

A musical coup!

TOP PIANIST John Lill will be playing in concert this weekend with Banbury Symphony Orchestra.

Last year, Raymond Head, who conducts the orchestra, sent a tape recording of one of their concerts to the international performer.

Mr. Lill, who has appeared in over 40 countries with the majority of the world's leading orchestras, agreed to join up with the BSO at Deddington Church for their spring presentation.

Raymond and his versatile team are obviously delighted at pulling off such a musical coup - John Lill does not readily agree to play with any orchestra which asks him, particularly not with amateurs.

However, he does believe it is important to take music where it might not otherwise go. So on Saturday, North Oxfordshire music lovers can look forward with keen anticipation to a performance of the Piano Concerto No 1 in D Minor by Brahms (and

International pianist to play with Banbury 'amateurs' in Deddington Church concert

international engagements take a back-seat, musically speaking, for one night!).

John Lill is a frequent visitor to the United States, where he has appeared at the Hollywood Bowl, and worked with orchestras such as the Baltimore Symphony, the Philadelphia and Cleveland Orchestras, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra under Eduardo Mata and the Boston Symphony under Temirkanov at Tanglewood.

In the summer of 1989, he adjudicated the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition and returned to America last May to perform with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra.

Lill is a regular artist at the BBC

Proms, and frequently works with Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, the Scottish National and the major London orchestras.

An important work by Delius, *A Song of Summer*, will be given a rare public performance (under the auspices of the Delius Trust) by Banbury Symphony Orchestra.

Other works in the programme are Shostakovich's *Festival Overture* and Sibelius' ever popular *Karelia Suite*.

Tickets cost £8 and are available on the door.

• Two hundred years after his death, one of Mozart's larger choral works will be performed in

Bloxham Parish Church on Sunday night.

The Bloxham and Tudor Hall Concert Choir, with the Cherwell Orchestra and soloists from the Royal Academy of Music, will sing the C minor Mass, K 427, under the direction of Martin Roberts.

The music will be in Richard Maunder's new edition, published in this country only last year, and this performance will be the first of this version in North Oxfordshire.

The choral music is at times elaborate, with sections in eight voice parts, and the two soprano solos are also of special interest.

One of them in particular requires athletic vocal technique, and it seems beyond doubt that Mozart's wife Constance was the soloist in an early performance.

This weekend's choral presentation begins at 8pm, and payment for seats is by donation to the retiring collection.