

ORCHESTRAL CONCERT

THE BUTTERY BANBURY SCHOOL

Tuesday 30th. October 1979

BANBURY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Leader : Stephen Bingham

Conductor

PHILIP SHAW

PAUL WILLETT Horn

The National Federation of Music Societies, to which this Society is affiliated, gives support towards the cost of this Concert with funds provided by the Arts Council of Great Britain.

The Orchestra acknowledges Financial Assistance from the P.F. Charitable Trust, and General Foods Limited.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

CORONATION MARCH: CROWN IMPERIAL

Walton.

William Walton enjoys the distinction of having written coronation marches for two successive British monarchs. The first of these, *Crown Imperial* was commissioned by the BBC for the coronation of George VI in 1937. The title is taken from a line by the poet William Dunbar (1465-1520) "In beautie beryng the crone imperiall".

HORN CONCERTO in E♭ major: k.417.

Mozart

Allegro maestoso

Andante

Rondo

The second of Mozart's four Horn Concertos, all of which originated in the 1780's, and three of which are in E♭ major, was composed in 1783. As a note on the MS. informs us it was finished on the 27th May and written for the very skilled but little educated hornist of the Salzburger-Kapelle, Ignaz Leitgeb, who was the butt of Mozart's not always too good-natured jokes. Mozart writes that he had taken pity on Leitgeb, "that ass, ox and fool". The music of this concerto suggests that Leitgeb was a superb performer, with a gorgeous tone, a dazzling technique and perhaps not much musical sophistication. Even today, after almost two-hundred years of mechanical improvements in the French horn, the Concerto presents some tricky technical problems for the soloist. Musically the score is a triumphant demonstration of Mozart's ability to use the established cliché's of his day with miraculous freshness and spontaneity.

PEER GYNT SUITE No. 1: Op. 46

Grieg

Morning: Death of Aase: Anitra's Dance: Hall of the Mountain

King

Grieg wrote some two dozen pieces of incidental music for Henrik Ibsen's *Peer Gynt*, a very national drama based on Norwegian folk-lore. Of all these pieces, we rarely encounter more than eight- arranged in two suites by the composer, altered slightly in instrumentation and omitting the voice parts which were written for some of the numbers. Although the wonderfully evocative *Morning* is meant to depict an African dawn, the cool beauty of this magical piece inevitably conjures up the freshness of a Norwegian morning. In *Death of Aase* a

PAUL WILLETT

Paul Willett, a pupil at Abingdon School, studies the Horn with Ifor James, who is a member of the Philip Jones Brass Ensemble. He passed his Grade VIII (Final) examination with distinction at the age of 12 after only three years' study.

A former member of the National Youth Orchestra, Paul currently plays with the Thames Vale Youth Orchestra and the Oxfordshire County Youth Orchestra.

Paul also specialises in harpsichord playing, but his main ambition is to become a professional horn player, both soloist and orchestral.

quiet, reverent, sorrowful theme breathed by the strings, rises to an 'intense climax', and then dies away into darkness as Peer's mother peacefully breathes her last. *Anitra's Dance*, a delicate miniature played by eight stringed instruments and triangle, represents the dance performed for Peer by the seductive Anitra - daughter of an Arab chief. *In the Hall of the Mountain King* takes the form of a long, continuous accelerating crescendo, with snarling, muted instruments giving an evilly gloomy atmosphere appropriate to the great dark assembly place beneath the mountains wherein the Trolls shriek "slay him" as the trapped Peer seeks escape.

INTERVAL

SYMPHONY No 8 (4) in G Major

Dvorak

Allegro con brio: Adagio: Allegro grazioso: Allegro ma non troppo

Dvorak's Symphony in G major, Op. 88, is the eighth of his nine symphonies in order of composition. Only the last five were destined by the composer for publication however, so the G major work was originally described as No 4. The work was written between the 26th August and the 8th November, 1889, therefore in an astonishingly short time. Immediately before that, on the 19th August, Dvorak had completed the *Piano Quartet in E major, Op 87*. Another work of this period which has become famous is the *Dumky Trio, Op 90*, dating from the winter 1890-91. This productive period brought many distinctions and honours to Dvorak, and in 1901 he received the invitation to go to America. Just as the Negro melodies heard there greatly influenced the *New World Symphony*, so the G major Symphony breathes throughout the air of Bohemia. Indeed, it is by far the most national in flavour of all his symphonies.

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There are vacancies in most departments of the orchestra.
Inquiries may be made to the Hon. Secretary, Mr H. Wilks,
17 Oakland Road, Banbury, Telephone 3966 or The Conductor,
Banbury School, Telephone 51451.

NEXT CONCERT: TUESDAY 6th FEBRUARY 1980

Programme to include:

Prokofiev "Peter and the Wolf"

Sibelius "Finlandia"