



SECOND CENTENNIAL CONCERT 1964 - 1965

FOUNDERS MEMORIAL THEATRE HAMILTON

Tuesday, 4th May, 1965 at 8 p.m.

Conductor:

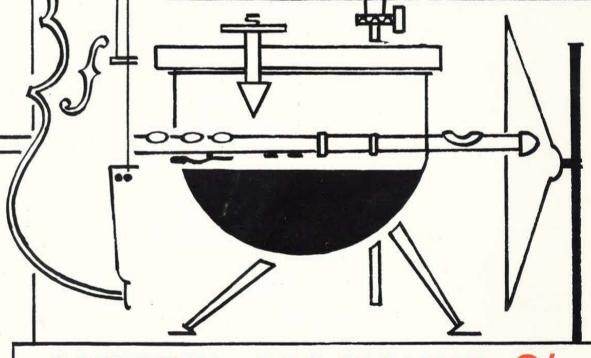
RICHARD LAWSON

Leader:

**GORDON KERBY** 

Guest Artist:

KIRI TE KANAWA



SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

2'-

### HAMILTON CENTENNIAL ORCHESTRA

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Ex-Officio: Richard Lawson, Gordon Kerby

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Vincent Duffy
Hilary Eccles
Joyce Davys
Shirley Wentworth
Dexie Winter

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Quentin Johnstone

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Ken Prime
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Neroll Castle

Molly Henderson
Margaret Peart
John Lawson
Pauline Coombes
Helen Heywood
Hamilton Campbell

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John Henderson June Byng

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HORNS

Herbert Worth
Alan Addison
David Curtis

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William Matson
Grant Kirby

TROMBONES
Harry MacDonald
Jim Allen

TUBA Bert Gabolinscy

PERCUSSION

Ken Schou

Fraser Hope

Kenneth Derbyshire

Frederick Jones

Conductor - - RICHARD LAWSON

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# A letter from the Mayor . . .

May I extend my sincere thanks to all the musicians who have combined and worked together and made the Hamilton Centennial Orchestra possible.

May I also thank all who have supported this venture, which I am sure has proved to be one of the cultural highlights of our Centennial Celebrations.

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THE

# Hamilton Centennial Orchestra

presents its

# Second Centennial Concert

Founders Memorial Theatre

TUESDAY, MAY 4th, 1965

Conductor: RICHARD LAWSON

Leader: GORDON KERBY

Guest Singer: KIRI TE KANAWA

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### HAMILTON CENTENNIAL ORCHESTRA

SECOND CENTENNIAL CONCERT

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Programme

PART ONE

Overture "Rosamunde"

Schubert

Symphony No. 9 in E minor (New World)

Dvorak

Interval

PART TWO

Porgi Amor from "Marriage of Figaro"

Mozart

Soloist: KIRI TE KANAWA

Bizet

Jamaican Rumba

Suite "L'Arlesienne"

Benjamin

**ά ά** 

Programme Notes by FRASER M. HOPE Cover Design—ROGER ANDERSON

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# Programme Part One

"GOD SAVE THE QUEEN"

#### OVERTURE "ROSAMUNDE"

In 1823, Schubert wrote incidental music for "ROSAMUNDE, THE PRINCESS OF CYPRUS", a play by Wilhelmina von Chezy who is chiefly famous for having provided a highly unsatisfactory libretto for Weber's opera "EURYANTHE".

"ROSAMUNDE", from what musicologists know of the plot, seems to have been every bit as confused as "EURYANTHE" and its authoress can thus claim the notoriety of having killed (for a time at any rate) valuable works by two of the most gifted composers of her time. "ROSAMUNDE" ran for two performances only, after which no more was heard of it, and Schubert's music appeared to have suffered a similar fate until its dramatic rescue by Sir George Grove and Arthur Sullivan in 1867, forty-four years after its first performance. There is much confusion about the overture to "ROSAMUNDE". The prelude used when the play was performed in 1823 was not the one now known as the "ROSAMUNDE OVERTURE", but another in D major which Schubert originally composed for his opera "ALFONSON AND ESTRELLA". For the origin of the present overture, we have to go back to the autumn of 1817 when Schubert wrote his two overtures in the Italian Style. Three years later, he adapted one of these to form a prelude to von Hofmen's play "THE MAGIC HARP", for which he was writing incidental music, transposing it from D to C and substituting a new and better allegro vivace section. This latter work seems to have become known as the "ROSAMUNDE OVERTURE", through its appearance under this title in a piano duet arrangement in 1827.

#### SYMPHONY No. 9 in E MINOR from the "NEW WORLD"

Dvorak's Symphony No. 9, previously known and incorrectly catalogued as No. 5, and popularly known as "THE NEW WORLD" symphony, which describes its origin, is one of the most famous achievements of a composer who ranks as the greatest of the Czech nationalists. Quite apart from its significance in the musical history of Bohemia, it stands high on the popularity list in the whole world of symphonic music. In 1892, when Dvorak was at the peak of his career, he was invited to the USA as Director of the newly founded Conservatory of Music in New York. The series of works written during his three years in the States, carries with it the imprint of his homeland, an imprint that no amount of new impressions could entirely destroy. As everyone knows, there is undoubtedly something of the New World in his Symphony No. 9. Dvorak was interested in the traditional music of the American Negroes and Indians, and some of the themes in this work suggest this influence.

