

**BANBURY SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA**
(Leader: Geoffrey Kent)

CONCERT

Trombone Soloist
MICHAEL SKITT

Conductor
JOHN ESAIAS

on Saturday 11th July at 8.00 pm 1987
in Bloxham Church

FINLANDIA - Tone Poem, Op.26

SIBELIUS

It was Finlandia which made the name Sibelius universally honoured. It became his nation's second national anthem, and had he received royalties from his publisher for this score the composer would have made a fortune in his own lifetime!

Sibelius realised it was no masterpiece, just highly effective nationalist music, the theme of which he claimed simply came to him naturally.

TROMBONE CONCERTO

MARK GODDARD

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| (i) | Prologue |
| (ii) | Aria |
| (iii) | Scherzo and Trio |
| (iv) | Canzona |
| (v) | Epilogue |

This Concerto was commissioned by the Burford Orchestra and was first performed by them under John Esaias with Mike Skitt in March 1986. The five movements form a symmetrical arch shape of fast-slow-fast-slow-fast. The Prologue ends in a passage marked "decay" from which grows the Aria - expansive melodic lines passed between Trombone and Orchestra. The aggression of the Scherzo melts briefly for a reflective Trio (solo violin and woodwind) and the Trombone's Cadenza. A lonely Cor Anglais immediately initialises the Canzona, followed by the jazzy Epilogue in "Rondo Form"; presenting a series of "send up" variations on themes heard previously. Here the style is less than dignified making use of swanee whistle, "Drum Kit" and muted brass.

INTERVAL

There will be an interval of 20 minutes during which coffee will be available.

SYMPHONY No.8 in G major, Op.88

DVORAK

- (i) Allegro con brio
- (ii) Adagio
- (iii) Allegretto grazioso
- (iv) Allegro ma non troppo

Dvorak's genius depended to a greater extent than most on sheer inspiration and an innate instinct for sound colour. The G major symphony is fundamentally based on the alternating tonalities of minor and major. The first and third movements rest firmly on G minor and major, the second on C minor and major, and the finale, which is a very free form of theme and variations, between G major and C minor. This in itself makes the work both novel and interesting, while the writing for the individual sections of the orchestra is so vital that performers derive as much pleasure from it as the listener. The writing for horns and violas is as varied as it is for any of the woodwind, and contributes its full share to the exuberance of the result.

Dvorak himself is reported to have said that in this symphony he wanted to write a work with individual ideas worked out in a new way. He succeeded in doing this and yet in giving the work an impression of unity which belies its unorthodoxy. Having done so, he first of all presented it to the Franz Josef Academy in Prague and then offered it as his "thesis" to the University of Cambridge on receiving an honorary Doctorate of Music.

JOHN ESAIAS

John Esaias studied the oboe whilst at school with David Theodore and was a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales. Later, he studied with Anthony Camden at the Guildhall School of Music. He has played for several leading BBC orchestras, including the BBC Symphony Orchestra and was for some years principal oboe/cor anglais with the BBC Radio Orchestra, Manchester. He is now an active performer, teacher and conductor in the Oxford area and has conducted the Burford Orchestra for the last five years. Earlier this year, John gave a series of concerts in Spain with the wind quintet 'Five Winds'.

MICHAEL SKITT

Michael Skitt started playing the trombone at the age of eleven with a local Brass Band teacher in Telford. Whilst still at school, he continued trombone studies with John Powell (Bass Trombone, CBSO). In 1974 he entered the Royal Northern College of Music to study Trombone with Terry Nagle (former principal trombone with the Halle Orchestra). During this time he also studied Brass Ensemble repertoire with members of the Philip Jones Brass Ensemble. In 1978 he graduated from the Royal Northern College and went on to take a PGCE course at Rolle College Exmouth.

Since 1979 Michael has been teaching, conducting and performing in the Oxford area and performs regularly with Warwickshire Symphony Orchestra and Beauchamp Sinfonietta. Currently he is working alongside other local Brass players on the formation of a new Brass Ensemble.

MARK GODDARD

Mark Goddard was born in Aylesbury in 1960, and was educated at Cheney School Oxford. In 1978 he entered the Royal Academy of Music to study Composition with Christopher Brown, gaining the GRSM and LRAM qualifications as well as "The Eric Coates Prize for Composition", the "Charles Lucas Prize", the "Howard Carr Prize" and six other awards including the "Capital Radio Music Colleges Composition Prize" which resulted in a performance in St John's Smith Square and subsequent broadcast on Capital Radio of "The Heat of the Sun". The "Leverhulme Scholarship for Composers" allowed a further year at the R.A.M. and in 1982 the "Countess of Munster Musical Trust" agreed to finance a series of visits to European Music Festivals including the "Nordic Music Days" in Oslo.

His music has been widely performed in the London, Cambridge and Oxford areas including on Radio Oxford, and his first piece to be published, "Counting the days" (for solo guitar), came out last year. He is currently supported by the Arts Council of Great Britain and is working on a commission from The Oxford Symphony Orchestra.

The Orchestra wish to thank the Vicar, Church Wardens and congregation for their help and assistance in allowing this concert to take place in the Church.

There are vacancies in some sections of the Orchestra and anyone interested in joining should contact the Secretary, Sally Gale (Tel: Ban 54358).