

OPERA SUCCESS

The latest ambitious offering of Haslemere's own Opera Omnibus sold out on all three nights it played last week at Haslemere Hall.

Audiences drawn from all over Surrey and Sussex and as far away as London stamped and cheered the fine young soloists and the locally recruited chorus for their performances of Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*.

Two members of staff from Charterhouse School particularly drew applause: Geoffrey Ford, the director of this melodrama (set in Scotland and based on Sir Walter Scott's novel), taught the violin at Charterhouse for 36 years. Now in retirement, he directs operas such as this

for a hobby. David Wright, the conductor, is head of brass at Charterhouse, and he drew some finely sonorous playing from that department of the Bernardi Orchestra at moments of dramatic climax.

As Lucia, with the highly demanding Mad Scene in Act 111, Zoe Turner acquitted herself well, with an ability to act as well as sing.

There was great enthusiasm, too, for Andrew Morris, whose tenor arnply filled the Haslemere Hall.

Hampshire solicitor Peter Barber brought great authority to the role of the chaplain, and the audience loudly cheered his performance.
