



Members of the National Federation of Music Societies

SIXTY-SEVENTH SEASON

Oldham Musical Society

THE

"MESSIAH"

HANDEL

In the GAUMONT THEATRE

(By kind permission of the Directors and Management)

On SUNDAY, 2nd DECEMBER, 1951

Commence 2-0 p.m.

Under the gracious patronage of His Worship the Mayor & Mayoress
Alderman and Mrs. Lord and the Chief
Constable W. E. Schofield, O.B.E.

Principals:

ADA ALSOP, Soprano
MURIEL GALE, Contralto
WILLIAM HERBERT, Tenor
GEORGE ALLEN, Bass

The Musical Society's Choir and Orchestra

Leader: Fred Brough.

Solo Trumpet: Cecil Kidd.

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

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

PROGRAMME - SIXPENCE

This Concert is given with the support of the Arts Council
of Great Britain.

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The audience is kindly requested not to applaud between the items

PROGRAMME — PART I.

CHRISTMAS HYMN.

Christians, awake, salute the happy morn
Whereon the Saviour of mankind was born;
Rise to adore the mystery of love,
Which hosts of angels chanted from above:
With them the joyful tidings first begun

C

- 1—Ove
- 2—Rec
- 3—Air
- 4—Chc
- 5—Rec
- 6—Air
- 7—Rec
- 8—Air
- 9—Rec
- 10—Air

After the overture, the audience may well have held their breath, for the tenor's opening solo can set the atmosphere for the performance. Mr. William Herbert's "Comfort Ye" gave the audience confidence in choir, orchestra and soloists.

Miss Ada Alsop (soprano) sang her few solos with particularly sweet tone. He voice was clear and had the strength necessary for a large theatre. "I know that my Redeemer liveth" recaptured the audience's attention after the brilliant climax of the Hallelujah chorus.

The bass soloist's several important solos were ably sung by Mr. George Allen. The most difficult aria, "The trumpet shall sound," gave full scope for his powerful voice, and he was well supported in this by Mr. Cecil Kidd, playing solo trumpet.

Miss Muriel Gale (contralto) has a mature and rich voice which seemed at its best in the air, "He was despised," and the recitative, "Behold a Virgin shall conceive."

- 11—Chorus For unto us a child is born
- 12—Pastoral Symphony
- 13—Recit They were Shepherds
- Recit And lo! the Angel of the Lord
- 14—Recit And the Angel said unto them
- 15—Recit And suddenly
- 16—Chorus Glory to God in the highest
- 17—Air Rejoice greatly
- 18—Recit Then shall the eyes of the blind
- 19—Air He shall feed His flock
- 20—Chorus His yoke is easy
- 21—Chorus Behold the Lamb of God
- 22—Air He was despised
- 23—Chorus Surely He hath borne our griefs
- 24—Chorus And with His stripes

Good singing and playing in 'Messiah'

OLDHAM MUSICAL SOCIETY has established a high reputation in their annual performance of "Messiah," and on Sunday, at the Gaumont, the singing and orchestral work provided yet another success.

The choruses were sung with such a complete familiarity with the music, that it is to Mr. Ernest Craig's credit that he, as conductor, never let this familiarity dull the edge of either the devotion of the quiet passages (such as "Surely He hath borne out griefs") or the rejoicing in the words, "Glory to God in the highest."

The two quartets were taken by the choir and were good examples of the almost complete unity one could hear throughout their singing.

The Society's orchestra (leader Mr. Fred Brough) was accurate and inspiring, never seeming to sink to the role of a mere accompanist, but keeping its own place in interpreting Handel's music.

Proof of the high standard of play came in that quiet and beautiful interlude, the Pastoral Symphony. Careful training of the strings reaped its reward in this. And the whole performance was enhanced by Frank Berry on the organ.

Audience confident

- 38—Chorus Hallelujah
- 39—Air I know that my Redeemer liveth
- 40—Quartette Since by man came death
- 41—Chorus By man came also
- 42—Quartette For as in Adam all die
- 43—Chorus Even so in Christ
- 44—Air The trumpet shall sound
- Solo Trumpet: Cecil Kidd.
- 45—Chorus Worthy is the Lamb
- 46—Chorus Amen

Our grateful thanks are due to the Gaumont Manager and Staff for their valuable assistance.