

# Autumn concert success

For their Autumn concert this year the Banbury Symphony Orchestra chose a programme of well-known works spanning the period between 1720 and 1840 and consisting of items familiar to most concert-goers.

It was pleasing to see Mr. Christopher Bochmann again as conductor, this time with two solo oboists. Mr. Edward Tarling and Miss Lynette Jakeman, who made a welcome appearance in this role after many seasons of sterling service in the "ranks" of the orchestra.

Beethoven's Prometheus, which opened the concert, was crisply performed and one was struck by the highly co-ordinated string sections, demonstrating careful and disciplined rehearsal by Mr. Bochmann.

## DELIGHTFUL

The Concerto for two oboes by Albinoni, which followed, featured Miss Jakeman and Mr. Tarling with the orchestra in a most delightful performance. The concerto, typical of the blending of lyrical and precisely formulated thematic material which makes the music of the prolific Baroque period so pleasing to the listener (and at times so difficult for the performer) was given almost without fault. If one were to offer a slight criticism it would be that the opening string motifs were a little shaky and also that the soloists' stage presence at times showed signs of lack of confidence. This, one hastens to add, was in no way merited by their standard of musicianship, which was highly professional throughout. Next followed the Scherzo from Men-

delssohn's incidental music to A Midsummer Night's Dream. This was possibly the best known of all the items played at the concert, and also, unfortunately, in my opinion, the least satisfactory. The opening string passages were somewhat laboured and the liveliness of this section of the work did not come across.

Later, there seemed a lack of confidence in some of the difficult woodwind sequences which did not match the high standard of the rest of the concert although in the final stages the orchestra regained its confidence and gave a much brighter performance.

After the interval there was an expertly rendered Arrival of the Queen of Sheba by the two oboe solos and orchestra, followed by the main work of the evening, Haydn's Drumroll Symphony (No. 103 in E).

Under the skilled guidance of Mr. Bochmann, the orchestra acquitted themselves magnificently and we were again treated to a fine performance. One could single out Lawrence Farbrother's violin solo in the second movement and John Barnett's short horn call in the finale as specially noteworthy, but in fact the whole work was superb.

The concert must be voted a great success, and it is especially pleasing to note the highly professional standard of co-ordination which the orchestra is developing. Mr. Bochmann, the soloists and the orchestra are once again to be congratulated in providing us with an evening of excellent entertainment.

A.J.