

# OLDHAM MUSICAL SOCIETY.

—ESTABLISHED AS WERNETH VOCAL SOCIETY, 1884—

President: Miss MARJORY LEES.



SEASON 1935-1936.

HANDEL'S . . .

## “MESSIAH”

In the CO-OPERATIVE HALL, King Street,  
On TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17th, 1935,

Under the patronage of the  
Mayor & Mayoress, Ald. R. W. Bainbridge & Miss Bainbridge,  
Deputy Mayor & Mayoress, Ald. & Mrs. T. Wrigley, and  
Chief Constable, A. Killick Mayall, Esq., O.B.E.

*Principals:*

**GARDA HALL, Soprano**

**SARA BUCKLEY, Contralto**

**A. BELL WALKER, Tenor**

**ROBERT EASTON, Bass**

Full Chorus and Orchestra.

Leader: REGINALD STEAD (Hallè Orchestra)

Pianist: FRANK BERRY, A.R.C.O., L.R.A.M.

Conductor: ERNEST CRAIG.

Secretary: FRED TETLOW, 248, Frederick Street, Oldham.

F. Schofield Royton. Tel. MAIn (Oldham) 2175



MAYOR'S PARLOUR,  
TOWN HALL,  
OLDHAM.

December 18th 1935.

Dear Mr. Craig,

I feel compelled to write this letter in order to express to you my sincere appreciation of your rendering of Handel's "Messiah" in the Co-operative Hall, King Street, last night.

It was one of the most successful performances I have ever attended, and I have listened to this work rendered by the Glasgow Orpheans and by the Sheffield Choir under Dr. Coward.

In common with the rest of the audience I was held enthralled.

Therefore, I wish to express to you as Conductor, to the artistes, the orchestra and the choir my very best thanks for the excellent musical feast which you provided.

With every good wish for Christmas and the New Year, and for the success of the Oldham Musical Society in its efforts,

Believe me,  
Yours sincerely,

*Robt. W. Bainbridge*

MAYOR.

Ernest Craig, Esq.,  
C/o The Hon. Secretary,  
Oldham Musical Society,  
248, Frederick St.,  
Oldham.



# The "Messiah" By Oldham Musical Society

## EVERGREEN ANNUAL PERFORMANCE

Few musical compositions have stood the test of time as well as "The Messiah" and there was again a very large audience to hear the Oldham Musical Society's annual rendering of Handel's work at the King Street Co-operative Hall on Tuesday night. Excerpts from the Messiah are given at most of the churches and chapels at this season of the year and many members of the Society assist. They are invariably in good fettle for their own annual performance, which rallies singers and music-lovers in a discerning and very appreciative gathering.

Tuesday night's rendering, if not up to the previous highest standards of the society, was again very good, and in places deeply moving. If there is one thing that lovers of oratorio music can rely on from Mr. Ernest Craig it is steadiness and reverent regard for the religious significance of the work. There were no stunts in Mr. Craig's conducting, which was accurate and sensitive rather than spectacular. Technically he was very sure and invariably obtained a clean and sharp attack, and the choir, under his extremely watchful eye, sustained a fine evenness of line throughout the big fugal choruses.

C. H. WOOD  
(JOHN H. BAINBRIDGE)

Telephones :  
Allswoth 1102  
SHton 1083  
DEAnsgate 4214

401/3, M

ALSO AT MANCHESTER AND

## Magnificent Style

The choir was splendidly balanced. The fortissimo passages were sung in magnificent declamatory style and intensified with some brilliant tone by the sopranos. Mr. Craig secured some very beautiful singing in "His Yoke is Easy," "Lift Up Your Heads" and in the "Hallelujah Chorus." In the second half of the programme there was a very fine collaboration between the singers and the conductor which was expressed with stirring musical grandeur in Handel's climaxes. Altogether the choir had a very good night.

The soloists, to whom Mr. Craig allowed every latitude of individual expression were: Miss Garda Hall (soprano), Miss Sara Buckley (contralto), Mr. A. Bell Walker (tenor), and Mr. Robert Easton (bass). Mr. Walker was the one who sang with the entire vocal freedom and exaltation of expression of the true oratorio singer. His voice is of a very fine calibre, and there was poignance and rich effect in everything he sang.

Mr. Easton sang like the cultivated artist he is, and what some of the old-fashioned Messiah lovers might have missed in his declamation, which was clear, but by no means excessively fiery, he compensated them with an interpretation which was marked by an intelligent and most distinguished musicianship.

## Simplicity the Keynote

Miss Buckley also was more successful in the reflective passages. She seemed to remain on the outer edge of some of her solos, but it was a most pleasing experience to hear a contralto keeping so restrainedly within the range of the music. With this simplicity which seemed to be the keynote of her singing Miss Buckley, who has a sure knowledge of the work, added very considerably to the dignity and the strength of the whole performance.

Miss Hall had all the qualities of feeling and expression to invest the soprano solos with true beauty. Aided by a tone of uncommon purity and resilience she was able to rise almost to the full bravery of "Rejoice Greatly." Her singing throughout was a delightful experience.

The accompaniment was supplied as usual by an orchestra which had Mr. Reginald Stead of the Hallé Orchestra as leader. The pianist was Mr. Frank Berry.



## GOLD MEDAL BAKERY

### OLDHAM MUSICAL SOCIETY GIVE "THE MESSIAH"

#### FINE RENDERING BY CHORUS AND SOLOISTS

A big audience gathered in King Street Co-operative Hall on Tuesday evening to hear the Oldham Musical Society's rendering of Handel's "Messiah."

Mr. Ernest Craig conducted with a fine understanding of the deep religious significance of the music, and his technique was perfect.

The choir was splendidly balanced. The fortissimo passages were sung in magnificent declamatory style and intensified with some brilliant tone by the sopranos. Mr. Craig secured some very beautiful singing in "His Yoke is Easy," "Lift Up Your Heads" and in the "Hallelujah Chorus." In the second half of the programme there was a very fine collaboration between the singers and the conductor which was expressed with stirring musical grandeur in Handel's climaxes. Altogether the choir had a very good night.

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OLDHAM STANDARD

DEC 20TH 1935

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