

Entertainment

with
**Georgina
Daly**

Review

Eastbourne concert at Chichester Cathedral

ELGAR'S *Dream of Gerontius* is a massive work — demanding, uplifting and also very moving.

Celebrating its 20th season, the Eastbourne Symphony Orchestra chose to present this work in the majestic, vaulted environs of Chichester Cathedral — a glorious setting for what was a glorious presentation. Never have I heard such a superb sound from this orchestra. True, the acoustics are outstanding but the orchestra rose superbly to the occasion and conductor Graham Jones dazzled with his expertise and commitment.

A chorus of more than 150 voices swelled triumphantly as tenor Neil Jenkins sang the part of Gerontius with pathos and reverence.

Sarah Connolly's mezzo-sopra-

no voice is rich as velvet and her singing of the Angel role was inspiring. Both these were complemented by the thrilling baritone voice of Martin Elliott as the Priest and Angel of Agony.

The chorus, Eastbourne College Choral Society and Eastbourne Symphony Chorus were joined by the members of University College Chichester Chamber Choir (chorus master Arthur Robson), founded just five years ago.

It was not just a concert, it was an experience; one that I feel proud to have heard as I'm sure does Eastbourne's first citizen, Mayor Beryl Healy who led the many Eastbourne fans of the ESO who travelled to Chichester.

GEORGINA DALY