

# CENTENARY SEASON 1984-1985



OLDHAM  
□□  
□□□□  
□ CHORAL  
SOCIETY

SOUVENIR  
PROGRAMME

# **OLDHAM CHORAL SOCIETY**

## **FOUNDED IN 1884**

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**DAME EVA TURNER D.B.E.**  
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**John Price**  
**Peter Quan**

#### **Accompanist**

**Sylvia Hoare**

#### **Musical Director & Conductor**

**John Bethell**



LONDON

9.2.84

When I was approached to become the first Patron of the Oldham Choral Society, on the occasion of the Centennial Year, I felt greatly honoured and privileged.

I accepted happily, and at the same time with humility, in view of my own association with the City of Oldham which two years ago paid me the great honour of making me the First Freeman of the Metropolitan Borough. On that occasion I was greatly touched, and now my birthplace pays me another signal honour of which I am enormously proud, especially on this last occasion, so closely associated with my life's work which, as you well know, is music, which gives me a warm feeling of really belonging to you all.

Your achievement of a hundred years of existence is indeed a fact which all of you, in whatever you are, or have been associated, gives you the right to be justly proud in the same way that I feel deeply honoured and enormously happy to belong to my home town, The Metropolitan Borough of Oldham.

May it go from strength to strength in every worthwhile direction, so that in 1994 all those around will feel as happy about Music and Oldham as we do today.

All best wishes for overflowing success,

Warmest Greetings

*Eva Turner.*



## MUSICAL DIRECTOR AND PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR 1971 —

**JOHN BETHELL** is a person highly placed and appreciated in the world of music. Musician, Administrator, Conductor and Archivist, he is widely experienced in all aspects of the Arts, giving constant encouragement, assistance and advice to a wide spectrum of activities, and has created a unique reputation for himself. He is indifatigable in his devotion to music.

A Mancunian by birth, John Bethell began his musical career at the age of six when he became a member of St. Clement's, Urmston, choir, where his great-grandfather had been the first organist. When John Bethell joined the choir the organist was George William Hilditch, with whom he later studied the piano and organ. His interests also included drama and he became a member of the local society, later taking the position of Producer. However, it was obvious that Music was fast becoming his chief interest and he was appointed organist at Urmston Methodist Church. His second appointment as organist was at St. Stephen with St. Mark Hulme, which lasted from 1956 to 1966 when the church closed due to re-development of the area. He then accepted the appointment of organist and choirmaster at St. Bride's Old Trafford, which post he relinquished in 1972.

It was in 1956 that John Bethell joined the BBC in Manchester, and was appointed in 1960 to his present post as Music Librarian. Throughout his career with the BBC he has travelled extensively throughout the world with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra. He has been privileged to work with hundreds of distinguished artistes and conductors, including Barbirolli, Boult, Bliss, Horenstein, Monteux and Sargeant. Since 1966 he has been in much demand as a conductor of operettas and musicals, conducting performances for Didsbury, Gorton, Rochdale, Salford, Urmston, West Manchester and Manchester University G & S Society. For three years he was assistant conductor of the North Manchester Symphony Orchestra, and has also been a guest conductor with a number of well known brass bands and the CWS Male Voice Choir.

In 1965 he became conductor of the Flixton Townswomen's Guild, being invited in 1970 to conduct the South Federation of Townswomens Guilds choir, which has given annual performances in Manchester Cathedral, Sale Music Festival and other venues. In 1971 he accepted his present position as conductor of Oldham Choral Society who, in December 1971, combined under his direction with Gorton Philharmonic Orchestra in the Free Trade Hall Manchester. In 1973 he was invited to conduct the annual Catenian Christmas Concert in the Free Trade Hall and assisted in 1974 in the formation of an all schools orchestra from the Manchester area of Catholic schools. He was presented with a specially designed gold medal by the Catenian Association for his services to music, in 1978.

He is also very active in music making in the Isle of Man and was invited by the Governor in 1966 to become a member of the Arts Council. The Manx Festival Chorus was founded the following year and he was appointed Artistic Director and Chorus Master, which means that he commutes regularly to the Isle of Man. The Manx Festival Chorus and the Oldham Choral Society have combined on several occasions, both in the Isle of Man and in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Oldham, for performances of "Dream of Gerontius", "Messiah", "Elijah" and Rossini's "Petite Messe".

In 1971 HM The Queen, Prince Philip, Princess Anne and Earl Mountbatten visited the Isle of Man and John Bethell was presented to the Royal Party.

