

**BBC WSO at St David's Hall**

# Glorious, and so flawless

By IFAN PAYNE

**REVIEW**

**GLORIOSA:** This is a word which Carl Nielson uses more than once in the score of his *Symphony Number Four*.

Glorious is just one of the words which came to mind during the performance given by the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra under Bryden Thomson on Friday lunchtime.

Other words were magnificent, stirring, and intensely moving.

The symphony is cast in the form of one continuous movement and its tempo and dynamic variety cannot be easy to hold together.

But this Thomson did in a performance which was as near flawless as to make the few slight quibbles not worth mentioning.

Of course the BBC WSO is not the Berlin, Vienna or Chicago symphony, but hearing this orchestra so soon after the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra confirmed the unfairness of the publicity which the Midlands group is receiving these days.

The Welsh orchestra is so demonstrably finer: It played with intimacy and rhythmic alertness in Haydn's *Symphony Number 39*, and with both sensitivity and that blaz-

ing glory in Nielson's *Symphony Number 4*.

What a condemnation of the narrowness of our attitudes and of the musical market place it is that such triumphant and elating music is so rarely performed.

For it is, as Nielson rightly claimed, music that is inextinguishable in its spirit.

The next in the series of lunchtime concerts is on Tuesday, March 31 when Nielson's *Symphony Number 5* will be performed.

As we draw towards the end of this significant series of concerts it strikes me that it would be a perfect epilogue if a sponsor could be found for a concert containing Carl Nielson's *Violin Concerto*, a work of exceptional beauty which, like Shostakovich's *Irresistible Piano Concerto number 2* is one of those concerti whose neglect is a cultural crime.

**Slow down**

Lane restrictions will be in force at the Coldra Roundabout, Newport, near junction 24 of the M4 between 7am and 6pm today and tomorrow while street lighting ducts are installed.