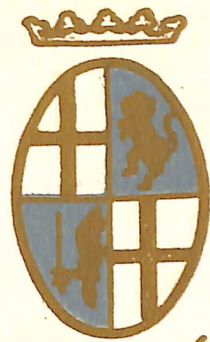
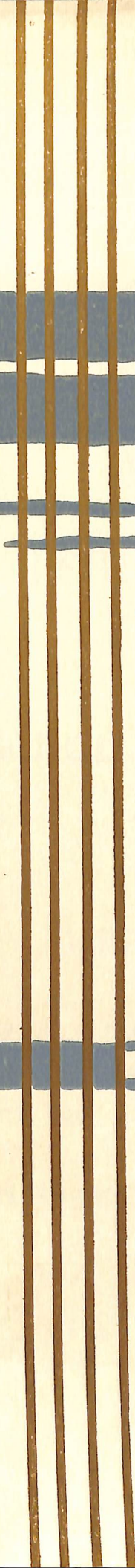


*Halls  
Band Circle Club  
8.1.66*

1966.



1732 1960



# Manoel Theatre

CASIMONA

# 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,

ON SATURDAY, 8th JANUARY 1966

*at the*

MANOEL THEATRE



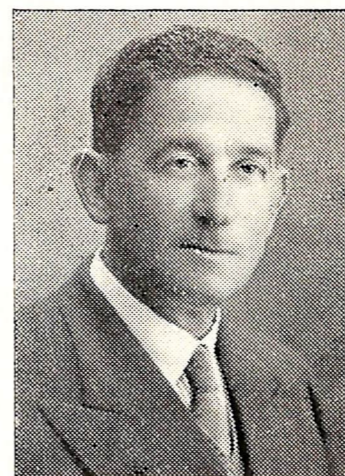


HIS GRACE MGR. SIR MICHAEL GONZI,

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 FUTURE OF THE NATIONAL BAND IN INDEPENDENT MALTA



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

One of the aims of the Council of the Malta Band Clubs' Association has been to co-ordinate the musical talent of our Band Masters and Bandsmen, so as to establish a unified band capable of performing music of a high standard, as is found in other countries. The Council, with the co-operation of the Management of Rediffusion, our Band Clubs and The Government, has much pleasure in presenting once again the Annual Instrumental and Vocal Concert.

Each year different Band Masters are selected to form the Technical Board of the Association which advises and directs all Students' Competitions and which chooses the programme for the National Band at this Concert. Maltese compositions are included as frequently as possible.

The principal aim of our Movement is to publicise and encourage musicians, choirs and bands, and to interest everyone in Music, especially in the field of Music which you will hear tonight. The Independence of Malta has given every citizen the right, and the sacred duty, to maintain and develop all activities of National importance, and the fostering of a love for Music and for performing Music with others is one of the most noble inheritances that we can have.

Let us all strive to see that the *National Band of Malta* takes its place of honour in Independent Malta.

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## PROGRAMME NOTES

by Romeo Micallef

### 1. CAPRICCIO ITALIEN

Italy has always cast a spell on visiting artists, and composers are no exception. To Tchaikowsky inspiration came in the form of a caprice for orchestra, when he made a visit in 1880. It is based on Italian folk melodies found in printed collections and heard in the streets. The opening fanfare, for example, is taken from the bugle call at the barracks of the Royal Cuirassiers, which he heard every morning from his hotel.

### 2. FINALE ATTO SECONDO, AIDA

The second scene of Act II of Verdi's AIDA certainly provides music suitable for a band. In fact it played in the open while the Egyptian Army, under General Rhadamez, is returning in triumph, with the people acclaiming the victors as they march in the presence of their King. This martial music, some of the most popular in all opera, provides a superb background to a magnificent spectacle.

### 3. SYMPHONIC INTERMEZZO: ARGYRIA

This is composed in a modern descriptive style, telling how St. Philip, with God's help, managed to free Argyria (Aggira, a village in Sicily) from the powers of evil. There are seven short movements. After the Introduction "Grandioso" comes "Larghetto Moderato" and a fanfare announcing the arrival of St. Philip and the excitement of the people. In a slower mood, "Poco Meno Mosso", the powers of evil are in a turmoil and attempt to frighten St. Philip. In "Largo" a prayer is recited before St. Philip exorcises the village. Evil is driven out, "Sostenuto", and the people of Aggira offer their praises to God, "Adagio e Grandioso", the Intermezzo ending on the same theme as it began.

