

Saturday's concert by the Dundee Symphony Orchestra and conductor Robert Dick was a demanding programme, so it was good to see them rewarded with a larger audience than usual. The queue at the box office meant a late start for what was already going to be a long evening. Tiring rehearsals had taken their toll, and there were occasional signs of fatigue later on, but these did nothing to spoil the great enjoyment of an excellent exhibition of the band's current abilities.

Pride of place must go to a quite superb account of Elgar's Cello Concerto. The soloist was Naomi Boole-Masterson, familiar from her visits with the Scottish Ensemble. This performance treated the work like chamber music, the individual musicians bringing out all sorts of incidental details rarely heard. The superb acoustic of the hall allowed the soloist again and again to produce the most delicate phrases, knowing they would project easily to the back of the hall. This was a memorable performance of a justly popular work. The concert started with the rarely performed Tragic Overture by Brahms. It perhaps contains more dramatic contrast than the orchestra brought out on this occasion. The main item was the most popular work of Bruckner, his Fourth Symphony. Full of wonderful melodies in each section of the orchestra, it is always a pleasure to hear it in the Caird Hall. The architecture of the work is so important, and Robert Dick's excellent sense of control made everything flow naturally.