

26.4.94

מיום

# 'Mozart Magic' lives up to its name

A NEW Israeli work in its first local performance – Josef Tal's Symphony No. 5 – opened the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra's Special Concert for the European Broadcasting Union, conducted by David Shallon.

The orchestra's deceptively calm murmuring at the beginning was punctuated by sudden sharp utterances from the brass and then

the vibraphone of a theme which frequently recurred later in ever-changing contexts.

A frenzied march-rhythm, explosive outbursts of the percussion and soothing strings were only a few examples of contrasts and a distribution of forceful energies which are firmly cohesive, in spite of – or perhaps just because of – their immense variety.

All these held one in their grip until the final and greatest surprise – the dying away of the turbulent sounds into silence after the preceding display of power.

Tenor Donald Litaker hardly had a chance to make himself heard in Mahler's *Song of the Earth*, in his determined struggle against the orchestra that sounded as if let loose at full blast, without consideration for the vocal soloists.

Contralto Felicity Palmer was luckier because her voice moved in frequencies significantly higher than those of the instruments, and the orchestration was thinner in parts of her movements. This allowed her warm, rich voice to soar radiantly above the orchestra.

Jerusalem Theater, April 10

**Ury Eppstein**