

THE
NATIONAL
BAND OF
MALTA



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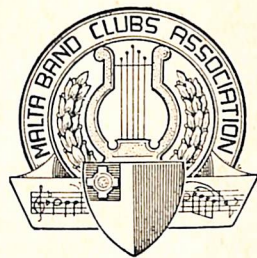
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CHROMA

THE MALTA BAND CLUBS ASSOCIATION

With the Co-operation of Rediffusion (Malta) Ltd.

Presents



A Vocal and Instrumental Concert

by

The National Band of Malta

and

The Hamrun Choir

UNDER THE DISTINGUISHED PATRONAGE OF

HIS GRACE THE METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOP
MGR. SIR MICHAEL GONZI,
D.D., B.L.Can., J.C.D. (Greg), (Hon. Causa), K.B.E., Bailiff, O.S.J.

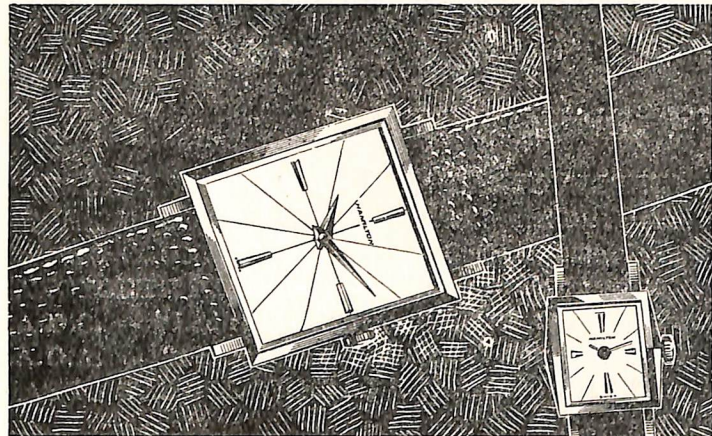
ON SATURDAY, 26th DECEMBER, 1964,

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HIS GRACE MGR. SIR MICHAEL GONZI,

D.D., B.Lit., B.L.Can., J.C.D., (Greg), L.L.D., (Hon. Causa),
K.B.E., Bailiff Grand Cross of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem,
Metropolitan Archbishop of Malta.

PATRON OF THE
MALTA BAND CLUBS ASSOCIATION

THE HAMRUN CHOIR



The Hamrun Choir consisting of about 80 members, was founded in 1949 by the Rev. Father Joseph Cachia, its principal aim is to encourage and enhance choral singing in Malta.

Since 1959, the Hamrun Choir has given an annual performance of an oratorio or other classical work. The Choir has always participated at the annual concerts of the National Band of Malta, presented by the Malta Band Clubs Association and Rediffusion (Malta) Ltd.

The Hamrun Choir took part with nearly all the bands of Malta at the annual festivities in honour of the town or village patron saint.

One of its recent successes was registered when the "Cavalleria Rusticana" by Mascagni was sung at the opening of the cultural season of the Malta Cultural Institute at the ballroom of the Hotel Phoenicia.

The above picture shows the Hamrun Choir and orchestra under the direction of the Rev. Fr. Joseph Cachia during the performance of "Messiah" by G.F. Handel, at the Radio City Opera House on the 20th April, 1962.

"THE ROAD TO SUCCESS"

It was the result of several years of delicate hard work, coupled with strenuous efforts by each and every individual member who, have voluntarily accepted to represent his Club and sit on the National Council of the Malta Band Clubs Association, that good progress can now be reported to have been obtained in every direction.



Mr. M.A. DELIA, F.R.H.S.,
Life President.

A far reaching programme had to be thoroughly planned and properly tackled if all serious problems then facing our member clubs' interest were to be equally solved to the satisfaction of all concerned. The establishment of friendly relations between one Club and another was indeed an essential prerequisite and, thanks to this National Organisation all normal relations have now been completely restored.

The formation of a College of Band-Masters was then the necessary best step taken in the right direction and, these gentlemen being well guided by the Council of the Association have worked together as a team in perfect harmony. Within a very short time they have managed to produce a new Standard Syllabus intended to be the only basic way of teaching our younger students, which was based on the latest modern system.

It should also be worth mentioning that Mr. C.V. Dimech (Treasurer and Question-Master) has done and is still doing sterling work in this connection.

In an account of this nature only a brief reference is possible to the many aspects involved during seventeen years of continuous activity; however, even here, mention should be made of the good work which is being done in some way or another to our musical culture with the formation of the NATIONAL BAND OF MALTA, which body embraces together the best talented musical elements of these islands who, together with our Band-Masters are able to warm and flame the hearts of all musical lovers with their interpretations.