### 4. IN A PERSIAN MARKET

The camel drivers gradually approach, the beggars cry "backsheesh", and the beautiful princess, borne by servants, enters, being entertained by jugglers and a snake charmer. The Caliph passes through the market, the princess departs, amid more cries and movement of camels, and the market place becomes deserted.

### 4b. INTERMEZZO: MOSE'

Rossini composed 36 operas in half as many years and MOSE IN EGITTO was first performed at the Teatro San Carlo in Naples in 1818, two years after his famous Barbieri. The opera was one of Rossini's most popular works.

### 5. MUSSORGSKY'S: CORONATION FROM BORIS GODUNOV

The unique BORIS GODUNOV is more of a series of Historical Tableaux than a connected drama. It is the music which welds Pushkin's historical tragedy into a whole, a remarkable expression of Russian Nationalism. The greatest moments of the Opera are in the beginning when Boris' Coronation is presented and in the end which shows his death.

### 6. HUNGARIAN RHAPSODY No. 2.

This is an arrangement of one of the most famous of Franz Liszt's fifteen Hungarian Rhapsodies originally written for the piano. Characteristic folk themes and gypsy rhythms give us a glimpse of Hungarian Nationalism. There is a slow Introduction, "Lassen", after a slow dance of Hungarian origin, and a rapid "Friska" from the Czardas, the National Dance of Hungary.

### 7. DUN MIKIEL XERRI

The eight movements of this work depict the tragic death of the Maltese Patriot and leader from Zebbug, during the French occupation and consequent happenings. 'Largo Lugubre' describes the shooting of Dun Mikiel by the French in the Palace Square Valletta and 'Poco più Animato' depicts the news of his death being told. The sorrowing people are roused to action to fight for their freedom — 'Allegro Giusto e Grandioso', the bells ring 'Molto Meno' and they meet for prayer 'Andante Religioso' before the fighting begins — 'Allegro Robusto e Guerresco' and 'Allegro con Brio' with victory for the Maltese and cheers, 'evviva', 'Largo Grandioso' for Dun Mikiel Xerri and Malta.

### 8. OVERTURE, CORDELIA

It is not known why Ricardo Bugeja wrote this work in 1880, but it is dedicated to the memory of Sauria Gesuiti. Bugeja was the most famous of a musical family, studying in Naples under Mercadante at the Conservatorio S. Pietro a Majella, becoming a favourite pupil of his teacher, and assisting him by writing out manuscripts when Mercadante became blind. Bugeja died in 1926 after returning to Malta and becoming Maestro di Cappella to the principal Churches.

## PROGRAMME

### PART ONE

- |                               |   |   |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. TCHAIKOWSKY                | "Capriccio Italien"                               | Mrs. E. Lowell  |
| 2. VERDI                      | "Aida"<br>(Hamrun Choir)                          | Finale Atto 2do.<br>Mrs. C. Caruana.                        |
| 3. GATT PH.                   | "Argyria"   | Symphonic Intermezzo<br>Mrs. Ph. Gatt<br>F.L.C.M., A.R.C.M. |
| 4. KETELBY (a)<br>ROSSINI (b) | "In a Persian Market"<br>"Mose"<br>(Hamrun Choir) | Intermezzo<br>Preghiera<br>Mrs. A. Calleja.                 |

INTERVAL

### PART TWO

- |               |                                      |  |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 5. MUSSORGSKY | "Boris Godunov"<br>(Hamrun Choir)    | Coronation<br>Mrs. E. Lowell.                          |
| 6. LISZT      | "Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2"           | Mrs. C. Caruana  |
| 7. GATT A.    | "Dun Mikiel Xerri"<br>(Hamrun Choir) | Coral Overture.<br>Mrs. Ph. Gatt<br>F.L.C.M., A.R.C.M. |
| 8. BUGEJA R.  | "Cordelia"                           | Sinfonia<br>Mrs. A. Calleja.                           |

The Hamrun Choir is under the Direction of Revd. Fr. J. Cachia.



## 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 Handel's "Messiah" at the Radio City Opera House on the 20th April, 1962.



## COUNCIL OF THE MALTA BAND CLUBS ASSOCIATION

*Patron:*

His Grace Mgr. S<sup>r</sup>. Michael Gonzi,  
Metropolitan Archbishop.

