

Crystal quality of soprano's range

THE amazing treble-clear tone of soprano Susan Hamilton wafted effortlessly to the roof of Holy Trinity Church on Friday night.

The crystal clarity of her voice, free from any voluptuous flamboyance, gave a fresh dimension to Gounod's *Ave Maria*, made particularly poignant by the dedication of this Guildford Festival concert to Sir Charles Groves, principal conductor of the Guildford Philharmonic Orchestra who died last month.

The concert with the philharmonic choir included Faure's *Requiem*, his *Cantique de Jean Racine*, Grandjauy's *Aria in Classic Style* and Haydn's *Little Organ Mass*.

Helen Tunstall played the Grandjauy solo aria, and provided a wonderful harp accompaniment to the choir, with Jeremy Filsell playing the organ. Simon Birchall sang the baritone solos, his voice rich and resonant.

The small choir sang with discipline and attack, but so-

prano section leads were disappointingly hesitant, with poor tone.

Dynamics, under the direction of conductor Neville Creed, were particularly effective in the Faure *Requiem*. The choir produced some excellent crescendos and the male sections sang well.

The soprano solo *Pie Jesu* was beautifully done, Hamilton's voice blending treble clarity with soprano power, a voice to remember.

Jane Garrett

Concert

10 Jul 1992