

the whole clothed in an orchestral costume of great sensitivity. The words of the optional chorus were written to the music by Monsieur de Montesquion, the piece having been originally intended for the Danbe Concerts Orchestra.

**Symphony No.1 in C**

Allegro vivo

Adagio

Scherzo – allegro vivace

Finale – allegro vivace

**GEORGES BIZET**  
(1838 – 1875)

This amazing work written in 1855 by the seventeen year old composer rivals anything of comparable precocity wrought by either Mozart or Mendelssohn and yet it had to wait until 1935 for its first performance conducted by Weingartner!

Composed for a classical sized orchestra with four horns, it is also in the classical four movement form. Apart from the shades of Mozart, Rossini and perhaps Mendelssohn much of the music was influenced by Gounod's first Symphony in D major, performed earlier in 1855.

After a lively first movement the Adagio with its sinuous oboe solo seems to suggest a different clime – and one faintly prophetic of "Carmen".

In the exuberant Scherzo the main theme also serves as the chief material for the Trio which features a drone – bass.

The Finale opens with a bustling figure on the strings, which with the following march-like passage on the wind, again seems to suggest the operatic world of "Carmen". Bizet told Saint-Saens that he felt that he was not suited to the symphony, but that he could do nothing without the theatre.

The second subject provides a lyrical contrast to the liveliness of the first while the vigour of the whole symphony is eloquently summed up by its jubilant closing bars.

Programme Notes by Robert Macfarlane

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**Chetham's School**

With four finalists in the 1982 BBC Young Musician of the Year Competition, and six in the 1984 Competition, the country at large is reminded of the level of achievement at Chetham's School. Peter Donohoe heads a formidable list of accomplished former pupils.

Chetham's is on the site of the twelfth century manor of Manchester and the school is said to be one of the largest groups of listed buildings in private ownership in the North. These are arranged round the original fifteenth century college, which is the heart of the modern school and also contains Chetham's Library, set up by the founder's Will and possibly the oldest free library in Europe. There are some 250 students at the school, aged between seven and eighteen. Entry is by audition and students are eligible for financial support from Central Government, putting Chetham's on a par with the Yehudi Menuhin School and the Royal Ballet School.

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**Michael Brewer**

Michael Brewer has been Director of Music at Chetham's School Manchester since 1975. He has shared the conducting of Chetham's Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra with distinguished visiting conductors and has taken orchestras from the School on numerous tours, many overseas. In March 1984, at the invitation of the GDR/Great Britain Friendship Society, he and the Chamber Orchestra went to East Germany giving major concerts in Berlin, Leipzig and Karl-Marx-Stadt.

Michael Brewer is also very active in the choral field. He has twice been the conductor of the winning choir in the 'Let the Peoples Sing' Competition. In 1979 this was with the Chetham's Chamber Choir. In 1983 the Choir went to Venezuela as guests of the Government there.

Since 1981 he has been conductor of the National Youth Choir of Great Britain. He is also conductor of the Chorus at the Royal College of Music and the Chorale at the Guildhall School of Music in London.

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**John Scott**

Born in Wakefield in 1956, John Scott studied with Ralph Downes and Gillian Weir and was an Organ Scholar at St John's College Cambridge. In 1977 he was the youngest ever organ soloist to appear at the Proms and in July 1981 he took part in the Royal Wedding. He won the Manchester International Organ Competition in 1978 and in 1984 was the first Western European to win the J S Bach Competition in Leipzig. His international career is developing rapidly and he has made several recordings.