

# FIRST

# CONCERT

# A GREAT

# SUCCESS

For its first concert of 1971 Banbury Symphony Orchestra gave a programme of works by German or German-speaking composers spanning the "transitional" period between what is often referred to as the late Classical stage of the eighteenth-century and the mid-nineteenth century Romantics.

This time they were under the young but extremely capable direction of Christopher Bochmann, and we were doubly fortunate in having his distinguished father, Mr. Martin Bochmann, as solo 'cellist for the Haydn D Major Concerto.

The programme began with the well-known overture to Otto Nicolai's opera "The Merry Wives of Windsor." This work was given a very competent performance and was only occasionally marred by a slight lack of crispness in a few passages towards the close of the work.

Next was a most enjoyable and skilfully executed performance of Joseph Haydn's 'Cello Concerto by Martin Bochmann and the orchestra. The intricate variations of the first movement, very demanding of the soloist, were expertly phrased and admirably offset by the conciseness of the cadenza in the second movement.

There appeared to be a little uncertainty of timing in the opening bars of the first movement and a rather slow start to the Rondo.

## **EXCELLED**

In a performance of Richard Wagner's "Siegfried Idyll" the orchestra really excelled. Throughout the work they gave every indication of having been most carefully rehearsed, and under the expert tutelage of Christopher Bochmann every facet of light and shade and every change of mood of this intensely beautiful piece of music was faithfully conveyed.

Finally came Ludwig van Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, in which Christopher Bochmann and the orchestra were again revealed as exceptional musicians.

Apart from some uncertain entries and a tendency to hurry some of the opening bars they showed clearly that they knew the work well.

The orchestra worked magnificently throughout to give full justice to the powerful third and final movements, providing a fitting climax to an evening of great musical enjoyment. — A.J.