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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

The Manoel Theatre Management Committee

present an

ORCHESTRAL CONCERT

Leader — GEORGE SPITERI

Conductor — JOSEPH SAMMUT

St Paul's Square, Mdina — Thursday, 29th July, 1971

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PROGRAMME

OVERTURE — The Thievish Magpie — Rossini (1792-1868)

Opera by Rossini, produced in Milan, 1817.

Libretto by G. Gherardini; the magpie is the real perpetrator of the theft for which a maidservant is condemned to death.

LA CALINDA — Dance from the Opera Koanga — Delius (1862-1934)

Frederick Delius, born Bradford, England, 1862. Went to Florida in 1884 to superintend an orange grove, but instead devoted himself to musical pursuits. He later studied at the Leipzig Conservatory with Sitt, Jadassohn, and Reinecke. In 1899, he settled in Grez-sur-Loing, France, which was to be his home for the remainder of his life. It was there that he wrote his masterpieces. His fame was long in coming. Koanga, opera by Delius, produced (in German) in Elberfeld, 1904; revised after Delius's death by Beecham and Edward Agate and produced in London, 1935. Libretto by C. F. Keary, Koanga being an African Chief transported as a slave to America. Calinda is a dance taking its name from an actual Negro dance imported by African slaves to the American continent.

SUITE — Sylvan Scenes — Percy A. Fletcher (1879-1932)

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| I. In Beauty's Bower | III. The pool of Narcissus |
| II. Sylvia Dances | IV. Cupid's Carnival |

This suite provides us with yet another delightful set of programme pieces by this versatile composer, all of which are wonderfully refreshing. The natural flow of music to suit the subject is one of the great gifts which he is blessed with, and it is all for our good. Light music certainly, but of the purest, cleanest kind.

INTERVAL

WALTZ — Emperor — Johann Strauss (1825-1899)

Austrian violinist, conductor and composer of enormously successful waltzes in noticeably artistic style — including "The Blue Danube", "Roses from the South", "Tales from the Vienna woods", called "The Waltz King". Wrote also polkas — "Tritsch-Tratsch", "Thunder and Lightning", etc.

SYMPHONIC POEM — Malta — Charles Camilleri

"RITRATTI MUŻIKALI"

The idea to compose a national symphonic poem based on the Maltese Islands has been lingering in my mind for a very long time. A few years ago while driving, in a remote and narrow country lane, I came face to face with a typical farmer and his herd. Clearly I was blocking the way! I stopped to let him pass through, little realizing that the whole affair was going to take much more than I had anticipated. When the road was clear the shepherd came over to my car window and with eyes full of love and sincerity of tone, that went right through me, he said: "Grazzi hija" (Thank you brother). That incident stirred me to start on my work titled "MALTA".

The Poem starts with a fanfare on brass which acts as a link between each section. Soon a melodic line based on Maltese "Għana" is developed to depict morning in the country-side which is then followed by children dancing on the village square. After a climax the music returns to the serenity (Ħemda) that is so apparent during sunset — with the village church bells in the background. A hymn is then heard which is in turn based on an old tune called "Il-Vrajs" suggested to the composer by Ġużè Cassar Pullicino.

The finale is based on the theme "Joy and Freedom" rounded up by the fanfare which provides a triumphal note, suggesting motives from the Maltese National Anthem.

The work is dedicated to Maestro Joseph Sammut who conducted its first performance on 8th June, 1971.

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