

**Mercia Men's Chorus** began in 1943 as the Boulton Paul Aircraft Male Voice Choir, and in January 1989 changed its name to "Mercia Men's Chorus". With its present conductor John Rowley and accompanist Christine Perry, the choir has built up a proud reputation. They concentrate on charity events. Rehearsals are on Monday evenings at Darlington Street Methodist Church in Wolverhampton. For further information ring John Holland on Codsall 7205.

**Penn Choral Society**, founded in 1947, has performed widely in the West Midlands and at the International Eisteddfod, Llangollen under their conductor Ernest Dain, a founder member and Musical Director since 1968. The choir, with accompanist Kenneth Wood, have raised thousands of pounds for charity, and have made three LP records. The choir rehearses at Woodfield Avenue Junior School on Monday evenings. For further information, ring 339262.

**Wolverhampton Symphony Orchestra** is a fully independent amateur orchestra formed in 1973 to give good amateur musicians in the area the opportunity to rehearse works from the symphonic repertoire on a regular basis with the specific objective of public performance. The repertoire of the orchestra extends from the Baroque to the Twentieth Century. The orchestra has attracted a number of distinguished soloists, including Gordon Back (piano) who returns to Wolverhampton to accompany Emma Johnson on 5th March

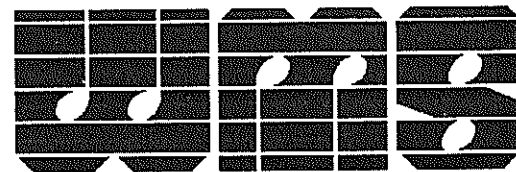
The orchestra has been fortunate to attract a number of guest conductors, and their recently appointed regular conductor is our compère for this evening, **Philip Brooke**, with whom concerts are planned for May 18th at St. John's Church, Wolverhampton, and July 13th in Walsall's Central Methodist Hall. The orchestra is always on the look-out for good, keen amateur musicians to join its ranks. Any enquiries can be directed to Mrs Diana Manasseh, Chairperson on 752668.

**Wolverhampton Music Society**, a registered charity, was founded in 1989 and is currently mounting its second season of chamber music recitals. Forthcoming events include Emma Johnson on 5th March, the Stan Tracey Jazz Quartet on 17th March and Fine Arts Brass on 7th April. The society also provides informal music making at "Playing Together" events, "Soirées Musicales" at the Clarendon on the first Wednesday of every month, concerts taken to residential homes, a newsletter called "Wulfruna Musica" and a members' programme of events.

In addition to 70 individual and 40 family members, the Society welcomes other music groups. There are five groups affiliated to WMS, namely Wolverhampton Civic Choir and St. Michael's Chamber Choir and the three groups taking part in this concert, the first event of its kind in the life of the society. Further information, ring Ann Wilkes on 602941.

(99)

70



**WOLVERHAMPTON  
MUSIC SOCIETY**

# *GALA SPRING CONCERT*

**Sunday 3rd March 1991  
Wulfrun Hall, 7.00pm**

**featuring  
Wolverhampton Symphony Orchestra  
Penn Choral Society - Mercia Men's Chorus**

Conductors:

**Bernard Hall-Mancey, Ernest Dain & John Rowley**

Soloist:

**Elfed James (tenor)**

Compère:

**Philip Brooke**

## Programme

1. **National Anthem.** (Orchestrated Elgar) Penn Choral Society & Orchestra  
The audience is asked to stand and join in the singing of Verse 3 only:

*Thy choicest gifts in store  
On her be pleased to pour;  
Long may she reign.  
May she defend our laws,  
And ever give us cause,  
To sing with heart and voice,  
God save the Queen.*

2. **Overture Barber of Seville** (Rossini) Orchestra
3. **Recitative and Aria “Cessa di piu resistere”** from Act 2, *Barber of Seville* (Rossini)  
Elfed James (tenor), Mercia Men's Chorus, Orchestra
4. **Capriccio Italien** (Tchaikovsky) Orchestra
5. **Soldiers' Chorus** from *Faust* (Gounod) Mercia Men's Chorus and Orchestra
6. **“Salut demeure chaste et pure”** from *Faust* (Gounod) Tenor and Orchestra
7. **Grand March and Triumphal Chorus** from *Aida* (Verdi) Penn Choral Society and Orchestra

*Interval (10 minutes)*

8. **Two Songs Without Words, Country Song, Marching Song** (Holst) Orchestra
9. **Mercia Men's Chours** accompanied Christine Perry (piano):  
The Angelus from *Maritana* Wallace, arr. Mansfield  
Memory from *Cats* Lloyd Webber, arr. Cullen  
Entrance and March of Peers from *Iolanthe* Sullivan
10. **Penn Choral Society** accompanied by Kenneth Wood (piano)  
Lullaby and The Dance from the *Bavarian Highlands* Elgar  
Nightfall in Skye Hugh Roberton
11. **“O Sole Mio”** (Teschemacher, arr. Chiaramello) Tenor and Orchestra

12. **“Jerusalem”** (Parry) Penn Choral Society, Mercia Men's Chorus & Orchestra.  
The audience is asked to stand and joint with the Choirs in the singing of this item:

*And did those feet in ancient time  
Walk upon England's mountains green?  
And was the holy Lamb of God  
On England's pleasant pastures seen?  
And did the countenance divine  
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?  
And was Jerusalem builded here  
Among those dark satanic mills?*

*Bring me my bow of burning gold,  
Bring me my arrows of desire.  
Bring me my spear, O clouds unfold,  
Bring me my chariot of fire.  
I will not cease from mental fight,  
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,  
Till we have built Jerusalem,  
In England's green and pleasant land.*

*William Blake*

## Notes

**Elfed James** (tenor) began his studies as a Harrod Scholar at the Birmingham Conservatoire with the soprano Margaret Thomas. He is now a member of the Opera School of the Royal Academy of Music. Elfed performs regularly throughout the country as a concert and recital artist. Recent engagements have included “Messiah” (in Ely Cathedral), Rossini's “Stabat Mater” the first performance of Andrew Downes' “Song of the Prairies” and “Abu Hassan” in the English Players tour of Weber's comic opera. Future plans include “Faust” for Bristol Opera Company.

**Bernard Hall-Mancey** (conductor) trained under Sir Adrian Boult at the Royal College of Music, in addition to piano and organ studies. He occupied a number of teaching positions, most recently at Bromsgrove School, before becoming a freelance musician, also undertaking examination work for the Associated Board, including a number of overseas tours to Malaysia, South Africa, Singapore, Hong Kong and West Germany.

*Continued, over*