

PHILHARMONIC CHOIR

MUNICIPAL ORCHESTRA

Leader: TATE GILDER

Guildford Corporation Concerts

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: VERNON HANDLEY

SATURDAY, 20th OCTOBER, 1962, at 7 p.m.

CIVIC HALL

Concert Version of

NABUCCO (*Verdi*)

Guest Conductor: IVOR JOHN

PROGRAMME - - SIXPENCE

CONCERT VERSION OF

NABUCCO *Verdi*

ABIGAIL	- - - - -	ELIZABETH VAUGHAN
FENENA	- - - - -	ANTONINA CHILD
ISHMAEL and ABDULLAH	-	ANDREW GOLD
NABUCCO	- - - - -	BRYAN DRAKE
ZACHARIAH	- - - - -	GERWYN MORGAN

THE STORY OF THE OPERA

ACT I. After the Sinfonia the curtain rises to show us the Jews praying for deliverance from the Assyrian invaders. They are in the temple of Solomon in Jerusalem and, as they pray, the priest Zachariah brings forward the hostage, Fenena, captured daughter of Nabucco. He encourages the Jews and exhorts them to have faith in Jehovah. We hear then from Ishmael that Nabucco is approaching and when Zachariah has departed the dialogue between Ishmael and Fenena shows us that they have been in love ever since Ishmael met her when on a visit to Babylon. Abigail, who is supposed to be Nabucco's daughter, arrives with some Babylonians disguised as Jews. She loves Ishmael and proposes to him that if he will return her love she will deliver him and his people, but Ishmael refuses. The Jews now return pressed by Nabucco's army and Nabucco himself. Zachariah defies Nabucco and threatens to kill Fenena, but Ishmael intervenes. The Act ends with Nabucco ordering the bondage of the Jews and the burning of the Temple.

ACT II. We are in the Palace at Babylon where Abigail has discovered that she is of low birth. She is determined, however, to surmount this indignity. The High Priest of Baal tells her that Nabucco has been reported dead and that the people want her as Queen, but that Fenena, who is Regent in her father's

absence, is planning to release the Jews. Abigail and the Priests plot against Fenena.

Elsewhere in the Palace, Zachariah prays to Jehovah. Then the Levites curse Ishmael for protecting Fenena but Anna points out to them that Fenena is now a Jew. Abdullah enters and warns of Abigail's approach. Abigail appears and is about to force Fenena to yield the Crown when Nabucco suddenly returns and seizes it. Power has gone to his head and, despite Zachariah's entreaties, he demands that all bow to him as a god. As he makes the demand he is struck by a thunderbolt. While he is in a state of confusion Abigail picks up the Crown.

ACT III. A Priest of Baal still demands of Abigail the death of the Jews and Fenena. Abigail persuades the mad Nabucco to sanction the death sentence realizing that it is Fenena he is condemning. He threatens to publish the evidence of Abigail's low birth, but she tears this evidence up before him. She tells him that he is now a prisoner.

The Chorus of Jews bewail their conditions but Zachariah berates them and again exhorts faith.

ACT IV. Nabucco is woken by a dream to see Fenena being led to execution. Penitent, he prays to Jehovah and thus his madness leaves him. This spectacle leads Abdullah to give Nabucco his sword and set him free. Nabucco vows to win back his Kingdom.

In the Temple of Baal, Zachariah prepares Fenena for her death but suddenly they hear cries of "Viva Nabucco". He rushes in and the idol disintegrates under his denunciation. Jehovah is then honoured by the released prisoners and the King hailed as a Servant of God. Abigail, full of remorse for her wickedness, poisons herself.

SUNDAY, 4th NOVEMBER, at 3 p.m.

Overture 'Coriolan'	Beethoven
Violin Concerto	Brahms
Brandenburg Concerto No. 3	Bach
Symphony No. 5	Beethoven

ERICK FRIEDMAN, Violin MUNICIPAL ORCHESTRA

Conductor: VERNON HANDLEY

SATURDAY, 17th NOVEMBER, at 7 p.m.

Overture 'Ruy Blas'	Mendelssohn
Toward the Unknown Region <i>(for Chorus and Orchestra)</i>	Vaughan Williams
Symphony No. 9 (Choral)	Beethoven
Soprano	Rae Woodland
Alto	Jean Allister
Tenor	Edward Byles
Bass	John Shirley-Quirk

FESTIVAL CHOIR MUNICIPAL ORCHESTRA

Conductor: VERNON HANDLEY

THURSDAY, 22nd NOVEMBER, at 8 p.m.

DANIEL WAYENBERG Pianoforte

Sonata No. 2 in D Minor, Opus 31	Beethoven
Four Etudes	Chopin
Opus 10, Nos. 1, 9, 7	
Opus 25, No. 9	
Nocturne in E Minor, Opus posthumous	Chopin
Scherzo No. 3 in C sharp Minor, Opus 39	Chopin
Sonata in B Minor	Liszt