

HOLMFIRTH CRICKET CLUB CONCERT: Graham Turton

LI YAN SUN brought a touch of the Orient to Holmfirth on Saturday.

The Chinese contralto made her British debut at Holmfirth Cricket Club's Annual Concert and she certainly hit the audience for six, both with her singing and her beauty.

Her range, powerful voice and charm captivated her audience, and despite fine performances from Hephworth Brass Band and Skelmanthorpe Male Voice Choir, she was certainly the catch of the night, at the Parish Church.

Currently living in Oakes while her husband, Jiawei Wang, studies at Huddersfield University, Li Yan would like to enhance her reputation while over here, and if her performance in *Last of the Summer Wine* country is anything to go by, then she could well delight a few audiences.

Li Yan sang *O Thou that Tellest Good Tidings to Zion*, from the *Mes-*

siah; *Memory*, from *Cats*; *Money O* (Micheal Head) and *Habanera* (Bizet's *Carmen*) with clarity, precision and no shortage of talent. She was accompanied by Geoffrey Richardson.

The choir, under the direction of deputy conductor Norman Bailey were, as always, precise and clear. They began with *Vive L'Amour*, *Loch Lomond*, *Two Roses* and *Tydi a Roddaist*, a good start, and followed with *Captain Stratton's Fancy*, *Let There be Peace*, *Evening's Pastorale* and *Gwahoddiad*.

In the second half they gave an appreciative audience *Nothin' Like a Dame*, *Bushes and Briars*, *Seigneur*, *Je Vous En Prie*, *Calm is the Sea* and *Non Nobis Domine*, with some lovely, controlled soft singing in the middle three. Griffith Jones was the accompanist.

The band, making a good round, solid sound, set off with the march

Mephistopheles, but then musical director Norman Law forgot to turn the volume down to accompany soprano Nick Garside in *Demelza* and at times drowned him out. What a pity! *A West Country Fantasy* completed their first half.

The rousing *Tico, Tico* began their second spot, but this time they got their act together for David Clegg's horn solo, *The Power of Love*. A *Disney Fantasy*, the march *Best Foot Forward* were followed by Jeremy Wade's flugal horn solo, *Evergreen*, and *Procession to the Cathedral* (Himes version), which seems to have become a popular finale.

Band, choir and audience all joined in *Jerusalem* to end a fine evening's entertainment, which was only slightly spoiled by the mumblings of the comperes. They should remember that if it's worth saying at all, it should be said clearly.