

**Banbury**

**Symphony**

**Orchestra**

# **Courage is rewarded**

Banbury Symphony Orchestra's last concert was a fitting conclusion to a season that has seen the orchestra grow in confidence, quality and size.

A large and enthusiastic audience received a programme which reflected the hard work done by all.

The programme started with Mozart's overture The Magic Flute. At times the trombones were slightly overpowering but the general effect was one of clarity and joyfulness. The string section excelled in Britten's Simple Symphony.

Rimsky - Korsakov's Scheherazade was undoubtedly the high spot of the evening with the players' courage fully rewarded. The orchestra produced well balanced and controlled playing, equally at home amongst the exciting climaxes of the last movement as in the tenderness of the third movement.

Stephen Bingham, who was acclaimed as the orchestra's leader, produced a beautiful tone in the virtuosos solo passages throughout the work, and was sensitively partnered by harpist Maria Beattie.

Conductor Philip Shaw ably controlled his forces and produced an evening of music to remember.