

# Baroque antidote to football frustrations

Newbury Chamber Choir and Orchestra, at St John's Church, Newbury, on Saturday, June 12

**A FAIRLY full church for this baroque concert on Saturday evening proved that there is something besides World Cup football during the next fortnight.**

Opening with Telemann's *Missa Super*, Newbury Chamber Choir and Orchestra brought out the warmth of the music with a spirited beginning.

The same composer's *Concerto for Viola* followed, with Patrick Rutland bringing out the full resonance of this gentle, pastoral piece, especially in the *Largo*. He used a brisk attack in the *Allegro*, his bowing assured and with the supportive playing of the chamber orchestra, ensuring a fine performance.

The Bach *Mass in G Minor* rounded out the

first part of the programme and in this work the choir sang their parts with crisp, clear diction and with attention to detail.

Full marks to the soloists here as Ian Caddy's bass was warm and vibrant and there were strong solo parts for Fiona Scott MacArthur, alto, and Ben Alden, tenor. The *Gratias* section represents the most typical Bach writing and was well handled by orchestra and bass soloist in tandem. The choir blended their vocal parts skilfully throughout making this a combined effort of considerable quality.

In the second half, we had a stirring concerto played with brio by Madelieine Millar on recorder and Harry Davidson, bassoon. Both are local young musicians and are now members of the county youth orchestra and scholars with Berkshire Maestros.

Telemann's *Magnificat* ended the programme, with Edward Lambert directing the proceedings. The *Bassoon and Recorder Concerto* was directed by Catherine Millar. Lucy Huckle was an impressive soprano soloist, stepping into the breach at very short notice.

Harry Davidson and Madeleine Millar are part of a bassoon quartet who will travel to Beijing this summer to represent the UK at an international music conference. They are currently trying to raise another £1,000 to money already collected to fund their trip, something they would not wish to let slip through their fingers.

Unlike the England goalkeeper.

DEREK ANSELL

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