

## Schubert shines

*10:58am Friday 28th June 2013*

**By Reader's letter**

I feel I must ask you to put on record a remarkable achievement by your local orchestra The Academy of St Olave's last Saturday – a busy night for music in York, with several competing events.

Their concert comprised two symphonies by Schubert. As a Schubert specialist I travel widely to hear performances of those of his symphonies I finished on his behalf, as well as those he obligingly finished himself.

Your city has in Alan George a remarkable musician with a keen understanding of the music of Schubert and a way of making this largely amateur orchestra sound convincingly professional, by channelling rather than suppressing amateur zest. The performances of the 8th and 9th symphonies he directed on this occasion shone with an authenticity not all professional performances achieve. Here was a tonic and an education for both audience and players.

Dr George also spoke most persuasively of the work being done by St Leonard's Hospice, a charity of such importance for the locale, in support of which the concert was given. In all, this was an event in which local endeavour merited the highest commendation.

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