



66th SEASON — 1950-51

Oldham Musical Society

President: Miss Marjory Lees. Chairman: Frank Whittaker, Esq.

Vice-Presidents: Ernest Lord, Esq., Fred Thompson, Esq.
Ernest Craig, Esq.

Presents

Concert Version of the Opera

“CARMEN”

(Bizet)

In the GREENACRES HALL, on
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31st, 1950, at 7-15 p.m.

Under the gracious patronage of the Mayor and Mayoress
Alderman and Mrs. Kershaw and the Chief
Constable W. E. Schofield, O.B.E.

Characters:

MICAELA (Soprano) - AGNES MOSELEY
CARMEN (Mezzo-Soprano) - JANET HOWE
DON JOSE (Tenor) - HEDDLE NASH
ESCAMILLO (Baritone) - ARTHUR COPLEY

Choruses by the Oldham Musical Society

Leader of Orchestra: FRED BROUGH.

Conductor: ERNEST CRAIG, A.R.C.M.

Accompanist: FRANK BERRY, F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M.

PROGRAMME - THREEPENCE

Hon. Secretary: S. MILLS, 134 Birch Avenue, Chadderton.

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OLDHAM MUSICAL SOCIETY'S— 'CARMEN'

OLDHAM MUSICAL SOCIETY'S concert version of Bizet's "Carmen," given at the Greenacres Hall on Tuesday, attracted a large crowd. "Carmen," of all operas, is not particularly adaptable to the concert platform, but imaginative singing from the soloists brought out a great deal of the opera's charm. There were parts where orchestra and chorus combined together with remarkable beauty, and there were other parts where they were only adequate.

Janet Howe (contralto) carried

the burden of principal well. Her expression and singing made hers the most noticeable performance of the evening, although in the duets her strength tended to overweight the Carmen side of the balance.

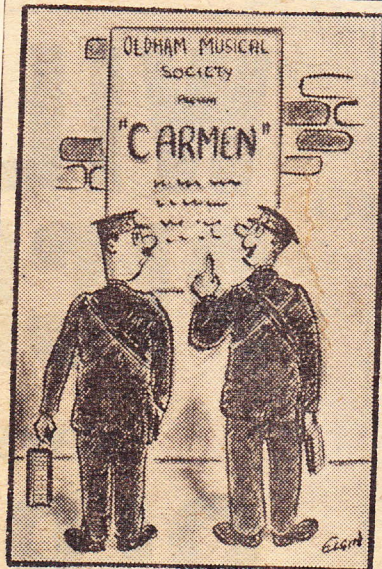
Heddie Nash (tenor) was not at his best as Don Jose, but he sang with characteristic verve, using his voice as a medium for both music and expression. Arthur Copley's Escamillo helped the imagination to remember the boastful and arrogant toreador. Mr. Copley worked hard and successfully to overcome the platform atmosphere.

The orchestra struck one of their less inspired patches with Agnes Moseley (soprano). Miss Moseley is sweet, rather than strong, with a voice more at home in ballad than opera. The woodwind section rode roughshod over the singing, and Miss Moseley's solos suffered.

The chorus work was, on the whole, substantial, in parts they worked close to beauty, in others they were hesitant, and spoiled the soloists' work. For the most part, however, they worked well and confidently.

The orchestra, under Ernest Craig and led by Fred Brough, has improved noticeably since last year in the string instruments but the "company of gentle blowers" have still room for improvement.

The second half of the concert comprised solos and chorus work from operas and folk songs. A.G.



"It can't be about us
—we're busmen."

Cattle feeding stuffs racket,