C.W.S. Retail Co-operative Society Ltd.

(SWANSEA BRANCH)

A GRAND

BAND CONCERT

BY

THE C.W.S. (Manchester) BAND

(Runners up in the 1953 Championships)

By kind permission of the Directors of the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited

Conductor - - ALEX MORTIMER

Chairman :

Mr. A. E. SHOEMAKE (Chairman, Branch Advisory Committee)

to be held at the

PATTI PAVILION, SWANSEA

— ON —

SUNDAY, MAY 2nd, 1954

Evening Performance to commence 8.0 p.m.

PRICE OF ADMISSION - 1/6 **PROGRAMME 3d. EACH**

PROGRAMME

EVENING AT 8.0 p.m.

INTRODUCTION TO ACT III (Lohengrin)		*Wagner*
OVERTURE	Poet and Peasant	*Suppe*
LARGO FROM THE SYMPHONY No. 5 (from the New World)		*Dvorak*
CORNET SOLO	"Napoli"	*Bellstedt*
	(Soloist - KEITH CALDWELL)	
SELECTION FROM THE OPERA "Carmen"		*Bizet*

INTERVAL

SLAVONIC DANCE No. 8		*Dvorak*
EUPHONIUM SOLO	Lucy Long	*Godfrey*
	(Soloist - DENIS SMITH)	
RHAPSODY No. 2	(The Hungarian)	*Listz*
MEDITATION	Sanctuary of the Heart	*Ketelby*
MELODIES FROM THE FILM "Hans Christian Anderson"		*Loesser*

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

MR. ALEX MORTIMER



Mr. Alex Mortimer, the C.W.S. Band's Musical Director was born at Hebden Bridge in 1905. At the age of 10, he was playing Cornet with the Luton Red Cross Band. He tried his hand at almost every instrument in the Band before settling down to the Euphonium, and he was playing this instrument when the Luton Band won the National Championship at Crystal Palace in 1923. From 1924 to 1944, Mr. Mortimer was Euphonium Soloist with Fodens' Motor Works Band, and during this period, Fodens' won the National Championship seven times. In 1929, Mr. Mortimer joined the Halle Orchestra, and in 1939 the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. Between 1929 and 1940, he also did a great deal of work with the B.B.C. Northern Orchestra. In 1949, he returned to Brass Band work with the Scottish C.W.S. Band. Later the same year, he was appointed Musical Director to the Black Dyke Mills Band and conducted the Band when it won the National Championship in 1951.

Mr. Mortimer took over the Musical Directorship of the C.W.S Band in February this year.

C.W.S. (MANCHESTER) BAND

The Co-operative Wholesale Society Band was formed in September, 1900 by the late Mr. J. C. Gragg, Manager of the C.W.S. Tobacco Factory, and a number of enthusiastic employees at that works. As the C.W.S. Tobacco Factory Band it soon graduated from the the practice room to public performances, and in 1902 was chosen by Manchester Corporation as one of the Bands to play in the City parks on the occasion of the Coronation of King Ewward VII. Successes in many local Competitions followed, and in 1931 the Band had its first national success when, under the baton of Mr. J. A. Greenwood, well-known northern adjudicator and conductor, it won the Iles Shield at the Crystal Palace Championships. Under a number of famous conductors, the Band's success continued, and gave its first broadcast in 1934.

In 1938, membership of the Band was thrown open to C.W.S. employees from other C.W.S. establishments in the Manchester area, and headquarters were moved to Balloon Street.

During the 1939-45 war years, the Band, in common with most other Bands, had many difficulties to overcome, faced with continued changing personnel, rehearsals interrupted by air raid sirens, a high standard of music-making was maintained and recordings and broadcasts were carried through.

In 1946, the Band, recovering from the effects of war, underwent a further change, the Band was re-organised and re-named the "C.W.S. (Manchester) Band."

The Band has travelled extensively throughout the British Isles, and in 1951, undertook a highly successful tour of Switzerland. It is frequently heard over the B.B.C.'s network both home and overseas.

Its contest successes are as follows:—

WINNER OF THE BLACKPOOL FESTIVAL in 1942 and 1944; runner-up in 1943.

PRIZEWINNER IN THE DAILY HERALD NORTH-WEST AREA CHAMPIONSHIP, 1945-6-7-9-50-1-2-3-4.

FINALIST IN THE DAILY HERALD NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP, LONDON, 1946; and PRIZE-WINNER in 1950-1-3.

WINNER OF THE OPEN MARCH CHAMPIONSHIP OF GREAT BRITAIN, Belle Vue, Manchester, 1947.

WINNER OF THE BELLE VUE OPEN CHAMPION-SHIP OF GREAT BRITAIN, 1948-52.

WINNER OF THE CITY OF EDINBURGH FESTIVAL TROPHY, 1949-50. Runner-up in 1951-2-3.

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