



CONDUCTOR: PETER BARLOW  
LEADER: VINCENT KENNEY

1976

SATURDAY 11th DECEMBER, 7.30pm.

DERRY HALL  
WOLVERHAMPTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
COMPTON ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON

PROGRAMME 10p

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

The next Wolverhampton Symphony Orchestra concert will be on Saturday 5th March 1977 in the Derry Hall, Wolverhampton Grammar School.

The Orchestra rehearses on Thursdays at 7.45pm in the Music Room, Wolverhampton Grammar School.

Anyone wishing to join the orchestra should contact the conductor, or come to the first rehearsal on Thursday 13th January 1977.



Finlandia is the most famous of a number of compositions written by Sibelius at the end of the last century which not only raised the down-trodden aspirations of the Finns, but also brought the composer's name into national and international light. It was composed in 1899 when Finland was part of the Tzarist Empire. The work is obviously patriotic, and in fact originally formed part of a larger historical pageant.

## CONCERTO NO.4 in E FLAT, K.495.

W.A.MOZART (1756-91)

Allegro moderato.

Romanza: Andante.

Rondo: Allegro vivace.

Horn: JAMES HANDY.

The speed at which Mozart composed many of his works was proverbial in his day. All his music for solo horn (four concertos, a concert rondo and a quintet) was penned in great haste as if he had little respect for the instrument.

We know that the standard of horn playing at the time was not particularly good, but Mozart considered a somewhat comical musician Ignaz Leutgeb competent enough to perform the concertos. Number four was written in June 1786. The first movement, while spirited, is very tuneful; the second is very lyrical, and the rondo is one of his most famous movements.

James Handy is 21 and has been playing the horn since he was 10. His early lessons were at the Royal College of Music and he became known in South London as a most promising schoolboy musician. He now studies at the Royal Academy of Music under James Brown. He has given a couple of Wigmore Hall Recitals, and is not only a member of wind and brass quartets but has also played in the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

## KARELIA SUITE, OP.11.

J.SIBELIUS (1865-1957)

Intermezzo.

Ballade.

Alla marcia.

Like Finlandia, Karelia was originally written for an historical pageant. It takes its name from the eastern-most province of Finland, a fair part of which remains within the USSR. The work was popularly well known even before radio and television borrowed sections as introductory music to programmes very different from the original intentions.

## INTERVAL.

## ITALIAN SYMPHONY in A MAJOR, OP.90.

F.MENDELSSOHN (1809-47)

Allegro vivace.

Andante con moto.

Con moto moderato.

Saltarello: Presto.

This symphony was published after Mendelssohn's death as his fourth symphony, although it had been finished when he was 22 in 1831. It seems strange to us today that he was disappointed with the symphony for it appears to be one of his most beautiful and well known works. Its scoring and form are so apt, and its themes so right.

The 'Italian' nature of the work is seen most obviously in the second movement which Mendelssohn envisaged as a religious procession through Naples; the opening chant sounds like a religious intonation heralding a slow procession. The finale uses the Italian dance rhythms of the saltarello and tarantella; it is hectic throughout, and ends most unusually for a symphony of this kind, in a minor key.