He conducts brass bands on the island and has many connections there, being the General Administrator of the Erin Arts Centre and a member of the Management Committee of the Gaiety Theatre. He founded the Mananan Festival of Music and the Arts in 1975, of which he is Festival Director, and is also joint director/chairman of the International Competition and Workshops for Double Bass and Viola, which take place annually in Port Erin.

Opera has always been one of his chief interests and he has attended performances at many of the leading opera houses in Europe, Russia, Canada, America and Hong Kong.

In his spare time — yes he does manage to find some — he likes walking, swimming and gardening, and eating good food. He is also a speaker/lecturer at luncheons, dinners, etc., and his lecture "Living with Crotchets and Quavers" has become widely appreciated by many groups throughout the British Isles.



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As at March 1st 1984. If there are any  
 omissions on the above list please notify  
 Alma Harvey and accept our sincere  
 apologies.

The National Federation of Music Societies, to which the Oldham Choral Society is affiliated,  
 supports our concerts with funds provided by the Arts Council of Great Britain. We are greatly  
 indebted to Oldham Metropolitan Borough and The North West Arts Association for their  
 continued financial help. Also to the Vicars and Wardens of Oldham Parish Church; the Vicar and  
 Wardens of St. Pauls Church, Royton; the Management and Staff of Queen Elizabeth Hall; all  
 our Patrons, Supporters and Advertisers.

# CELEBRATION WEEKEND

*Friday 9th March  
7.30pm for 8.00pm*

## ANNUAL DINNER

*Guest: Marjorie Thomas*

Belgrade Hotel, Oldham

Tickets: £8.50 inc Evening Dress

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*Saturday 10th March 1984  
7.30pm*

Queen Elizabeth Hall, Oldham

## OLDHAM CHORAL SOCIETY (1884 - 1984) CENTENARY GALA CONCERT

Raimund Herinx (*bass*)      James Shepherd (*trumpet*)

Leylands Vehicles Band

*Conducted by*

John Bethell      Richard Evans

### PROGRAMME

**Part 1.**      *Conductor: John Bethell*

Fanfare .....	<i>Bliss</i>
National Anthem <i>Stand on roll - Marston</i> .....	<i>SL</i>
<i>40</i> Old Hundredth Psalm Tune .....	<i>R. V. Williams</i>
The Trumpeter .....	<i>Airlie Dix</i>
March: Crown Imperial .....	<i>Walton</i>
Chorus of Hebrew Slaves 'Va Pensiero' (Nabucco) .....	<i>Verdi</i>
Grand March, Finale Act 2 (Aida) .....	<i>Verdi</i>
The Trumpet Shall Sound (Messiah) .....	<i>Handel</i>
Hallelujah Chorus (Messiah) .....	<i>P. 70 Handel</i>

*Interval of 20 minutes*

## SIR EDWARD ELGAR

born 2nd June 1857

died 23rd February 1934

It is particularly appropriate that our centenary season should conclude with these two works. Elgar intended to write a third oratorio dealing with the after life but it was never written. It was envisaged performing the three on the morning, afternoon and evening of the same day. Mr. Bethell has featured the choral works of Elgar in our programmes since 1976 and as a tribute to him we shall perform the two oratorios, The Apostles and The Kingdom on consecutive days at St. Paul's Church, Royton.

### THE APOSTLES

An Oratorio  
Saturday 2nd March  
7.30pm

### THE KINGDOM

An Oratorio  
Sunday 3rd March  
2.30pm

Russell Medley  
(organ)

The Blessed Virgin .....Roslyn Riley .....(soprano)  
The Angel .....Rachael Robins .....(soprano)  
Mary Magdalene .....Yvonne Lea .....(contralto)  
St. John .....Grenville Heath .....(tenor)  
St. Peter .....Christopher Underwood ....(bass)  
Judas.....Mark Holland .....(bass)  
Jesus .....Clive Bayley.....(bass)

Conductor  
John Bethell

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## CONCERT TICKETS

All tickets for concerts in the season  
may be obtained from:-

### Hon. Ticket Secretary

Jessie Eastwood  
54 Cheviot Avenue  
Oldham OL8 6HS.  
061-624 3345

or from the Hon. Secretary or  
any member of the Chorus.

Tickets available one month before  
each concert. £1.50; £1.00

Please support the Choral Society



## OFFICIAL ACCOMPANIST 1980 —



Sylvia Hoare studied piano at the Berkshire Conservatoire of Music in Reading, gaining her L.R.A.M. Teacher's diploma in 1951.

