

Gazette

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Orchestra saves its best . . . for the best

ELGAR WROTE: 'This is the best of me' when he had completed the Dream of Gerontius and most people would agree that a work of such magnitude would be difficult to surpass.

The performance given by the Eastbourne Symphony Orchestra, Eastbourne Symphony Chorus and the Eastbourne College Choral Society at the Congress must rank as one of their best choral concerts.

A friend who had a copy of the complete score confirmed that orchestra and choir were spot-on throughout the work. Much of the credit must go to conductor Graham Jones for his masterly work with the baton, controlling, guiding and encouraging nearly 300 musicians and choristers.

The three soloists, Neil Jenkins tenor Rachel Cooper alto and Martin Elliott bass/baritone all gave performances that were beyond reproach and the inclusion of an organ on stage added to the wonderful sound produced.

It was surely very rewarding for the players and singers to see the size of the audience which must have been one of the biggest ever achieved by the ESO.

Another indication of how lucky Eastbourne is to have an orchestra which has achieved such a professional standard.

CLIFF WATSON