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# ORCHESTRAL CONCERT

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CONDUCTOR

JOSEPH SAMMUT

SOLOIST

JOSETTE GRECH MERCIECA

LEADER

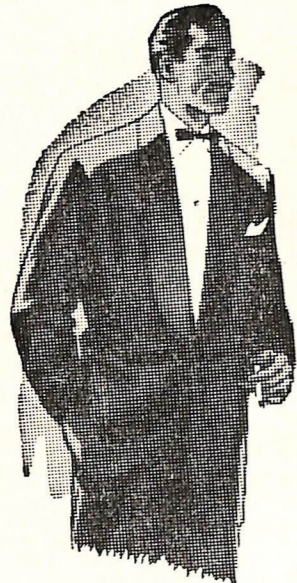
ALFONS M. VELLA

MANOEL THEATRE

**SATURDAY, 2nd OCTOBER, 1965 at 7.00 p.m.**

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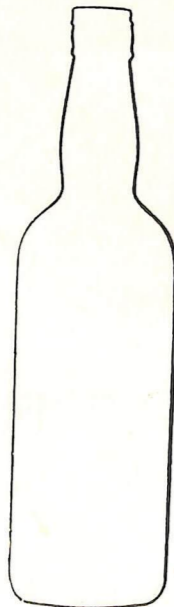
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JOSETTE GRECH MERCIECA

# PROGRAMME

## OVERTURE FROM "THE KNIGHTS OF MALTA" ANTONIO NANI

1843 — 1929

This is the Overture to the opera "I Cavalieri di Malta" which Antonio Nani composed in 1877. The libretto is by Enrico Golisciani. This opera, consisting of a Prologue and Three Acts, has been performed several times in Malta and Naples. It was last performed in Malta at the Manoel Theatre in 1926.

The Overture is composed of the principal themes of the opera and leads the audience to a better understanding and appreciation of the beautiful melody of the subsequent acts.

Antonio Nani was the son of an outstanding Maltese composer, Dr. Paolo Nani, and the father of Paul Nani, the composer of the "Malta War Symphony".

Apart from the three operas, 'Zorilla', 'I Cavalieri di Malta' and 'Agnese Visconti', Antonio Nani composed a large number of instrumental and choral works. His 'Requiem' was awarded the gold medal in London in 1881. He is also remembered for his exacting interpretations as a Conductor.

## MALTA SUITE

CHARLES CAMILLERI

1931 —

*Country Dance; Waltz; Nocturne; Village Fiesta*

After attending the Lyceum in Malta, Charles Camilleri studied music at the University of Toronto where he was awarded the Bachelor of Music Degree. He has since built up a considerable reputation in Canada, the U.S.A. and the United Kingdom as a composer and conductor. He has recently been commissioned to write background music for four one-hour dramas produced by Digby Pearce for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

The "Malta Suite" dates back to 1946 when Charles Camilleri, at the time a boy of fifteen spent a holiday in Gozo. In 1959 the composer's wife, Doris, happened to hear him play the "Nocturne" from this composition and urged him to complete and orchestrate the work. The Suite was premiered the same year on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network with the composer conducting.

About this composition Camilleri writes: "The Malta Suite is composed of four short sections based on melodies of "Maltese Ghana". In the work I have tried to capture some of the atmosphere typical of the Maltese islands. It is simply the music of my people, to my people".

Other works by Camilleri which incorporate the 'ghana' are the 'Five Maltese Dances', "The Maltese Miniatures" and "Rhapsody for Violin and Orchestra".

## PIANOFORTE CONCERTO No. 1 IN D MINOR CARMELO PACE

*Moderato; Adagio; Vivace*

1906 —

This Concerto was composed in 1943 and performed for the first time three years later at the British Institute in Valletta. Unlike the composer's two other Pianoforte Concertos, in which more modern techniques of composition are adopted, the structure of this concerto is strictly traditional. It opens with an expressive first movement in sonata form, followed by a slow and peaceful second movement, working up, in the third movement, to a lively and brilliant finale.