The first movement, adagio-allegro-molto, opens with an introduction of some length in which pianissimo strings are answered by a horn call from the woodwinds. The principal theme of the movement is shared by two horns in unison and the woodwinds. The second theme is given out by flute against pianissimo strings—here follows the similarity with the familiar tune "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot". The dramatic coda is built largely on the principal theme. The second movement largo is perhaps the best known movement in the whole symphonic repertoire. Several new melodies, all in plaintive mood, are introduced before the oboe returns with the principal theme—known to us all as the spiritual "GOING HOME". The movement ends softly with chords for basses alone.

The third movement, scherzo, has a Bohemian flavour, from the very first bars, and an unusual rhythm which is almost disturbing. There follows a lovely song which develops into a brief reminder of the first theme before the trio presents another lively theme for the woodwind, followed by a secondary theme for string

coda. The final movement, allegro con fuoco, presents a dramatic statement of the main theme from horns and trumpets. This theme is rapidly extended with immense rhythm and vitality and leads to a statement of the secondary theme, a truly beautiful and serene melody. A three-note figure ("Three Blind Mice") is worked into the texture. There is a brilliant coda which combines the main theme of the first movement with the main theme of the finale. It rises to a staccato climax and a final, quickly fading chord.

### INTERVAL

# Howden's

FOR . . .

Clocks

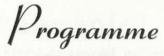
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(continued)

### PART TWO

#### PORGI AMOR from "MARRIAGE OF FIGARO" Soloist: KIRI TE KANAWA

Mozart

In the years that have passed between the action of "THE BARBER OF SEVILLE" and "THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO". Beaumarchais' Rosina has undergone a remarkable change of character. The pert, flirtatious ward of Dr Bartolo has become a disillusioned Countess, melancholy in her resigned acceptance of the habitual infidelities and amorous intrigues of her husband, but never—in Mozart's opera at least—losing either her dignity or sense of humour. In Act II, the curtain rises on the Countess' room. She is alone with her thoughts—a situation, one imagines, to which she has been no stranger since her marriage to the Count Almaviva. These thoughts take shape in the aria "PORGI AMOR", in which she beseeches the God of Love to bring her relief to her pain and sighs, and if he will not return her love to her, at least to allow her to die in peace.

SUITE "L'ARLESIENNE"

"L'ARLESIENNE"

"L'ARLESIENNE"

"L'ARlesienne", a play by Alphonse Daudet, was given its premiere at the Vaudeville, Paris, on October 1st 1872, and for this event Bizet wrote incidental music amounting to twenty-seven numbers, for small orchestra with chorus. After the production of the play, he arranged five of the orchestral pieces as a suite increasing the size of the orchestra to symphonic proportions and making some slight adaptations in the music itself to render it more suitable for concert performance. Many years after Bizet's death, a second suite was selected and orchestrated by one Ernest Guiraud, who also incorporated a MINUET from the opera "FAIR MAID OF PERTH". In tonight's selection, the first three pieces are from the first suite, and the well-known FARANDOLE from the second suite. The story of "L'Arlesienne" shows a great deal of affinity with Bizet's operatic masterpiece "CARMEN", for both are concerned with the infatuation of a man for a vivacious and scheming woman. Both works end in tragedy—"L'Arlesienne" with suicide, and "CARMEN" with murder.

1. Prelude: The orchestra first announces in unison, a vigorous theme based on an old Marche de Turenne, but which had become almost a traditional Provencial folk song. Then follows the variations for orchestra. First a lyrical duet for cello and French horn, with bassoons adding a fussy counterpoint in the background. Back comes the opening march, after which the strings usher in a new melody, with the somewhat rare instance of the classical use of the saxophone. The climax comes suddenly, and the movement ends quietly with pizzicato strings.

2. Minuetto: A fast gay dance played first by strings, and secondly by the flutes in thirds. A more lilting trio section follows, primarily expressed by the saxophone and clarinet. Almost imperceptibly the music works its way back to the opening themes, now repeated 'sotto voce'.

3. Adagietto: This, the strings only fragment, is perhaps the loveliest thing in the whole score of "L'Arlesienne". In the play,

JAMAICAN RUMBA

Benjamin

Here is concert music with a true Latin American flavour. One of the most popular and often-played pieces in the world of music, JAMAICAN RUMBA was one of a set of pieces that Arthur Benjamin composed after a spell of convalescence in the sun-drenched West Indies. Generally recognized as the foremost of Australian composers, the late Arthur Benjamin had a varied and colourful life. Prior to the First World War, Benjamin was studying composition and plano at the Royal College of Music in London. During the four years' conflict of the Great War, he saw active service with the Royal Fusiliers and the Air Force. He was shot down and taken prisoner. After an appointment as piano professor at the Sydney State Conservatory from 1919—1921, Benjamin returned to England where he took a similar post at the Royal College of Music. He travelled extensively and learned much from his sojourns in various countries.

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