

Brymer on song for orchestra

There is only one word to describe the Banbury Symphony Orchestra's Easter concert — magnificent.

The North Oxfordshire Technical College Theatre was packed. Obviously everyone wanted to hear world famous clarinetist Jack Brymer, and he did not disappoint them.

But then neither did the orchestra. They certainly rose to the occasion to play

**BY KEITH
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with a verve and understanding unsurpassed.

Clarinetist Jack Brymer gave a virtuoso performance

in Mozart's *Clarinet Concerto* in A.

In the initial Allegro the orchestra set the scene for Mr Brymer and from his facial expressions it was obvious he enjoyed their interpretation.

The singing qualities of this solo instrument was stressed to the full against the rich instrumental background.

Throughout Mr Brymer gave a brilliant performance which drew a long and well-merited ovation to bring the first half to a close.

The evening opened with the orchestra playing Beethoven's well-loved *Egmont Overture*. It vividly tells the story in music of a prisoner's vision of freedom.

It ended with a victory symphony and here again the orchestra played with understanding and finesse.

The second half was given over entirely to Elgar's *Enigma Variations*. After a slow and sometimes laboured opening the players quickly got into their stride.

By the time they had reached *Nimrod*, the orchestra had found their way with all the soloists for the various sections doing well.

Conductor Philip Shaw is to be congratulated on presenting such a fine programme and the capacity audience proved that if big names can be attracted to Banbury, the hall can be filled.