Maestro Carmelo Pace started his musical career as a viola player at the Royal Opera House, but has since dedicated much of his time to composition. Amongst his works are two other Pianoforte Concertos, incidental music to various plays and two operas, one of which, "Caterina Desguanez" will be performed for the first time at the Manoel Theatre later this month. Maestro Pace's recent composition "Preludio e Fuga" for Pianoforte, was one of the four pieces selected in an international competition organized in London last year by the Waltham Society of Contemporary Music. This work will shortly be played in London by the Australian pianist Rhondda Gillespie.

*Soloist: JOSETTE GRECH MERCIECA*

## — INTERVAL —

## SYMPHONY No. 2 IN E FLAT

EDWARD ELGAR

1857 — 1934

*Allegro vivace e nobilmente; Larghetto; Rondo;*

*Moderato e Maestoso*

Elgar began composing the Second Symphony during the lifetime of King Edward VII and intended it to be a loyal tribute. But the King died in May of that year and it is dedicated 'to the memory of His Late Majesty, The King'. In joining the parts of the symphony that were written before to those that were written after the king's death Elgar showed that he could rise above personal feeling and impression. In the description of loyalty and sorrow the artist's emotion, however deep, is not allowed to cloud reason. Elgar's grief is relieved by thought of the king's well spent life and peaceful reign. The first movement is, accordingly, confident and free from any hint of mourning.

A fine dignity tempers the grey tones of the elegy which forms the second movement. Some consider it 'the highest peak' attained by Elgar. It certainly expresses with fine artistry a feeling of national rather than individual mourning.

The third movement is a Scherzo-Rondo, the lightest and most graceful scherzo imaginable. When the darkening occurs here, leading to a climax of terrific force, its effect is to scatter the elements of the first theme, which seem to go scampering like a covey of frightened birds.

With the fourth movement we return to lofty dignity. The end is peace. The concluding coda is one of the finest things in modern music — extremely moving and extremely stately.

Clarity and directness of expression are beyond question in this symphony and it may be taken to be the high-water mark of Elgar's creative genius in instrumental music.

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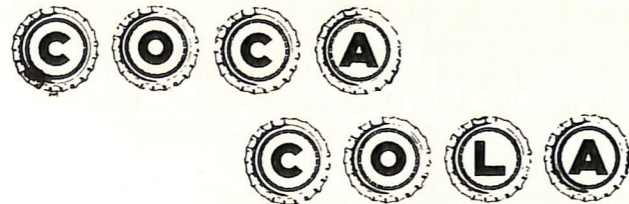
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## JOSETTE GRECH MERCIECA

Josette Grech Mercieca started studying music at an early age under her mother, Mrs. Carmelina Grech Mercieca L.R.S.M. She was awarded Distinction Certificates in almost all the grades of the Royal College of Music examinations, and also won prizes in Grades VII and VIII. In 1963, after a seven months' finishing course with Mrs. Bice Bisazza Pitre, she was awarded the L.R.S.M. Performer's Diploma.

For the last two years Josette Grech Mercieca has formed part of the M.C.I. Chamber Ensemble which appeared on television as a prelude to the concert held in April, 1965.

She has also been the soloist on several occasions at the concerts organized by the Malta Cultural Institute and has given recitals on Rediffusion.

# MANOEL THEATRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Colonel G. C. GATT — *Chairman.*

Dr. VICTOR A. MERCIECA, LL.D. — *Hon. Treasurer.*

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## THE MANOEL THEATRE CLUB

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### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

OPERA by Mro. C. Pace — CATERINA DESGUANEZ — on Wednesday 27th October, 1965,  
at 8.30 p.m.; Friday 29th, at 7.30 p.m.; Sunday 31st, at 6.30 p.m.

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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.

