

THE BURNSIDE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

St. Cuthbert's Parish Hall, Prospect
Thursday, 6th July 1978 at 8 pm
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MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF BURNSIDE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Conductor: ROBERT COOPER

1. SYMPHONIC SKETCH (In the Steppes of Central Asia) Alexander Borodin
(1833-1887)

From early days, Borodin showed considerable interest in music and science as well as an aptitude for languages. Apart from his native Russian, he learnt German, French, English and Italian, and passed with honours at the St. Petersburg Academy of Medicine and Surgery. He was a chemist by profession, and also lectured at the Academy, composing music in his spare time. As a boy he had learnt the cello.

This work, composed in 1880, contributed more than anything else to his early fame. It was dedicated to Liszt who insisted on his writing a piano duet version, which he did. A "steppe" is a level plain devoid of forest, and the musical picture evoked proved immediately popular throughout Europe.

2. CONCERTO for Harp and Orchestra Reinhold Glière
(1875-1956)

Glière was Russian born but of Belgian descent, the son of an instrument maker. He learnt the violin and started composing at an early age pieces which were performed in his own home by his father's friends. In 1908 he made his debut as a conductor, and in 1913 went to Kiev where he taught composition at the Conservatoire, later becoming its director. Prokofiev and Khachaturian were among his distinguished pupils.

The Harp Concerto, written in 1938, is rarely played, but a delightful work to listen to. It is scored for chamber orchestra with the unusual inclusion of three instead of the normal two horns. The movements are:-

Allegro moderato
Theme and variations
Allegro giocoso

Solo Harp: ROSEMARY ST. JOHN

----- INTERVAL -----

3. SYMPHONY NO. 6 in B minor (Pathétique) Peter Tchaikowsky
(1840-1893)

The idea for this symphony came to the composer on a visit to Paris in December 1892. He originally thought of calling it "A Programme Symphony". Tchaikowsky said of it "The Programme is penetrated by subjective sentiment. Let them guess it who can ... While composing it in my mind I frequently shed tears." The first movement was completed in under four days. Writing to his nephew he said "The rest is clearly outlined in my head. The last movement will not be a great Allegro, but an Adagio of considerable dimensions - without exception I have put my whole soul into this work."

Nevertheless, the first rehearsal made little impression on the orchestra, and the performance on 28th October, 1893 fell equally flat. Eight days later Tchaikowsky was dead from cholera.

Many have seen in this moving work the composer's wrestling with, and premonition of, his own impending death. The movements are:-

Adagio - Allegro non troppo
Allegro con grazia
Allegro molto vivace
Adagio lamentoso - Andante

1st Violins

Donald Woolford (Leader)
Susan Currie
*Jenny Newman
Russell Wheaton
*Julie Newman
Frances James
*Hugh Gordon
Athalie Scholefield
Kathy Bluff
Ingrid Wangel

2nd Violins

Ernest Hirsch
Marietta Resek
Frank Ashman
Ernest Hotchin
Elizabeth Barrett
Robert Lockwood

Violas

Paul King
Joy Dobson
Iris Zierfusz
Dorothy Mackerras
Philip Griffin
Sheila Radcliffe

Celli

Keith Phillipps
Ann Bluff
Skye McGregor
Brian Payne

Bass

Peter Grivell
Bill Rushton
Robin Sanderson

Tympani

John White

Flutes

Robert Hecker
Martin Hampton Smith

Oboes

Alan Phillips
John Priest

Cor Anglais

John Priest

Clarinets

Barbara Radcliffe
Ellen Resek

Bassoons

Christine Wright
Alison Bell

Horns

David Hampton Smith
Paul Hampton Smith
*Stephen Lock
Cathie Osborne

Trumpets

Tony Hodges
Douglas Pearce

Trombones

*Alan Warburton
*Janette Corbett

Bass Trombone

Ronald Penny

Percussion

*Tim Jones
*Michael Holland

CONCERT MANAGER - RONALD SHEPHARD

*The Committee and members of the Burnside Symphony Orchestra are grateful to have these artists as guest musicians.