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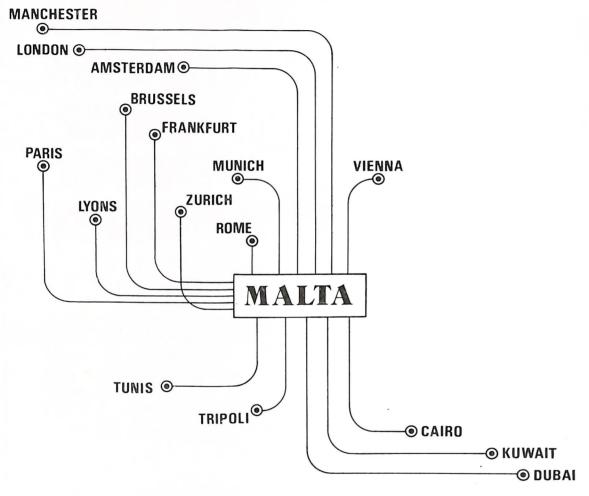
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THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, CULTURE AND WELFARE THE MANOEL THEATRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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8

PIANO RECITAL

by

PETER COOPER

at the Manoel Theatre

Monday, 14th January 1980.

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PETER COOPER was born in New Zealand, and after his early studies there, which were interrupted by four years war service with the Australian Imperial Forces, took up a scholarship in 1946 at the Royal Academy of Music in London, where he was awarded the Eric Brough Memorial Prize for pianoforte playing. He has also been associated in his studies with two great pianists, Ignaz Friedman and Edwin Fisher.

Following a recital in London in 1946, Peter Cooper made many successful appearances, not only in the British Isles. but also in Germany, France, Italy, Switzerland, North, Central and South America. He has toured Russia, India, Ceylon, South and Central Africa, the Far East and the West Indies, as well as New Zealand and Australia. In addition to his concert appearances, Mr. Cooper has become well known as a broadcasting, recording, and television artist in all parts of the world.

PROGRAMME

Chorale Prelude "Blessed Jesu, we are here"

J.S. BACH (1685-1750) arranged Harriet Cohen

The words of the hymn on which this Organ Chorale — Prelude is based are:-

"Blessed Jesu, at Thy word,
We are gathered all to hear Thee,
Let our hearts and minds be stirred,
Now to seek, and love and fear Thee.
By Thy teachings, pure and holy,
Drawn from earth to love Thee solely."

Bach made three settings of this Chorale, which was evidently a favourite of his.

Sonata in G Major (L 487)

D. SCARLATTI (1685-1737)

Scarlatti's 545 Keyboard Sonatas are naturally heard best on the instrument for which they were composed, the harpsichord. But their lightness of texture, clarity and lack of thick contrapuntal writing ensure that they are well suited to the pianoforte.

Thirty Two Variations in C Minor

L.V. BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)

These variations belong to Beethoven's virtuoso period, the so-called middle Period of his work, and were composed in 1806. The composer's skill in embroidering and transforming a short 8—bar original theme is a marvel of what can be done to vary mood and note-figuration in a short space of time. Sometimes the variations fall into groups of two or three: the final variation is extended into a coda which brings this ingenious work to a brilliant conclusion.

Sonata in F Minor Op. 57 (Appassionata)

L.V. BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)

Allegro assai — Andante con moto — Allegro ma non troppo

This classic of monumental dimensions belongs one year after the thirty two variations. It's title, like all those given to the Beethoven sonatas, did not come from the composer, but in this case, from the publisher. It is cosmic in its breadth, the most extended of the three movements being the first. The second movement, a set of variations which rise in compass as they proceed, is based on a solemn theme of great dignity. It leads without a break into the last movement, the most impassioned of the three, whose final Prestissimo is cataclysmic.

Interval

Barcarolle Op. 60 Berceuse Op. 57 Tarantelle Op. 43 F. CHOPIN (1810-1849)

These three pieces belong to Chopin's maturity as a composer. The Barcarolle is an extended work of marvellous harmonic invention, portraying the langour of the gondola, and the rapture of the lovers. It's final pages are among the most nostalgic and haunting of Chopin's compositions. The Berceuse is a delicate set of variations over a gently-socking ground bass: truly a cradle-song for an aristocratic baby. The Tarantelle is neat and witty, the dance becoming ever more exciting to its dizzy climax.