Soon after coming to live in Saddleworth she joined Saddleworth Musical Society and has been their principal accompanist for the past twenty-six years, recently being awarded the NODA long-service medal. Sylvia has accompanied nationally known and local artists, including Carol and Stuart Hunter when they were the winners of the television programme 'A Good Sing'.

Other musical activities have included teaching music and playing for a great variety of functions. Sylvia is one of the organists at Greenfield Methodist Church, and also very actively involved at the church in their many and varied productions.

She joined Oldham Choral Society in 1980 and enjoys both the major choral works which the society presents and the more light-hearted repertoire. Her musical taste is very catholic which is perhaps a good thing when she is called upon to accompany a very wide range of music.

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## CHOIR MEMBERSHIP 1984/5

### *Sopranos*

E. Anchor  
M. Atkinson  
E. Bentley  
J. Bromley  
H. Cartwright  
J. Collins  
E. Coyle  
E. Dale  
B. Dewhurst  
S. Drinkwater  
N. Greenwood  
A. Hadfield  
M. Harrison  
N. Hartley  
K. Hodson  
W. Holroyd  
M. Hood  
N. Hughes  
M. Jones  
D. Kidd  
E. Lord  
M. McManus  
H. Mills  
M. Ormshaw  
M. Owen  
B. Robson  
H. Rosebury  
W. Stamp  
J. Tate  
B. Williams  
D. Winfield  
M. Wright  
P. Wood

### *Contraltos*

S. Andrew  
A. Corser  
R. Corser  
V. Craig  
E. Dickinson  
M. English  
P. Graham  
C. Grime  
A. Harvey  
S. Hoare  
T. Lennox  
E. McAdam  
A. Moores  
F. Moore  
N. Murphy  
S. Pattison  
G. Pugsley  
J. Rostron  
N. Scott  
N. Sessions  
M. Smith  
E. Turner  
J. Walton  
M. Wills  
J. Youd

### *Tenors*

P. Bowden  
R. Clayton  
R. Craig  
R. Franklin  
J. Hall  
D. Hallett  
A. Insull  
A. Mellor  
K. Potts  
R. Pugsley  
W. Tate  
P. Waters

### *Basses*

D. Baird  
D. Davies  
N. Dewhurst  
W. English  
G. Evans  
R. Evans  
A. Garside  
R. Hartley  
N. Hill  
R. Hill  
D. Hudson  
F. Jones  
T. Jones  
H. Kirkland  
H. Moores  
W. Murphy  
B. Ormshaw  
G. Osbourn  
J. Price  
P. Quan  
E. Sessions  
A. Wilson

*Accompanist:* Sylvia Hoare

*Librarian:* William English

*Choir Secretary:* Brian Ormshaw

**Concert Tickets:** All tickets for concerts may be obtained from Jessie Eastwood, 54 Cheviot Avenue, Oldham OL8 6HS. Tel: 624 3345 or from any member of the chorus one month before each concert, **£1.50; £1.00.**



*Oldham Choral Society, March 1984*

# OLDHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

## FOUNDED IN 1884

### In Retrospect

The Society originated in 1884 as "The Werneth Gentlemen's Vocal Society" under the baton of Michael Turner. Later, ladies were admitted and the word "Gentlemen" dropped from the title. In 1890 Robert Jackson, organist of St. Peter's Church and famous for his tune to "While Shepherds", became Conductor and under his baton the choir prospered and became famous beyond the Oldham area. In consequence the name was changed in 1896 to Oldham Musical Society. Harry Brookes, the Society's accompanist, took over from Robert Jackson upon his retirement in 1900. He became a Doctor of Music in 1914, and under his direction the Society again prospered until war conditions terminated its activities in 1916.

After the War, in the early twenties the choir was revived under the aegis of the Oldham Orchestral Society for joint concerts under Walter Mudie, the conductor of the Orchestral Society. Ernest Craig, the leader of the Orchestra, was appointed Chorus Master. This was a short lived arrangement and Ernest Craig left to go to Crompton.

The Oldham Musical Society decided to become an independent organisation once again, and persuaded Ernest Craig to return as its Musical Director. In 1925 activities were fully resumed with the promotion of an annual season of three Subscription Concerts. Thus was established a regular pattern to last for over 40 years — an Autumn Concert with orchestra, a Christmas "Messiah", again with orchestra, and a Spring Concert, mostly in the latter post War II years, without orchestra. Although it suspended activities during World War I, the Society managed to maintain its concerts throughout World War II. Special fund raising concerts were also given for events such as "War Weapons Week". A Sunday afternoon performance of "Merrie England" with Webster Booth and Anne Ziegler, in the Odeon shortly after the end of the War was so quickly sold out that it had to be repeated in the evening. On another Sunday the Society gave two performances of "Messiah". "Messiah" concerts were usually given in theatres on a Sunday afternoon to accommodate the demand for seats. The Empire, The Odeon and The Gaumont were used, but the Society's regular venue was the King St. Co-op Hall until stage alterations made it unsuitable. Thereafter, Hill Stores Co-op Hall was used until that closed down.

