

NOV. CONCERT FAREWELL

By JOHN HORNER

At last night's concert by the City of Burnside Symphony Orchestra, the conductor, Dr. John Black, announced that its next concert on November 5 would be his farewell before he leaves for Edinburgh to take up a professorial appointment.

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The Brahms "St. Anthony" chorale variations were well shaped and full of interest, and the orchestra's trusty leader, John Perry, made a very fair fist of Mozart's G major concerto (K216) while the conductor tried hard to instill a matching Mozartean delicacy into the accompaniment.

His programme last night continued the sensible policy, which he has been following for the past seven years, of concentrating on interesting works outside the standard repertoire of our other orchestras.

Schumann's "Manfred" Overture was a case in point.

It made a difficult start to the programme, the bass department taking a little time to achieve unanimity about the pitch, but the warm melodious middle section swung along confidently and Dr. Black, a self-confessed romantic, was able to substantiate the high claims he made for the work in his pre-ambles.

Another work we don't hear often was the Bizet C major Symphony, with its gay, light-opera melodiousness and effective orchestration.

The oboist, Alan Phillips, shone in the slow movement, but the fast "perpetuum mobile" work for the fiddles in the finale was a severe trial.

Some members in the back desks could be seen making discreet gestures with about three inches of bow, though they had obviously given up the ghost.