

A Day at Symphony Hall

In October 2001 I joined a musical company in the Midlands which consisted of musical directors, artistic directors etc., and some 270 plus singers. From these, 72 people were to be auditioned for solos out of which 17 soloists were to be chosen.

One bright Saturday morning in October, I went along to Warwick to audition for a solo and one week later 'Eureka!' I received my acceptance together with the opportunity to sing one of my chosen pieces at the forthcoming concert, which was to take place in the prestigious Symphony Hall in Birmingham.

The day of the concert dawned and what a day, as I arrived at the Symphony Hall in howling winds and driving rain. Once through the door I was immediately ushered on stage to join other soloists, where we proceeded to get to grips with the various microphones. Different types for different voices etc. All this took about an hour which gave me time to feel at home in this huge and beautiful hall.

Break for lunch then full orchestral rehearsal. As it grew nearer to my turn to sing, the heartbeat increased, I gave a few deep breaths and there I was standing in front of this huge auditorium. No turning back now! What followed for me was 4 minutes of absolute delight enhanced by warm and supportive comments received from many of my fellow singers. Nervous —yes I was nervous but spending all day in Symphony Hall helped to subdue the butterflies and stood me in good stead for the evening's performance. The camaraderie was tremendous — always a help.

By the time evening came the adrenaline had kicked in, all 2,240 seats taken — the moment had come. It was for me 'A red letter day' and having friends and family from around the country in the audience, where I could see them, clearly helped.

Judging from the applause the concert was a great success and I certainly enjoyed every minute of it. To complete the day a party was organised at our hotel which went on until the early hours.

By Monday morning I was coming off the 'high' and it had become a dreamlike experience but one which I will never forget and hopefully will have the opportunity to repeat.

Dorothy Carrington

JUBILEE VARIETY SHOW, SATURDAY JUNE 1st

**The Annual Variety Show has been postponed until June
as part of the Jubilee Celebrations.**

**We hope the show will incorporate entertainments from the past
five decades, together with a narrative on local and national
events relating to each decade.**

Details of tickets etc., will be published soon.