*Honorary Presidents:*

Hon. Dr. T. Caruana Demajo, LL.D., M.L.A.  
Mr. Joseph Schembri.

Dr. E. Cesareo, M.D.  
Mr. John Mifsud.

*Life President:*

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

*Vice President:*

Mr. Jos. Ciappara.

*Propaganda Secretary:*

Mr. Carmel Grima.

*General Secretary:*

Mr. Publius Farrugia.

*Ass. Gen. Secretary:*

Mr. Oscar Pulis.

*Secretary Social Activities:*

Mr. Paul Debattista.

*General Director:*

Mr. Jos. V. Tabone.

*Treasurer:*

Mr. Car. V. Dimech.

*Ass. Treasurer:*

Mr. Loreto Abela.

*Secretary Band Relations:*

Mr. Gabriel Caruana.

*Spiritual Director:*

Rev. Fr. Spiridione Grech, O.C.

*Liaison Officer with Rediffusion:*

Mr. Carmel Grima.

And a Member from each Band Club affiliated with the Association.

*Auditors:*

Mr. Edwin F. Naudi. — Mr. Agostino Azzopardi.



## BIOGRAPHIES



Mro. EDGAR LOWELL was born at Hamrun, taking clarinet lessons at the age of twelve with the late Mro. Compagno of Cospicua. When eighteen he joined the Royal Opera House Orchestra under Luigi Cantoni and later Mros. Mule, Zandonai, Respighi, and Refice. He became first clarinet of the Opera. Mro. Lowell has conducted Operettas and has formed several local choirs, and an orchestra for the Rediffusion Company, conducting the 'Christmas Concerts' for several years. Other concerts for the same company at the Manoel and Radio City Theatres included Miss Lydia Cilia, Miss Anna Maria Bisazza and other well known Maltese performers.

Mro Lowell is Assistant Bandmaster with the La Valette Band Club, and Bandmaster of the Zejtun Band and the La Stella Band, Gozo. He also is the conductor of the Malta Cultural Institute and Primavera Corale.

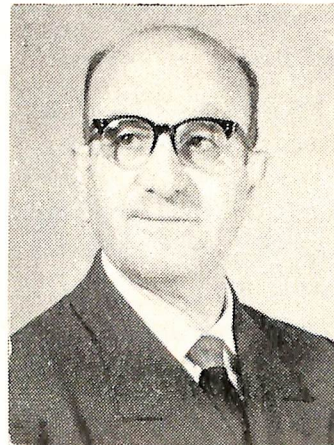


Mro. CARMELO CARUANA is 38 years old, and was born at Luqa, where he learned to play the clarinet. He studied the violin and Harmony. When fifteen, in 1948, Mr. Caruana became Assistant Band master of the St. Andrew Band, also working with other bands as guest conductor. He is Bandmaster of the M. Mater Gratiae Band of Zabbar, and has composed Festival Marches and has arranged Orchestral Music including the two items which he conducts during the concert.



Mro. PHILIP GATT was born at Zebbug, becoming his father's assistant and conducting the La Vittoria Band of Mellieha, the Vilhena Band of Floriana and the St. Michael Band of Zabbar in several successful classical concerts. Mro. Gatt studied under Mro. C. Pace becoming a Fellow of the London College of Music in 1960, later studying in London and becoming the first Maltese Bandmaster to hold A.R.C.M. (Bandmastership) and F.L.C.M. Diplomas.

In Malta Mro. Gatt is Band Master of the St. Philip Band of Zebbug, the Band of Msida and the Royal Air Force (Malta) Band. He has composed many varied works, not all for bands, including 'Argyria', and 'Never Conquered' which is the march of the R.A.F. Luqa.



Mro. Abele Calleja was born at Hamrun, joining the St. Joseph Band and studying the Horn. At the age of 16 he joined the Royal Opera House Orchestra, becoming first horn after two years. He was acknowledged as the best horn player on the Island, having played under Respighi, Refice, and other Opera House Directors.

He served for 34 years in the Commander in Chief's Orchestra, being Bandmaster during his last few years in the service. Since retirement he was appointed Assistant Bandmaster of the Pinto Band, Qormi, Bandmaster of Floriana's Vilhena Band and Director of Religious Music in several Churches.



