

PRELUDE TO A NEW ORCHESTRA

Banbury Symphony Orchestra formed

Following his recent appeal for musicians in the "Banbury Guardian," a Banbury Grammar School master, Mr. M. B. Sargent, has succeeded in forming a full-scale symphony orchestra. Under his baton the orchestra gave its first concert—before an invited audience—at Banbury Grammar School on Wednesday evening.

It is an entirely local effort and all the 36 players are amateurs. "I consider myself fortunate in getting together a complete complement of woodwind and brass," said Mr. Sargent. "It was most encouraging support from the people of Banbury."

Mr. Sargent is hoping to give a public concert in the autumn.

For this he needs a larger complement of brass. "I would like to know of any good trombone players," he said.

In July he will be attending a four-day course on conducting given by Sir Adrian Boult.

The programme for last week's concert included the overture "Don Giovanni" by Mozart, Symphony No. 1 by Beethoven, Andante from the Italian Symphony by Mendelssohn, and Symphony No. 82 by Haydn.

Members of the orchestra were:—



... and from the sublime

The new orchestra, under its conductor, Mr. M. B. Sargent, gives its first concert at Banbury Grammar School.

Leader: Mr. J. Hutchings. 1st violins: Mr. H. Wilks, Mrs. A. D. Rose, Miss A. Rose, Mrs. J. Alington, Miss J. W. Jennings.

2nd violins: Mr. W. H. Simpson, Miss P. Dee, Mr. A. Kent, Mr. G. Kent, Mr. Richardson, Mr. K. Piggott, Mrs. A. T. Thomas, Mrs. A. Hutchings.

Violas: Mrs. D. Metcalfe, Mr. W. Spicer, Mrs. J. R. Hartree.

Celli: Mr. J. Nicholson, Miss A. Hutchinson, Miss T. Robinson, Mr. H. Reavley, Miss B. Upton.

Double bass: Mr. A. D. Rose.

Flutes: Mr. M. Draper, Mr. R. Brown.

Oboes: Mr. M. Rowson, Mr. J. Brereton.

Clarinets: Rev. W. J. Verrinder, Mrs. D. C. Bone.

Bassoons: Mr. K. A. Carrdus, Mr. R. Arundel.

Horns: Rev. T. Lawrence, Mr. J. R. Hartree.

Trumpets: Mr. R. Phipps, Mr.

EXCITING START FOR NEW BANBURY ORCHESTRA



AN exciting event took place in Banbury Grammar School Hall on Wednesday, when the newly formed Banbury Symphony Orchestra gave its inaugural concert.

With an orchestra which had been in existence for only three months, one could be justified in being apprehensive at an initial programme which included symphonies by Haydn and Beethoven, a Mozart overture and a movement from a Mendelssohn symphony, but this choice of programme was more than justified by the performance.

A FLYING START

The conductor of this extremely enterprising body of musicians bears the auspicious name of Malcolm Sargent, and this alone should be sufficient to give any orchestra under his baton a flying start! He deserves the congratulations of all music loving Banbury citizens on the success of this ambitious venture, and their support to ensure its continuance.

The concert opened with the overture 'Don Giovanni' by Mozart. That this was the least satisfactory performance of the evening is hardly surprising, but even so there was much merit in it. Mr. Sargent has imparted that indefinable thing called style, with the result that we heard the music in spite of occasional evidence of over-eagerness, shown by ragged entries and forced tone.

Even so, there was no doubt that once the orchestra settled down to the atmosphere of a public concert, we were to be in for some enjoyable playing.

NO EASY CHOICE

The main work of the first half was the first symphony of Beethoven, no easy choice.

This was given a performance in complete accord, one felt, with the composer's intentions, which is more than can often be said for some of the glossy performances given by glossier orchestras in still glossier dust covers.

captured the lyrical mood of this movement, one never felt that they were quite at ease with it as they had been stylistically with the previous items. However, it was still extremely pleasant listening.

DELIGHTFUL

The concert ended with Haydn's Symphony no.82 (The Bear). This was altogether delightful, as no attempt was made to plumb non-existent depths, a fault of many performances of Haydn's music, and the whole symphony gave an impression of life and gaiety.

It would be difficult to praise too highly those responsible for this concert, the conductor, the leader (Mr. J. Hutchings), who was always so ready to respond to his conductor's baton, and to urge an occasional wayward member of his team along discreetly but firmly, and of course to the players themselves without whose hard work and co-operation this concert would not have been possible.

Another concert has already been planned, if the Banbury Symphony Orchestra show as striking an improvement between now and then as it has done between its first rehearsal and now, this concert should be a musical treat well worth supporting.

I. E. C.

EXTREMELY PLEASANT

The opening work of the second half was the Andante from Mendelssohn's 'Italian' symphony. While the orchestra