

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

The Manoel Theatre Management Committee

present an

ORCHESTRAL CONCERT

Leader — GEORGE SPITERI

Conductor — JOSEPH SAMMUT



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.

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

I. In Beauty's Bower

III. The pool of Narcissus

II. Sylvia's 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 with which he is blessed, and it is all for our good. Light music certainly, but of the purest, cleanest kind.

SELECTION from the Musical Play "South Pacific" — R. Rodgers (1902)

Richard Rodgers composed his first melody at the age of fourteen. While still a student he met Lorenz Hart and they worked together for over 20 years in the field of musical plays. When Hart died in 1943, Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II teamed up and produced such musical plays, as Oklahoma, Juliet, South Pacific and The King and I, all of which had a great success.

INTERVAL

SYMPHONIC POEM — Malta — Charles Camilleri

"RITRATTI MUŻIKALI"

The poem starts with a fanfare on brass which acts as a link between each section. Soon a melodic line based on Maltese "Ghana" 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 (Hemda) 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 "II-Vrajs" suggested to the composer by Guzè 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.

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.

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