



In response to many requests from local music lovers, Susan Drake — the international harpist who has appeared on BBC television — will be making a return visit to the town on Tuesday, October 31.

She will be playing a concerto with Banbury Symphony Orchestra at their concert in Stanbridge Hall, Banbury School.

# Outstanding soloist for third concert

For their third concert of 1972 Banbury Symphony Orchestra, ably led by Lawrence Farbrother and expertly conducted by Christopher Bochman, offered a programme of well-known works ranging from Haydn to Vaughan Williams.

The concert opened with Beethoven's overture Egmont, performed by the orchestra with a well-maintained confidence and competence which was clearly the reward for skill and thorough rehearsal.

## EXCELLENT

The strings carried the introduction masterfully through into the intricate themes forming the main body of the work which were strongly defined by the wind sections and the triumphant final coda was impressively presented.

Mr. Bochman and the orchestra had every reason to be

well satisfied with their interpretation of this work.

Next came Boieldieu's Harp Concerto, a popular piece and an excellent example of the transition in styles between Classical and Romantic periods.

We were fortunate in again being able to enjoy a performance from Susan Drake as soloist in this concerto.

The blending of styles which the orchestra was called upon to achieve, from the near classical precision of the opening allegro to the dramatic statements of the slow movement, were very well managed.

One could have wished for more crispness and emphasis in the introduction, and the Rondeau was at times a little lacking in vigour.

However, such blemishes were few in a generally very good interpretation, and Miss Drake's accomplishment of the difficult task of projecting the solo part on this demanding instrument was outstanding.

After the interval we were given an unexpected and much appreciated 'bonus' from Miss Drake in the form of a brilliant and spirited performance of Chanson de la Nuit by Carlos Salzedo.

Although this work is very short, Miss Drake's high level of professional competence was unmistakable and enabled her to demonstrate clearly both her own versatility and that of her instrument.

We then reverted to the published programme, which continued with the English Folk Song Suite by Vaughan Williams. This straightforward, unembellished arrangement of traditional folk tunes was attractively played — and the woodwind sections deserve special commendation for clarity and fluency of interpretation.

The last item, one of Haydn's London Symphonies, No. 99 in E flat major, had been well rehearsed and was on the whole a strong, balanced performance.

The menuetto at times seemed to be a little deficient in its rhythmic emphasis and there were a few instances of imprecise entries, but the greater part of the work maintained a high standard.

Mr. Bochman and the orchestra deserve our congratulations and thanks for again providing us with a fine evening's entertainment, and we are specially indebted to Miss Drake for her brilliant solo performances. A.J.