The Angel Op. 1 No. 1

N. MEDTNER (1880-1951)

Medtner's mood pictures Op. 1 are remarkable pieces for a young man. This one, the Prologue, was inspired by a Lermontov poem (Medtner later discovered that he had set the poem word by word, and made a song version of the piece, published at Op. 1 bis). It portrays an angel carrying a young soul to her birth. During the course of her earthly existence she remembers the music of heaven, which haunts her mind.

Jeux d'Eau (The Fountain)

M. RAVEL (1875-1937)

Toccata from the Suite "Le Tombeau de Couperin"

Ravel was not the first composer to write a descriptive piece of water — play for the piano. Liszt's "Les Jeux d'eaux a'la Villa d'Este" had described the fountains at this villa outside Rome, with a religious fervour. Ravel's piece is more extrovert in character. It bears a motto from Henri de Regnier, "The rivergod laughing at the water which tickles him."

After the first world war Ravel wrote a series of pieces in which he used 18th century forms derived from the French composer Couperin. The Toccata is the brilliant conclusion to this suite.

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FORTHCOMING

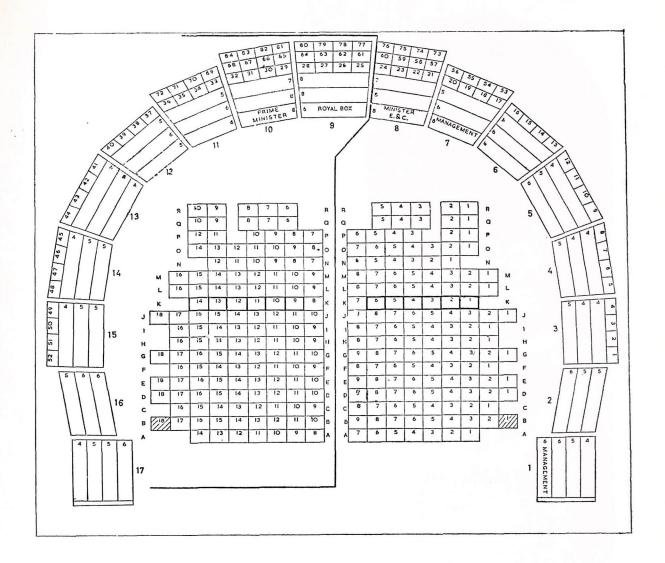
EVENTS

SLIEMA THEATRICAL COMPANY — JUM IT-TIEG — Saturday 19th at 7.30p.m., Sunday 20th January at 6.30 p.m.

M.T.M.C. — MANOEL THEATRE ORCHETSRA — Tuesday 22nd January at 7.30 p.m.

GĦAQDA TEATRALI KULLANA — SKAMPLU — Saturday 26th at 7.30 p.m., Sunday 27th January at 6.30 p.m.

M.T.M.C. IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE ISTITUTO ITALIANO DI CULTURA — ENSEMBLE DI VENEZIA — Monday 28th January at 7.30 p.m.



MANOEL THEATRE BOOKING PLAN

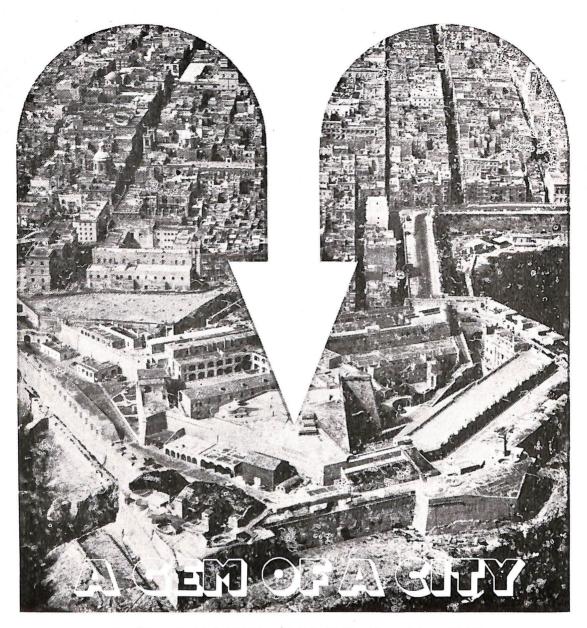
Late comers will not be admitted to the Auditorium.

Smoking is not permitted in the Auditorium, in the Boxes and 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 a seat.



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