

Biographies from the 1969-1970 Season Brochure

It is with pleasure and pride that the Ulster Orchestra welcomes the return of **EDGAR COSMA**, this time as Principal Conductor. Mr. Cosma is already known to Belfast audiences having conducted the orchestra in each season since its formation in 1966.

Edgar Cosma was born in Bucharest where he lived until emigrating to Paris in 1960. He was well-known to audiences in Rumania where he held several conducting appointments. He commenced his career in the West conducting the Brussels Philharmonic Orchestra in 1960 with, as soloist, Clara Haskil. His British debut came in May 1961 when he appeared on two occasions with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra before being re-invited for a further eight concerts in November. The following year he conducted on several occasions for the BBC and Radio Telefis Eireann. In 1963 Mr. Cosma toured extensively in South Africa, Australia and New Zealand conducting mainly for National Broadcasting Corporations. In the same year on the recommendation of Rubenstein he was engaged by the Israel Philharmonic for eight concerts but was contracted after the first for twenty-one. Since that time he has worked extensively on the Continent and been seen by many audiences throughout England.

Between conducting engagements Mr. Cosma has become known for his composition of incidental music for radio, ballet and film.

JANOS FÜRST was born in Hungary in 1935. He commenced his musical studies at an early age and until 1956 was a pupil at the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest. After leaving Hungary he went to Brussels to complete his studies at the Conservatoire.

In 1958 he joined the Radio Eireann Symphony Orchestra where he remained until 1966. During this time he played as violin soloist both in Ireland and abroad.

In 1964 he became Conductor and Musical Director of the Irish Chamber Orchestra, and during the next two years he and his orchestra received considerable acclaim.

In 1966 Janos Fürst became the leader of the newly formed Ulster Orchestra with a special agreement to continue his conducting. In 1968, after a period of study with Igor Markevitch, he was appointed Assistant Conductor to Sergiu Comissiona.

In the coming season he will be appearing as Guest Conductor with the Northern Sinfonia and English Sinfonia Orchestras, and will also be working on the Continent. During October he is going on tour with the Ulster Orchestra to the North of England, making a visit to the Newcastle Festival where he will be conducting, among other things, the first performance of David Barlow's opera 'David and Bathsheba'.

MEYER STOLOW was born in Montreal, Canada, and it was here that he first received his musical training, studying under Joseph Berljawsky.

Subsequently he studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London where he received the Boise Award which enabled him to continue his studies at the Bruxelles Conservatoire de la Musique. He returned to England and in 1960 was appointed Leader of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and while in Birmingham founded a chamber music group which is still active.

As well as his orchestral experience, Mr. Stolow has been participating for over ten years in chamber music and solo playing, both in concerts and on BBC, and until joining the Ulster Orchestra as Leader he was co-Leader of the London Mozart Players.