



Soloist Stephen Bingham (centre) chats over the programme for last Tuesday night's Banbury Symphony Orchestra concert with conductor Philip Shaw (left) and leader Lawrence Farbrother.

Max Bruch was only 19, we are told, when he composed his superb violin concerto in G minor.

Tuesday night's Banbury Symphony Orchestra concert brought forth a young man still to reach that age and he would have impressed the composer, no doubt, with his accomplished approach to this fascinating work.

Stephen Bingham, stepped out from his new role as leader of the orchestra to make his debut as a soloist, and he made a splendid impression on the encouraging audience.

Stephen, who is a student of Michael Bochmann at Burford, is aiming for a place at the Royal Academy of Music, and with the style and competence he displayed last Tuesday seems set for a fine career.

Dvorak's rousing Carnival Overture was an ideal choice to open the concert and, under the baton of Philip Shaw, the orchestra faltered only occasionally in what must be a most demanding piece.

The orchestra kept some of their best work of the evening for Brahms' Symphony No 1 in C Minor and they can feel reasonably satisfied with this finale to their programme of concerts.

Many of the players can look forward to next Tuesday night's Banbury School Summer Prom and after their break, they will be back rehearsing for the first concert of the next season, on Saturday, October 18. — A.G.C.