

1992

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**Wolverhampton
Symphony
Orchestra**

CONCERT

20.6.92

PROGRAMME

WOLVERHAMPTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CONCERT IN THE CENTRAL METHODIST HALL, WALSALL

SATURDAY, JUNE 20th 1992

PROGRAMME

Overture, Sicilian Vespers - Verdi

Piano Concerto No 1. in B flat minor - Tchaikovsky

Interval

Symphony No. 4 in F minor - Tchaikovsky

Conductor - Philip Brooke

Leader - Martyn Blythe

SOLO PIANO - ASHLEY WASS

Sicilian Vespers, Overture - Verdi

I Vespri Siciliani (Sicilian Vespers) was commissioned for the Great Paris Exhibition in 1835. The story of the opera concerns the massacre of the French troops by Sicilian patriots in fourteenth century Palermo.

The overture sets the scene with the ominous drum beat in the slow introduction followed by a lyrical theme taken from later in the opera. Other themes employed are those that accompany the massacre and part of the music from Act IV where Elena is in prison with the leader of the Sicilian Conspiracy.

Piano Concerto No. 1 in B flat minor - Tchaikovsky

The first Piano Concerto was written in 1875 and was premiered the following year, amid much excitement, by the composer, only to receive a less than enthusiastic reception. Rubenstein was among the many who gave their negative evaluation of the work. This, as was common, sent the composer into one of his many periods of depression but following some of his more popular offerings the concerto was performed again, ironically with Rubenstein at the keyboard, this time receiving enormous acclaim. The famous opening provides the main theme in the first movement. The second movement sees a lyrical theme and a lively piu mosso, and the furious third movement provides a fitting conclusion to this marvellous work.

Symphony No. 4 in F minor, Op. 36 - Tchaikovsky

- i Andante sostenuto - Moderato con anima
- ii Andantino in modo di canzona
- iii Scherzo. Pizzicato ostinato
- iv Allegro con fuoco

The fourth symphony was begun in May 1877 but it was after a lengthy illness that it was completed in January the following year. The symphony marked a great change in Tchaikovsky's development as a symphonist, and displays a strong programmatic element.

The first movement is long and complicated, and the composer documented the tussle he had with it, but the other three are simply orchestrated and lighter in timbres.

The work was first performed in November 1878 and the conductor wrote to the composer to tell him that he thought the scherzo to be astonishing and first rate, the audience at the premier calling for several encores before progression to the fourth movement was possible.

The descriptive element of the movements confirm that it is very much a 'programme symphony' and marks the first of the three great works which are the summit of his oeuvre.

Philip Brooke

Philip C. W. Brooke B. Ed. Hons (Mus)

A native of Yorkshire, Philip settled in the Midlands following higher education in the area. As a pianist he performs regularly across the country and also locally as a solo baritone. A schoolmaster at Hydesville Tower School, Walsall, Philip is also Musical Director of the Walsall Gilbert and Sullivan Society.

Appointed as resident conductor in 1989, this is unfortunately to be his final concert with the W.S.O. as he has been appointed Director of Music at Dean Close School, Cheltenham. He wishes to say how much he has enjoyed his association and the orchestra every success in the future.

Ashley Wass

Born in Skegness in 1977, he began learning the piano at the age of 5. He was 8 when he gave his first public performance, and won many local competitions until, at 11, he won a scholarship to Chetham's School of Music, Manchester, to study with David Hartigan.

His exceptional ability as an outstanding pianist has already been widely recognised. He has given many concerts countrywide and won many more competitions. Ashley was awarded the Barnardo/Oxo champion child award for music in 1990 by HRH the Princess of Wales. He was a grand finalist in the Audi junior musician competition at the Royal College of Music in 1991 and has passed grade 8 with distinction in both piano and clarinet, but now plans to specialise in piano.

In July 1991, performing his orchestral debut as soloist in Beethoven's first concerto with the Manchester Camerata Orchestra, international conductor Nicholas Braithwaite commented "this is a terrific talent".

A Date for your Diary

WSO's next concert will be on Saturday, October 3rd in St. John's Church, Wolverhampton, when the orchestra will be conducted by Ben Dalgleish. The proposed programme will consist of Beethoven's Egmont Overture, Rodrigo's ever popular guitar concerto, and Dvorak's 8th symphony. We hope to see you there!

WOLVERHAMPTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Musical Director - Philip Brooke

Leader - Martyn Blythe

First Violins

Katalin Beke
Sylvia Buckley
Colin Elton
Lorraine Fallon
Margaret Friar
David Harvey
Jon Henderson
Alison King
Jennie Lewis
Jo Wootton

Second Violins

Jim Chugg
Michael Clement
Ken Hawkins
Linda Murray
Margaret Myatt
Diana Rees
Jenny Walton
Philip Ward

Violas

Alain Anderton
Sharon Bayley
David Cope
Sheila Freeman
John Morse-Brown
Philip Turley

'Cellos

Margaret Bell
Glyn Davies
Louise Lawrie
Sheila Moore
Richard Painter
Maggie Wenham
Sylvia Ulrich

Basses

David Charlesworth
John Fosbrook
Thelma Green
Norman Satterthwait

Flutes/Piccolo

Diana Manasseh
Krista Bromley
Jane Coxon

Oboes

Richard Anderson
Jenny Jackson

Clarinets

Diana Cotterell
Lynn Sargeant

Bassoons

Ron Buckley
Douglas Servant

Horns

Percy Cotterell
Stuart McCourt
Hazel Whitefoot
Neil Scapelhorn

Trumpets/Cornet

John Betty
Andrew Grainger
Gary Jones

Trombones

Mick Coxon
Christopher Addy
Don Howard

Tuba

Kristian Thrussell

Timpani

Roger Clift

Percussion

Ann Elliott
Tom Nestor
Colin Vyvyan