



**GORTON  
PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY**

**125th Year**

# FESTIVAL CONCERT



**STOCKPORT TOWN HALL**

**SATURDAY  
8th DECEMBER 1979  
at 7.30 p.m.**

**Programme 5p**



Saturday 8th December 1979

Conductor John Crosdale  
Leader Margaret Rarity  
Soloist Peter Donohoe  
(Piano)

P R O G R A M M E

Overture - ROMAN CARNIVAL BERLIOZ

Louis Hector Berlioz was born in Grenoble in 1803, and died in Paris in 1869. He was the greatest musical representative of French romanticism. His father sent him to Paris to study medicine, but he chose to study music instead, and at the fifth attempt he won the much coveted Rome Prize for composition. He travelled widely and visited England in 1848, 1852 and 1855, where he achieved considerable popularity. His musical output was wide and varied, and his concert overtures have been very successful. The most popular of these overtures is "The Roman Carnival" first performed in 1843. The themes in the overture are taken from his unsuccessful opera "Benvenuto Cellini", in which it has been used (at the composer's suggestion) as the overture to Act 11.

PIANO CONCERTO No.3 in D Minor RACHMANINOV

Sergei Rachmaninov was born in Novgorod in 1873, the son of an aristocratic family, and died in Beverly Hills, California in 1943. His musical studies began at the age of 9 at the St. Petersburg Conservatoire, and he later moved to Moscow where he studied piano with Zverev (a friend of Tschaikowsky's) and Siloti, and composition with Taneiev and Arensky. From then, he began to make his name as a conductor, especially during a period at the Imperial Opera in Moscow in 1905 - 1906. In 1917, revolution came to Russia and Rachmaninov left Russia for Europe where he gained a wide reputation as a pianist of remarkable talents. The third piano concerto dates from 1909, the year of his first visit to the United States, where he subsequently made his home. The work is in three movements, and is dedicated to Josef Hofmann. Rachmaninov toured the world extensively, but, in 1931, Russia banned his music as representing "the decadent attitude of the lower middle classes" and "especially dangerous on the musical front in the present class war" The decadent attitude won the day - Rachmaninov's Piano Concerti have remained among the most popular ever written.

I N T E R V A L

(15 minutes)

Rhapsody - ESPANA

CHABRIER

Alexis Emmanuel Chabrier was born at Ambert in 1841, and died in Paris in 1894 at the age of 53. He began his working life as a Civil Servant in Paris, but was always associated with an artistic group of people, which included painters, artists and musicians. He was a brilliant pianist who began to make his name as a conductor of opera, and this finally led to his resignation from the Civil Service. His orchestral rhapsody "España" was first performed in 1883 and it had immediate success. Its vivid orchestration captures the atmosphere of Spain, and the work has remained a firm favourite in the musical repertoire ever since; it makes ideal listening for an English winter's evening!

March - "RADETZKY" JOHANN STRAUSS I

Radetzky was the Commander-in-Chief of the Austrian Army, who in August 1848, aged 82, led the Hapsburg troops to victory over the Italians at Custoza. This most famous of orchestral marches was composed by Strauss, (father) and dedicated to the victorious Austrian army. It was first performed in Vienna at "a victory celebration to honour the courageous army in Italy, and for the benefit of the wounded soldiers" on 31st August 1848.

Symphony - THE TOY HAYDN

Franz Joseph Haydn was born in Rohrau in 1732, and died in Vienna in 1809 aged 77. He was one of two musical brothers to be born in a wheelwright's cottage in Lower Austria. At the age of 6 he became a chorister in his local church, and at the age of 8 he graduated to the choir at Vienna Cathedral. When his voice broke he began teaching and composing, eventually becoming Kappelmeister to Prince Esterhazy, one of the most influential courts of the day. This provided Haydn with an orchestra, a choir and solo singers, and he was expected to provide music for the Prince's chapel, theatre and concert room. He travelled widely throughout his life, being a particular favourite in England, where he was honoured with a degree by the University of Oxford. He is known as "the father of the symphony". This is not just because of the vast number he wrote, but he was responsible for the development of the classical symphonic form and orchestration. The title 'Toy Symphony' is a translation from the German Kindersymphonie, literally 'Childrens' symphony'. It is a simple symphony in which toy instruments are employed - e.g. bird whistles, drum and trumpet. Haydn (or possibly Leopold Mozart) is credited with being the first composer of this type of work, and although there have been over 20 other composers who have added to the Toy Symphony repertoire, the Haydn example is the most often performed. It should be noted that the work has been attributed by some authorities to Haydn's brother, Michael, but it remains, whoever the composer, a splendid piece of fun.

Selection of carols