


**GORTON PHILHARMONIC
SOCIETY**

122nd Year
89th Season — Belle Vue

**ORCHESTRAL
CONCERT**

**FRIDAY, 9th JULY, 1976
at 7.45 p.m.**

Programme : 5p



Conductor John Crosdale

Leader Tom Bangbala

Soloist Kathryn Crosher (Mezzo-Soprano)
Richard Fairbank (Clarinet)

PROGRAMME

OVERTURE — “**OBERON**” Weber

WEBER was born near Lubeck in 1786. His musical career began as a chorister at Salzburg Cathedral. His first opera was composed when he was 13, although it was never performed. The success of his later operas, however, established him as the founder of the German national opera school. “Oberon” has a libretto by Planché and the story centres around the king of the fairies. The music of the overture, based on themes from the opera, is light fairy music, but sadly this was to be Weber’s last opera. 150 years ago this June, whilst in London for the first performance of Oberon, Weber died, aged 39.

BALLET SUITE “**COPPELIA**” Delibes

LEO DELIBES was born at St. Germain-du-Val in 1836 and died at Nantes in 1891. He studied music at the Paris Conservatory and rapidly rose to fame as a successful composer of ballet music and operettas. Coppélia, written in 1870 was an immediate success and has remained a firm favourite ever since. Its story concerns a toy maker Dr. Coppélius and a beautiful doll, Coppelia which he has made. The villagers do not realise that she is a doll and creep into the house to see why she is aloof. The most beautiful girl in the village changes places with the doll, and so the old toymaker believes that Coppelia has come to life. After many adventures, however all ends happily in this attractive and colourful ballet.

CLARINET SOLOS :

CONCERTINO Gilbert Vinter

SUITE “**LONDON EVERY DAY**” Eric Coates

ERIC COATES was born at Hucknell in 1886 and died at Chichester in 1957. He trained at the Royal Academy as a viola player, and then became famous as a composer of light orchestral music. This well-loved suite is in three movements depicting Covent Garden, Westminster and Knightsbridge, the latter becoming famous as the signature tune of “In Town Tonight”.

INTERVAL

(20 minutes)

during which time refreshments are available in the foyer and licensed bars.

WALTZ “**ARTISTS LIFE**” Strauss

JOHANN STRAUSS Jnr. was born in Vienna in 1825 and died there in 1899. His father was already famous as a composer of dance music, but his son’s career was to surpass this and justly earned him the title “The Waltz King”.

“**LA CALINDA**” Delius

FREDERICK DELIUS was born in Bradford in 1862 and died in France in 1934. He travelled widely in his youth and studied music in Leipzig where in 1888 he made his first appearance as a composer. When his music was performed in London, the public were puzzled by the seemingly unorthodox sounds. “La Calinda” is a short instrumental dance from the opera “Koanga” which concerns negro slaves on the plantations. This like so many of Delius’ works, achieved popularity after being championed by Sir Thomas Beecham.

SONGS :

Gentle Flowers in the Dew (Faust) Gounod

Fair Spring is Returning (Samson and Delilah) Saint Saens

Softly Awakes my Heart (Samson and Delilah) Saint Saens

SELECTION “**CARMEN**” Bizet

GEORGE BIZET was born in Paris in 1838 and died there in 1875. He was determined to be successful as an opera composer and in 1875, set to music Merimée’s story of Carmen, the girl from the cigarette factory. It was a failure, and three months later Bizet died, never knowing that it was to become one of the most popular operas ever written.

SOLOISTS :

We are pleased to welcome two soloists this evening. RICHARD FAIRBANK is the orchestra’s principal clarinet, and so is well known to us all. KATHRYN CROSHER is a student from the Royal Northern College and is making her first appearance with us.