



MISSING OUT ON A FINE MUSICAL TREAT

North Oxfordshire's stay-at-home music lovers missed a real treat at Banbury Symphony Orchestra's final concert of the 1974-75 season.

Stanbridge Hall of Banbury School was only half full for a varied programme of works by Delius, Mozart and Berlioz.

On hearing the first cuckoo of Spring, a Delius piece for small orchestras, Christopher Waltham, the conductor, set the scene with its quiet lyricism of the strings and woodwind.

Then we had the well-known Mozart Horn Concerto, with Christopher Mahy, as soloist. He gave a controlled and competent performance. The scoring for two oboes, two horns and strings was cohesive and well received.

After the interval we had the major work, Berlioz Symphonie Fantastique. This 19th century work is constructed like any other piece of the same period, and has a recurring theme which holds it together.

The real pioneering is in the scoring with two harps in the entrancing ball scene. Here the orchestra was at its best.

There were some fine cor anglais and oboe duets, backed by the other woodwinds, while the timpani was always in evidence.

It was a programme to fit a fine summer's evening, but the great pity was that few people were there to hear it. — K.W.

I am immediately behind the conductor!