

# ORCHESTRAL CONCERT

THE BUTTERY      BANBURY SCHOOL

Tuesday 26th. February 1980

## BANBURY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Leader :    Stephen Bingham

Conductor

PHILIP SHAW

TONY NEALE      Narrator

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

### OVERTURE: A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Mendelssohn

Mendelssohn was only 17 when he composed his Overture to "*A Midsummer Night's Dream*" with miraculous deftness and delicacy, elfin imagination and humour. Years later when Mendelssohn was asked by the publishers Breitkopf and Härtel to recall the ideas that had suggested the thematic sequence of the Overture and had so fired his imagination Mendelssohn wrote "..... It is impossible for me to outline for the (concert) programme the sequence of ideas that gave rise to the composition for just this sequence of ideas is my Overture. It follows the play closely, however, so that it may perhaps be very proper to indicate the outstanding situations of the drama in order that the audience may have Shakespeare in mind or form an idea of the piece. I think it should be enough to point out that the fairy rulers Oberon and Titania, appear throughout the play with all their people ..... At the end, after everything has been satisfactorily settled and the principal players have joyfully left the stage, the elves follow them, bless the house and disappear with the dawn. So the play ends, and my Overture too".

### PETER AND THE WOLF

Prokofiev

This highly attractive work was specially written for children. Each character in this tale is represented by a different instrument of the orchestra: the Bird by the Flute, the Duck by the Oboe, the Cat by the Clarinet, the Grandfather by the Bassoon, the Wolf by the Horns, Peter by the String Quartet and the rifle shots by the Timpani and Percussion.

Our Narrator this evening is Tony Neale who is better known to local audiences as a leading member of The Banbury Cross Players.

## INTERVAL

### SYMPHONY No. 40 in G MINOR

Mozart

Molto Allegro: Andante: Menuetto: Finale

The G minor symphony K.V.550 is the second of the three famous last symphonies which Mozart composed in the summer of 1788 in the short space between June and August. It was

completed on 25th July one month after the E♭ symphony K.V.543 (completed on 26th June) and two weeks before the great C major symphony K.V.551 the *Jupiter*. Scholars describe the G minor symphony as "most passionate" and as "the most poignant expression of that deep-rooted and fatalistic pessimist in Mozart's nature which especially in the last years of his life, strove for artistic expression". In any case the G minor symphony is a complete contrast to the other two symphonies which seem to be quite untouched by the hardships and desperation of the last years of Mozart's life. The most noticeable feature of the music is its expression of sorrow and melancholy, although on the other hand there is an uncanny vivaciousness which in the finale is increased to a wild and almost monotonous outburst of insatiable emotion - and at the end there is no consolation, not even resignation. Nowhere else did Mozart come so close to the limits of beauty!

#### SYMPHONIC POEM: FINLANDIA

Sibelius

The scenery of Sibelius' native Finland impressed itself on his mind during childhood and it developed in him an intense love of his country. This became even stronger as he acquired a knowledge of the folk-songs and folk-literature of the people of Finland. He became the "voice" of his country, bringing her through his music to the notice of other European nations. The Government of Finland quickly recognised his genius, and, when he was only 32 gave him a generous pension so that he could devote himself entirely to composing. *Finlandia* sounds as if it were based on genuine Finnish melodies because the piece expresses so much the spirit of Finland, but the composer himself states that the melodies are his own and are not folk tunes. However, the trumpet calls that sound at times in the music are played in a rhythm which is familiar to the people of Finland through their songs and are without doubt the expression of the people as a whole and when performed in Finland are a call to the nation. These calls rouse the people to such a pitch of patriotic enthusiasm that, at one time, when Finland was part of the Russian Empire, its performance was forbidden as it caused civil unrest. It was eventually allowed to be performed under another title such as *Impresso*, which did not indicate its obvious national character!

# THE BANBURY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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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.

Dates for your diary: Saturday 22nd March 1980

An Evening at the Opera

Programme to include: Cavalleria Rusticana Masiagni

Tuesday 24th June 1980

Programme to include: Violin Concerto Bruch

Soloist: Stephen Bingham