

I've never heard more polished Tchaikovsky

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra, Mote Hall, Saturday, February 5

FOR lovers of classical music a programme that includes Dvorak's New World Symphony and Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto is certain to appeal.

And that is exactly what Maidstone Symphony Orchestra's concert on Saturday, February 5, did. If there was an empty seat in Mote Hall, I failed to see it.

Concert violinist Ulf Hoelscher is no newcomer to Maidstone. He is certainly a player of exemplary musicianship.

His natural charm and sheer professionalism has won the affection of MSO's 70-plus musicians who make up what is now one of the UK's top



Violinist Ulf Hoelscher

county orchestras. I have heard many performances of the Tchaikovsky, but I have never heard one more memorable, nor indeed more polished. This was MSO at its best and MSO at its best is very

good indeed. To Hoelscher an orchestra like MSO is far more than a backdrop. Soloist and orchestra made music together and as MSO conductor for 20 years Brian Wright knows his players well and knows just what they are capable of.

It is truly heartening to witness such assured music-making from the heart of Kent. Too easily we overlook the factors that contribute to the quality we enjoy today – gifted players who take their music-making seriously, a dedicated conductor of international standing and a demanding routine of rehearsals.

Brian Wright has brought this orchestra up a notch or two from his able predecessor Bela de Csillery, a refugee from Hungary, who laid the foundation for so much we enjoy today.

Don Goodsell