Ernest Craig occupied the position of Musical Director for 27 years until ill-health forced his retirement in 1952. The Conductor's Rostrum was presented to the Society by his family, as a memorial to his great love of and long service to music in Oldham.

Fred Brough, sometime leader of the BBC Northern Orchestra and who had led the orchestra for the Society for a number of years, took over the baton laid down by Ernest Craig. During that 40 year period, the Society was able to bring to the Town some of the most outstanding artists of the British Concert platform. Norman Allin, Stiles Allen, Norman Walker, Heddle Nash, Kathleen Ferrier, Peter Pears, Constance Shacklock, Isobel Baillie, Marjorie Thomas, Louis Kentner, Leon Goossens, Janet Baker, Norma Proctor are just a few of the names that rush to mind.

Following Fred Brough's retirement came a difficult period of instability. Musical Directorship passed through the hands of Alan Cowell, James Wild and T.J. Longstaff in a few short years. The J.T. Hilton Hall became the Society's venue for concerts for a time, then Hathershaw School, Breezehill School, and Oldham Parish Church. St. Peter's School on Union Street which, after the Friends Meeting House, had been the rehearsal room for two or three decades, was demolished. There were also frequent changes in the Administration.

In 1971 John Bethell came to the Society as its Musical Director. During his tenure there has been a considerable extension in the repertoire, and the number of concerts per season has also increased. The choir has appeared on BBC TV, has joined with the Manx Festival Chorus (of which Mr. Bethell is also conductor) in concerts in the Isle of Man, and given performances in the Manchester area out of Oldham. Some few years ago the choir had its biggest membership ever.

Changes in leisure activities, radio, and most of all television, have considerably depleted concert audiences. Inflation has escalated costs and performers' fees. Rarely indeed can the Society now afford to engage orchestral players, or international artists. We now have to engage promising young artists. These changes have resulted in the demise of many long established Societies. That we have survived for 99 years when so many concerts result in financial loss, is only due to the tremendous support from friends of the Society and the dedication of long serving officials. One should mention Ernest Craig, Frank Berry (accompanist), Arnold Eastwood (successively treasurer, accompanist, chorus master, and chairman) and Sidney Mills, the longest serving secretary, and now Vice President, together with the present President & Chairman.

Still the Society moved around in search for a venue. Royton Assembly Hall was tried, but found to be difficult acoustically, and so the coming of the Queen Elizabeth Hall was eagerly awaited. Way back in the '30s the then officials looked forward to the civic hall promised in a development plan. Bolton, Blackburn, Rochdale, etc., had their civic halls, while Oldham had to rely on the Co-op. Unfortunately, it took until 1978 for the dream to materialise. In that year too, the Society decided to change its name to a more realistic title — Oldham Choral Society. Under its new name, the Society was proud to be invited to close the inaugural programme with a "Proms" Concert. It was a great occasion, a fitting celebration for the opening of such a beautiful hall. We had hopes that it would become our regular venue, home at last. Regretfully, dwindling audiences have decreed otherwise, and for many of our audiences the Queen Elizabeth Hall is too big. Once again the Society has of necessity become peripatetic. We greatly appreciate the hospitality we receive from Vicars and Wardens of Oldham Parish Church and St. Paul's Royton.

Looking back, once can say that we have struggled and survived. Looking forward we say "What we have done once, we can do again". We tender our most sincere thanks to all former Subscribers, friends of the Society both past and present, and all who have helped us in any way to make this Centenary. Here's to a bright future.



# OLDHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

## Conductors

Michael Turner	1884 — 1890
Robert Jackson	1890 — 1900
Harry Brookes	1900 — 1916
Ernest Craig	1925 — 1952
Fred Brough	1952 — 1961
Alan Cowell	1961 — 1966
James Wild	1966 — 1968
Jack Longstaff	1969 — 1971
John Bethell	1971 —

## Repertoire

Bach	Christmas (Oratorio (S.248)	1976
Bach	St. Matthew Passion (S.244)	1967
Bizet	Carmen (Concert Version)	1937, 1950, 1958, 1971,
Boughton	Bethlehem	1981
Brahms	German Requiem Opus 45	1974, 1982
Britten	St. Nicholas Opus 42	1965
Coleridge-Taylor	The Song of Hiawatha Opus 30/1,2 & 4	1947, 1961, 1978
Dyson	The Canterbury Pilgrims	1983
Elgar	The Apostles Opus 49	1981
Elgar	The Dream of Gerontius Opus 38	1976
Elgar	From The Bavarian Highlands Opus 27	1905, 1954
Elgar	The Kingdom Opus 51	1977
Elgar	The Light of Life (Lux Christi) Opus 29	1980
Elgar	The Music Makers Opus 69	1955, 1967
Faure	Requiem Opus 48	1960, 1978
German	Merrie England (Concert Version)	1939, 1940, 1941, 1949, 1971, 1977
Gershwin	Porgy and Bess (Concert Version)	1980
Gounod	Faust (Concert Version)	1912, 1947, 1958, 1971
Handel	Judas Maccabeus	1909, 1975
Handel	Messiah	since 1909....
Harty	The Mystic Trumpeter	1954
Haydn	The Creation	1906, 1941, 1962, 1973, 1979
Horowitz	Captain Noah and His Floating Zoo	1972
Lloyd-Webber	Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat	1972
Lehar	The Merry Widow (Concert Version)	1981
Liszt	Psalm XIII	1979
Mascagni	Cavalleria Rusticana (Concert Version)	1966
Mendelssohn	Elijah Opus 70	1904, 1945, 1946, 1959, 1973, 1978, 1981
Mendelssohn	Lobgesang (Hymn of Praise) Opus 52	1913, 1948, 1957, 1978, 1983,
Mozart	Requiem K 626	1983
Offenbach	The Tales of Hoffmann (Concert Version)	1945, 1952, 1964
Parry	Blest Pair of Sirens	1936
Purcell	Ode for St. Cecilia's Day "Hail Bright Cecilia"	1982
Purcell	Te Deum Laudamus in D (St. Cecilia's Day 1694)	1982
Purcell	Jubilate Deo in D (St. Cecilia's Day 1694)	1982
Purcell	Dido and Aeneas (Concert Version)	1963
Rossini	Mass 'Petite Messe Solennelle'	1979, 1982
Saint-Saens	Samson Et Dalila Opus 47 (Concert Version)	1949
Smart	The Bride of Dunkerron	1912
Smetana	The Bartered Bride (Concert Version)	1951, 1956, 1967, 1974
Stainer	The Crucifixion	1972, 1977
Sullivan	The Golden Legend	1911
Sullivan	The Prodigal Son	1911
Gilbert/Sullivan	The Mikado (Concert Version)	1980
Gilbert/Sullivan	Ruddigore, or The Witches' Curse (Concert Version)	1973
Gilbert/Sullivan	The Yeoman of the Guard (Concert Version)	1979
Vaughan Williams	Symphony No.1 'Sea Symphony'	1933
Verdi	Aida (Concert Version)	1983
Vivaldi	Gloria in D	1974, 1980, 1982
Wallace	Maritana (Concert Version)	1938
Williamson	The World At The Manager	1977
The Life and Music of Ivor Novello		1978
The Life and Music of Lerner and Loewe		1982
The Life and Music of Rodgers and Hammerstein		1981
An Evening with Dr. Evadne Hinge and Dame Hilda Bracket		1980
Carol, Christmas and Miscellaneous Concerts		since 1884....

During recent years the Society Chorus have sung with the BBC Northern Symphony Orchestra (now BBC Philharmonic), The Handel Orchestra, Liverpool Concert Orchestra, Royal Northern College of Music Orchestra and Bess o'th' Barn, Boarshurst, Leyland Vehicles, Wingates Brass Bands.

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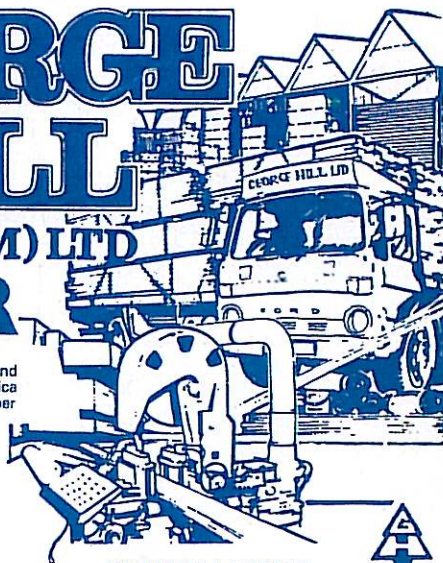
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