

29/10/74 Soloist's talent

Banbury Symphony Orchestra opened their new season last week with a concert in St Mary's Church in aid of The Samaritans.

Led by Lawrence Farbrother and conducted by Christopher Waltham, the orchestra opened their programme with an excellent performance of Brahms' Tragic Overture, in which the musicians caught the changes of mood with well rehearsed expertise.

Then followed the first of two Canzone for brass by Gabriell. These short pieces were well suited to the Church acoustics and were admirably staged.

The first half of the concert ended with a performance of Beethoven's Violin Concerto which was expertly managed, with full weight given to the impressive first movement. The soloist was the youthful Michael Bochmann, brother of the orchestra's previous conductor, who amply demonstrated his talent in the demanding Joachim cadenzas.

The concert was completed by Dvorak's 8th Symphony, perhaps the most difficult item presented during the evening. Nevertheless the work came over very well, though slightly marred by occasional hesitancy in strings and brass.

This was an excellent evening's entertainment and on the whole well up to the orchestra's usual standard.

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