

# Attractive sounds in a pleasant setting

By IFAN PAYNE

ST DONAT'S Castle remains one of the most pleasant settings for music in the region.

This is doubly so when the arts centre is filled with the attractive sounds of the flute, viola and harp.

## REVIEWS

These are the instruments which make up the Faber Trio, which performed at St Donat's on Thursday evening.

It is one of the coincidental quirks of musical

history that nothing at all appears to have been composed specifically for the flute, viola and harp until 1916 when, unknown to each other, both Arnold Bax and Claude Debussy composed works for this combination during that same year.

Both these works featured in the concert

and both were beautifully performed.

Bax's charming *Trio Quotation Elegy* is a Celtic-tinged work — gentle, yet robust — and in this performance the viola line of Peter Lale was particularly sensitive.

Debussy's *Sonata for Flute, Viola and Harp* was the second of an intended six sonatas for diverse instruments. The series was cut short by the death of the composer, and this sonata was one of his last compositions.

## ZODIAC

The work provided a fitting culmination to the concert with agile, musically responsive performances from all three soloists.

Earlier in the concert another coincidence was provided by the fact that the trio had performed William Mathias's *Zodiac Trio*, a work which had received its world premiere in this very hall in 1976.

The players made the most of their opportunity to represent Pisces, Aries and Taurus.

Other highlights of the concert included the *Sonata for Flute and Harp* by Donizetti. This bel canto work, like an aria misplaced from *The Elixir of Love* was delightfully played by flautist Louise Glanville and harpist Ruth Faber.

Ruth Faber was also the virtuoso soloist in Salzedo's descriptive *Song in the Night* for solo harp.

Other concerts and events to be held at St Donat's Arts Centre in the near future include The Campus Theatre production of *The Odyssey* on April 18 and the Yehudi Menuhin School Pupils on April 27.