NOTES ON THE MUSICAL WORKS BEING PERFORMED TO-NIGHT

by ROMEO MICALLEF

I. OVERTURE "EROICA"

This overture is full of melody with some very difficult passages and, although it is of the old type, it contains many tense moments, which show that Girardon was a high ranking composer, so much so, that when the King's Own Band entered the International Band Contest at Algiers, in 1912. Mrc. Doncich did not hesitate to choose Overture Eroica as the Band's showpiece.

2. HALLELUJAH

The great HALLELUJAH CHORUS is the triumphal climax of Handel's mighty Oratorio "The Messiah". It is said that after hearing the work sung for the first time, the composer exclaimed, "I did think I saw God Himself". When the Oratorio was performed in London in 1743, King George II rose to his feet to show his respect, and the whole audience followed his example. This has since become a custom which all audiences have observed during the singing of this great work.

3. OVERTURE WILLIAM TELL

This familiar and ever popular overture is the only one of Rossini's overtures which still retains a prominent place in concert programmes. "William Tell" was Rossini's last dramatic work, and was presented in Paris in 1829. Berlioz described it as "a symphony in four parts". The introduction gives a picture of sunrise in the mountains and is entitled "Dawn". The second part, "The Storm" is a wonderful musical delineation of an Alpine storm, which as it gradually dies away, prepares us for the third part. This "Andante", entitled "The Calm", typifies the shepherds' thanksgiving after the storm, and the "Ranz des vaches" is heard in the English horn and flute. A brilliant coda "Finale", depicting the march of the Swiss troops, brings the work to a spirited close.

4. SELECTIONS FROM "IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA"

IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA is no doubt Rossini's best and most popular opera. The story is from the Beaumarchais comedy and is the same which Mozart immortalized in "The Marriage of Figaro". It reminds one of Beethoven's recognition of Rossini's merits as a composer of comic operas. "Give us plenty of Barbers", he said, when the Italian visited the master in Vienna.

5. "PRESSO IL FIUME STRANIERO"

This is one of the less known compositions by the French composer of Faust. This composition is for mixed choir and band (originally written for orchestra). The choir is in four parts. The words are a paraphrasis of the psalm "Super flumina Babylonis!"

6. OVERTURE 1812

This popular composition was written by Tchaikowsky in 1880 for the great patriotic festival in which the Cathedral of Christ in Moscow was consecrated. It was the composer's intention to depict the stirring events in Russia during the Napoleonic campaign of 1812. It will be remembered that after the victory of Borodino the French marched into Moscow taking possession of the Kremlin or Citadel. Thereupon, the patriotic Russians set fire to their capital forcing the enemy to retreat.

This overture opens with a Russian hymn GOD PRESERVE THY PEOPLE. Next, we hear the Marseilles which depicts the varying fortunes of the French. After the conflict the great Russian national anthem, GOD SAVE OUR CZAR, is heard in the coda, where are also heard the famous bells of Moscow, pealing forth in honour of the Russian victory.

7. INNO A ROMA

Although Puccini did not spend much of his life in Rome this work for chorus and orchestra which he wrote in 1919, is a tribute to the Italian capital.

8. OVERTURE FROM "LE MASCHERE"

LE MASCHERE was unique among operas in the manner of its first performance. It was produced simultaneously in seven cities on January 17th, 1901. In spite of its enthusiastic send off it has not kept its place in the international repertoire, but the overture is often heard. It is deliberately in the old opera tradition of the formal, light overture.

PROGRAMME

PART ONE

1. GIRARDON	"Eroica"	Overture Mrs. C. Scicluna.
2. HANDEL	Hallelujah (Hamrun Choir)	Oratorio Mrs. E. Deguara, A. (Mus), L.C.M.
3. ROSSINI	"William Tell"	Overture Mrs. C. Borg.
4. ROSSINI	"Il Barbiere di Siviglia" (Hamrun Choir)	Selections Mrs. C. Brincat.

INTERVAL

PART TWO

5. GOUNOD	"Presso il Fiume Straniero" (Hamrun Choir)	Choir Mrs. C. Scicluna.
6. TSCHAIKOWSKY	"1812"	Overture Solennelle Mrs. E. Deguara, A. (Mus), L.C.M.
7. PUCCINI	"Inno a Roma" (Hamrun Choir)	Choir Mrs. C. Borg.
8. MASCAGNI	"Le Maschere"	Overture Mrs. C. Brincat.

(The Hamrun Choir is under the direction of Rev. Fr. Jos. Cachia).



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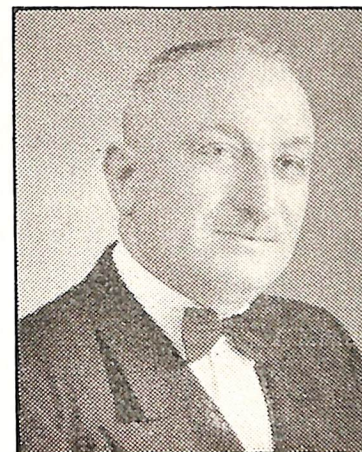
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BIOGRAPHIES

MRO. CARMELO BRINGAT



Mro. Carmelo Bringat studied harmony under the well-known Mro. Abdilla. He served for 35 years with the Malta Police Band, 19 years of which as Bandmaster of the same Band.

