

# Beethoven's Choral Symphony

## A COMBINED PERFORMANCE

**I**T was a memorable occasion when on Sunday night the Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society and the Royal Tunbridge Wells Symphony Orchestra combined in a performance of Beethoven's Choral Symphony conducted by Trevor Harvey.

The concert opened with Benjamin Britten's arrangement of the National Anthem. Next came Arthur Duckworth's March, Man of Kent, with words specially written for the occasion by Cr. Mrs. Streeten.

### MUSICAL INGREDIENTS

It was pleasant to hear such a tuneful work with a heroic and patriotic flavour by a local composer and words to match, the more poignantly so when one considers recent decisions about the proms. Parry's lovely setting of Milton's poem, Blest Pair of Sirens, in praise of voice, verse and melody was a fitting choice for a jubilee concert.

Beethoven's Choral Symphony, this monumental work written

## MUSIC



**MR. ARTHUR DUCKWORTH**

when the composer was stone deaf, makes great demands on

both orchestra and choir. Fateful foreboding, relentless drive, idyllic ecstasy and triumphant joy are the musical ingredients.

The orchestral playing was of the usual very high standard and the strings sounded especially warm and rich.

In the last movement the choir excelled in the famous Ode to Joy, their intonation was clear and precise and the voices came across with purity and resonance. The sopranos were admirable in the high tessitura.

The quartet of soloists, Rae Woodland, Marjorie Thomas, William McAlpine and Roger Stalman, were in fine voice and gave a beautifully controlled and balanced performance.

Trevor Harvey's profound knowledge and love of the work inspired the players and singers and transmitted itself to the audience, whose final applause was rapturous. It was indeed a great occasion, graced by the Mayor and members

**M.E.**