy-tale cum pantomime plot, plus the far from satisfactory text, have conspired to prevent all but a few performances ever since. This despite some of Weber's most magical, dramatic and enchanting music. The opening horn phrase is that of Oberon's magic horn; the fairies reply on woodwind; there is a very quiet statement of the march which marks the hero's return at the end of the opera; and the main Allegro con fuoco section contains music from the storm, the hero's love theme and two main arias of considerable individuality and grace.

The ALMA SINGERS

In the bleak mid-winter HAROLD DARKE  
 O Jesu most kind (Anthem for Christmas) J.S. BACH  
 Psalm 150 CESAR FRANCK

Capriccio Espagnol Op 34. NICOLAI RIMSKY-KORSAKOV

In 1887 Rimsky-Korsakov took 'time off' from completing a new scoring of Borodin's 'Prince Igor' and composed one of his most brilliant works, the Capriccio Espagnol. It was based on a projected fantasy upon Spanish themes, for violin and orchestra, which explains the important solo passages for this instrument and the highlighted moments for harp, flute, clarinet and brass. There are five sections of which the last runs into a restatement of the opening material.

- 1. Alborada
- 2. Variazioni
- 3. Alborada
- 4. Scena e canto gitano
- 5. Fandango asturiano

INTERVAL (15 minutes)

In the early years of their marriage, the Elgars spent several summer holidays in the Bavarian Highlands near Garmisch. Out of those romantic weeks together came the desire to commemorate their happiness in some shared work. Alice partly adapted, translated and wrote several sets of 'Volkslieder' style words for Edward's music. He made a choral Suite on the basis of these words in 1894/5 afterwards adapting three movements for orchestra, in which form the music gained its greatest fame. Tonight, the first two are sung and played, while the orchestra gives all in the third.

Bless This House MAY BRAHE

The Shepherds' Farewell, from HECTOR BERLIOZ  
 'L'Enfance du Christ' Op. 25

'The Childhood of Christ' is one of Berlioz' most readily accessible and enjoyable works; it is an oratorio in 3 parts - the dream of Herod, the flight into Egypt and the arrival in Sais. The chorus 'Thou must leave thy lowly dwelling' has become justly popular. The German poet and friend of Berlioz, Heine, said of the work 'I hear on all sides that your oratorio is a perfect bouquet of sweet flowers of melody, and a masterpiece of simplicity.' - an accurate and worthy description and praise.

CAROLS FOR ALL

-----

The ALMA SINGERS were originally formed by a group of parents who wished to contribute to the schools' musical evening. Enjoying this experience they decided to continue as a choir performing for charity. Although based in Sale, the ALMA SINGERS perform concerts throughout the Manchester area.