

► At the 1969 Carol Concert I was privileged to be given the opportunity to say a few words. I sympathized with the members of the Philharmonic that they were not members of the audience and therefore could not see and hear themselves as we the audience saw and heard them. In spite of the influenza epidemic they gave a most spirited and competent performance which we all enjoyed. There was a real sense of occasion. I sympathized too with the audience in that they were not members of the "Philharmonic". The word means "love of harmony". All art must hold up the mirror to life, and particularly to what life could and should be. The Philharmonic is remarkable for this quality of harmony. The spirit of fellowship is very evident and expresses itself well in the end product.

An evening with them whether as a performer or listener is indeed a rewarding experience.

For twenty-five years the Hayes Philharmonic has kept alive and fresh the spirit of music in our community. Not only have they sung the well-tryed and well-loved classics which are part of a very precious heritage, but have also courageously and efficiently tackled newer and sometimes more difficult works. Works which mirror the complexities of our present age. They have accepted the challenge that art can never be static.

We owe a very great debt of gratitude to the first conductor, Mr. Ballard, who started this great tradition; and we should equally congratulate the Philharmonic's present inspiring and dynamic leader, Mr. Bobbie Howes, not only a fine musician but also a man with the gift of drawing out the best from every member of his choir.

Long may he and the Philharmonic flourish ! ■

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