

**GORTON
PHILHARMONIC
SOCIETY**

127th YEAR

FESTIVAL CONCERT

DEC 5th 1981

STOCKPORT TOWN HALL

SATURDAY 5th DECEMBER 1981

7.30 p.m.

Conductors John Crosdale
Colin Touchin

Leader John Wilson

Soloists Kathleen Lewis
(Soprano)

Michael Bland
(Clarinet)

Manchester Scottish Singers conducted by Dr. Ian M. Hall

PROGRAMME

Overture - 'Orpheus in the Underworld' OFFENBACH

Jacques Offenbach was born a German in 1819, baptised Jakob E. Berst, but changed his name when he later became a French citizen. He went to live in Paris from the age of 24 and became known as the conductor of the Theatre Francais and began to gain acceptance as a composer of operetta, of which he wrote over 90. His work is full of sparkling melodies and many of the operettas contain a frivolous approach to well-known classical stories. Orpheus in the Underworld tells the story of Orpheus' trip to Hades to reclaim his beloved Eurydice and the overture is based on the melodies from the operetta, concluding with the famous "Can-Can".

Manchester Scottish Singers

Selection of Songs Kathleen Lewis

Clarinet Concerto No. 2 WEBER

Carl Maria von Weber was born in 1786 near Lubeck. He made rapid musical progress from an early age, mainly as the result of lessons with Michael Haydn. He composed his first opera when he was 14 years old and by the age of 17 was already Musical Director of Breslau Theatre. His knowledge of stage technique developed rapidly and he became known as the founder of the German national school of opera and of the Romantic movement in general. This has, however, partly obscured his non-operatic output. He wrote several works for solo instruments but always professed a special affection for the clarinet and wrote effectively for it. His output includes 2 clarinet concerti, a concertino, and a grand duo concertante for clarinet and piano (said by many to be the greatest showpiece in the instrument's repertoire). This evening we feature the second and more famous of the concerti. In three movements, it displays both dramatic and exciting music for the soloist.

INTERVAL

Dance of the Hours

PONCHIELLI

Amilcare Ponchielli was a composer of Italian operas and was born in 1834. He studied in Milan and then returned home to Cremona, although it was a performance of his early work "I promessi sposi" in a Milan theatre which first brought him to public notice. His fame did not, however, spread far outside Italy with the exception of his opera "La Gioconda". This was first performed at La Scala, Milan in 1876 and received its London premiere at Covent Garden in 1883. From this opera, the most famous sequence is "The Dance of the Hours" which has been a favourite of audiences for a century.

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Waltz - 'Les Patineurs' WALDTEUFEL

Emil Waldteufel was born in Alsace in 1837 and studied at the Paris Conservatoire. His most influential appointment was as pianist to Empress Eugenie of France (wife of Napoleon III) and in this capacity he began to write waltzes. So popular did some of these become that he devoted himself to the composition of dance music. Although his output was considerable, only "The Skaters' Waltz" has assured him of immortality. He died in France in 1915.

Carols for all

KATHLEEN LEWIS is surely so well known in this area that she needs no introduction to our audience. She has appeared with the Orchestra many times, not only in this Hall but also at the Free Trade Hall and at Belle Vue.

The MANCHESTER SCOTTISH SINGERS are delighted to have been invited back to join in the Festive Celebrations. In the first half of the programme they are to sing Scottish Songs including a set of Four Hebridean Songs arranged by an ex-member of the Choir, Vincent Chudy. In the second half the evening will feature popular Carols, some arranged with a modern setting by Kenneth Grange.

MICHAEL BLAND, aged 16, comes from Derby and began playing the clarinet at the age of 8. He is now a pupil of Chetham's School of Music where he studies with Graham Turner. He has appeared in many concerts both as a chamber music player and solo performer. At the age of 13 he played the Weber Concertino with the National Children's Orchestra of which he was also principal clarinet. In the Prague competition for young wind players, he was the highest placed Westerner in the clarinet section and has also reached stage 2 of the current BBC search for "Young Musician of the Year". He has played in a Gervaise de Peyer masterclass and gave his first public recital in Liverpool in October 1981.