

OLDHAM MUSICAL SOCIETY

PRESIDENT - MISS MARJORY LEES

FIFTY-THIRD SEASON—1937-1938

Third Subscription . . .

CONCERT

In the Co-operative Hall, King Street,
On TUESDAY, MARCH 8th, 1938,

Under the gracious patronage of the
Mayor and Mayoress, Deputy Mayor and Mayoress,
and the Chief Constable of Oldham.

ARTISTES :

JOHN DAVIES

SOLO PIANOFORTE

ARTHUR COPLEY

BARITONE

The Musical Society Chorus.

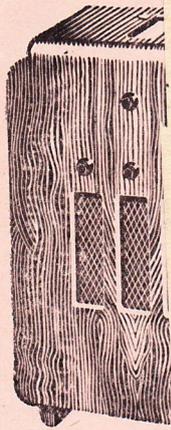
Accompanists: FRANK BERRY, A.R.C.O.
NELLIE G. THOMPSON, A.T.C.L.

Conductor - - ERNEST CRAIG

Hon. Sec.: SIDNEY MILLS, 46, Villa Road, Oldham.

F. Schofield, The Acme Press, Oldham Road, Royton.

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Musical Society

**SPLENDID
SINGING AND
PLAYING**

**Coleridge-Taylor's
Big Work**

FOR the third subscription concert of the season, the Oldham Musical Society engaged two tip-top artists and attempted some difficult work. It was difficult to judge which of the artists was the more popular with the crowded audience, John Davies (pianoforte) or Arthur Copley (baritone). The choir, under the baton of Mr. Ernest Craig, as usual, was in excellent form.

The choir's biggest work was Coleridge-Taylor's "Bon-Bon Suite," with Arthur Copley as the soloist. This took up the greater part of the first half of the concert, and well merited pride of place on the programme. Some of the items were exceedingly difficult, as Coleridge-Taylor usually is, but all were nobly and capably tackled.

The Men Won

There was an interesting little duel in the second half of the programme between the women and the men, when the sopranos and contraltos gave the Spinning Chorus from Wagner's "The Flying Dutchman," immediately followed by the tenors and basses, who gave Edward German's popular "O Peaceful Night." Strangely enough, the men won, for, though the spinning chorus was excellently sung, the applause after "O Peaceful Night" merited a repeat, and they sang it better the second time than the first. Throughout the evening the men's voices were better than usual.

The choral programme both began and ended with pieces by Elgar, a march from "The Banner of St. George," and the chorus "Challenge of Thor" from "King Olaf."

Besides his inspiring singing in the Coleridge-Taylor suite, Arthur Copley also sang the prologue to Leoncavallo's "I Pagliacci." It is an excellent test-piece for a baritone. The necessary fire was there, and the singer was fortunate in having a truly amazing range. He often sounds like a tenor, and his higher notes are always good.

Another of his outstanding successes was a Russian folk-song, "Oh could I but express in song." For an encore he gave "Come, Let's be Merry," and also one or two other songs.

Genius on Piano

John Davies, though only young, is a genius. His first piece, Variations Sérieuses, by Mendelssohn, was one of the high spots of the evening. It is a little-known work by this composer, and is deeper than many of the

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In his second group he made it quite clear that he has improved even since he played in Oldham last year. He played Chopin's well-known Fantasie-Impromptu and the study in A flat that Oldhamers are getting to know so well. It afforded an interesting comparison with Frederick Dawson, who played the same piece on the same platform a week or two ago. It was quite a different work in the hands of John Davies, who brought out interesting little cadences that had previously remained hidden. It was the interpretation of a true artist.

The rest of his programme was devoted to show pieces, the Caprice in E flat and "La Campanella" (another of Frederick Dawson's favourites) by Paganini, arranged by Liszt. For encores he gave "Dance of the Gnomes," by Liszt, and "Starlight," from Strauss's "Serenade."

The accompanists were Frank Berry and Nellie Thompson.

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