In 1924 he presented two compositions at an International Music Competition at Sa'zano, a Symphony "Armistice Day" and an "Intermezzo" with which he won first prize for the two compositions and was presented with two Grand Diplomas "Con Lode" and two golden crosses.

In 1947, Mro. Bringat composed a Symphony "The Siege of Malta" which was performed by the Military Band of the Royal Military School of Music under the able baton of Lt. Col. McBrain and transmitted from the B.B.C. in 1956 during the programme "Tribute to Malta G.C." and was afterwards also performed by The National Band of Malta under the direction of the composer himself at the Radio City Opera House, Hamrun, in 1958.

In 1960 Mro. Bringat composed a Hymn in honour of St. Paul, which was performed during the Pauline Centenary Festivities, by the Duke of Connaught's Own Band of Birkirkara and by the La Vallette Band of Va'letta.

Mro. Bringat is at present Bandmaster of the Duke of Connaught's Own Band of Birkirkara.

MRO. ESPEDITO DEGUARA, A. (Mus.), L.C.M.

Mro. Esp. Deguara was born at Zejtun in July 1904. He showed from the very beginning great interest in music and followed his father's footsteps, in fact in 1919 he started playing the Clarinetto under his father's direction, later changing to the playing of the Trumpet.

Later on, Mro. J. Cassar became Director of St. Catherine Music Club of Zejtun, under whom Mro. Deguara made much progress.

For 15 years he directed Religious music in several churches. He composed Sacred music for different voices, funeral marches etc., etc., among which the well-known Hymn to St. Catherine, composed purposely for his present Band.

He also composed the Overture "Destiny" which was performed by The National Band of Malta during one of its Annual Concerts which was held in 1961.

By his energy and ability Mro. Deguara was able to present and direct his present Band in Noto, Acireale and Catania to the satisfaction of all present.



MRO. CARMELO BORG

Mro. Carmelo Borg was born on the 17th September, 1925. He started his musical career by playing the Euphonium with St. George's Band of Qormi.

Afterwards he studied Harmony and Counterpoint under the direction of Mros. Vincenzo and Carmelo Costa. In 1947 he organised and conducted the Beethoven Symphony Orchestra.

Amongst his compositions we find "Messa di Gloria" in F Major for 4 voices; a hymn in honour of Our Lady of Mount Carmel; Preghiera alla Vergine, Cristo al Getsemani, a responsorium for 4 voices, "Malta" a Fantasia, two symphonic marches and a number of band marches.

Mro. Carmelo Borg is still Bandmaster of Mount Carmel Band of Gzira and of Precursor Band of Xewkija, Gozo.



MRO. CARMELO SCICLUNA

Mro. Carmelo Scicluna was born at Qormi in July 1903, the son of Carmelo Scicluna and Marianna Camilleri.

He started the study of music at an early age when he was only ten years old under his own father, being himself a keen musician, and two years later he was already forming part of Pinto Band of Qormi by playing the Piccolo in Mi.b.

His father being a musical enthusiast, sent his young son to study Harmony and Counterpoint under the well-known Mro. Giuseppe Abdilla, after which Mro. Scicluna composed his first composition, a funeral march "Venerdi Santo".

students of Pinto Band has given such good results that few months

In 1920 Mro. Scicluna was appointed music teacher to students of Pinto Band obtaining such good results that few months later he was chosen to take care of the students of De-Rohan Band of Zebbug.

Among his composition we find "Capricci" for various instruments, "Hymn to Our Lady of Lourdes", "Sacred Music for Holy Week", and a good number of Funeral and Military Marches.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

COMPAGNIA FILODRAMMATICA DANTE ALIGHIERI on 16th and 17th January 1965.

JEROME ROSE — Piano Recital, 19th and 21st January 1965.

BRITISH COUNCIL — Orchestral Concert, 30th January 1965.

PIANOFORTE RECITAL — 1st week in February 1965.

M.A.D.C. — "Ladies in Retirement", 17th to 20th February 1965.

R.A.D.A. — "Castle" and "Dangerous Corner", Mid-March.

TEATRO STABILE TRENTO E BOLZANO — Italian Prosa, End-March.

Late comers will not be admitted to the Auditorium.

Smoking is not permitted in the Auditorium, in Boxes, or in the Gallery.

The Management reserve the right to vary or omit any part of the programme without previous notice.

Patrons are reminded that the taking of photographs during the performance is not allowed.

Children even when accompanied by their parents, will be required to occupy individual seats.

