

Havering  
Concert  
Orchestra

Programme



HAVERING CONCERT ORCHESTRA  
SUNDAY MARCH 31ST 1985 - 8.00 p.m.  
QUEEN'S THEATRE, HORNCHURCH



EINE KLEINE NACHTMUSIK K.525

MOZART  
(1756-1791)

This serenade in G major for string orchestra is one of the most famous and best-loved of the compositions of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

There are four movements:

1. Allegro
2. Romance. Andante
3. Menuetto. Allegretto/Trio
4. Rondo. Allegro

SYMPHONY NO.2 IN B MINOR

BORODIN  
(1833-1887)

1. Allegro
2. Scherzo. Prestissimo - Allegretto
3. Andante
4. Finale. Allegro

Borodin was a Professor of Chemistry and composed only in his spare time. His first symphony took seven years to complete, but it was so successful at its first performance in St. Petersburg in 1869 that he was encouraged enough to embark upon the second. This was to take just as long, and was mixed up with the composition of the opera 'Prince Igor'.

It is impossible to say when the original full score of the symphony was completed, but when Borodin returned from his summer holidays in 1876 and learned to his surprise that the Imperial Russian Music Society wished to perform the new work that winter, he was unable to find some of it, and had to re-orchestrate the first and last movements.

Although it is a very popular symphony now, notable for its vitality and rhythmic verve, it was coldly received at its first performance in 1877.

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#### PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION      MUSSORGSKY/RAVEL

In 1874 the idea came to Mussorgsky to depict in music certain pictures at an exhibition of paintings by his great friend Victor Hartmann who had just died. This artist was a prominent member of the group of young Russian artists anxious to create purely Russian art by eliminating what they considered foreign influences.

Mussorgsky's extraordinarily imaginative and fanciful set of piano pieces was later transformed (in 1929) into the orchestral masterpiece we know today, by the Frenchman Maurice Ravel, one of the most eminent composers of the twentieth century and an inspired orchestrator.

The rather bare bones of the piano music are clothed most lavishly in this glittering and sophisticated score.

Large resources are called for - unusual orchestral sounds include the melancholy of the alto saxophone and the opulent tinkle of the celesta. The percussion department comprises the glockenspiel, tubular bells, xylophone, triangle, rattle, side drum, bass drum, cymbals, tam-tam and whip.

An opening '**Promenade**' announced by a solo trumpet leads us to '**Gnomus**': a grotesque gnome running hither and thither. Something frightens him and he scuttles off.

The '**Promenade**' agains takes us to '**The Old Castle**': outside a medieval castle a knight serenades his beloved, (on the saxophone oddly enough). A quiet '**Promenade**' introduces '**Tuileries**': every parent will recognise the whining of the oboe as children play and squabble in the famous Parisian gardens.

'**Bydlo**': a lumbering Polish ox-cart gets nearer and nearer and then gradually disappears into the distance.

A woodwind '**Promenade**' leads to '**Ballet of Chicks in their Shells**', a scherzo type of movement.

Next comes '**Samuel Goldenberg and Schmuyle**': two jews - one very fat and rich, the other very thin and poor.

'**Limoges**': the bustling French market town with women arguing. This leads, with a crescendo, straight into '**Catacombs**': a drawing showing Hartmann examining the catacombs of Paris with a lantern.

'**Cum Mortuis in Lingue Mortua**' ("speaking to the dead in a dead language"): Hartmann approaches the skulls in the sepulchre and as

he addresses them, they gradually glow from within.

'Hut on Fowls Legs': a fantastic picture of a clock in the shape of the famous Russian witch Baba Yaga. This leads into the 'Great Gate of Kiev'.

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### ROBERT FERGUSON

Robert Ferguson is the resident conductor of the Havering Concert Orchestra.

He studied at the Royal College of Music with Cyril Smith, and as a pianist has appeared in the Purcell Room, Wigmore Hall and the Royal Festival Hall. He is also an adjudicator and examiner.

His piano duo with Christopher Kite performs throughout the country and has done several recordings and live recitals for the BBC.

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The **Havering Concert Orchestra** (Leader: Sara Cavalier) is an enthusiastic and friendly group of local players of all ages which continues to expand its membership and repertoire.

If you would like to join the orchestra, please contact Richard Ellis, 14 Elgin House, Cameron Close, Brentwood, Essex (Tel B217105)

The HCO would like to thank Havering Arts Council for providing financial guarantees for this concert.

