

Welsh Proms at St David's Hall

# Champagne concert for royals

By IFAN PAYNE

## REVIEW

THE Wednesday evening Welsh Proms Concert was given in celebration of the Royal Wedding and contained a selection of suitable musical desserts for those not already rendered diabetic by the day's events.

The Philharmonia Orchestra, not at its tonal or accurate best, was conducted by Owain Arwel Hughes and Gwyneth Jones sang a selection of operatic solos.

Of particular interest was the fact that three weeks earlier Rita Hunter had performed in this hall the same repertoires as that presented by Gwyneth Jones.

In terms of vocal quality, of an outpouring of gorgeous tone which filled the auditorium with secure intonation and clear diction, Rita Hunter was a joy to listen to.

Miss Jones's strength, however, is her interpretive ability, as her focused and controlled opening to *Vissi D'aret* clearly showed.

In this interpretive ability she is the more interesting of the two sopranos. During *In Questa Raggia* she showed that she too can pour dramatic tone to fill the hall.

Miss Hunter had sung her recital in English, whereas Miss Jones con-

tributed to the linguistic melange of the Prom by singing excerpts from Wagner's *Tannhauser* in German, only to be followed by the combined Cwmbach and Dunvant male choirs singing the *Pilgrims Chorus* from the same opera in English.

Another interesting feature was to be heard in the performance of Jeremiah's Clarke's *Trumpet Voluntary*.

This was given in an effective (unaccredited) arrangement for brass, timpani and organ, with the soloist John Wallace, giving it a wonderfully festive sound.

The combined choirs' singing of the two great favourites, *Gwahoddiad* and *Lief*, brought this Fergie concert, champagne, carnations and all, to a suitably celebratory full throated end.