

Orchestrally — A Week To Remember

By JOHN HORNER

Orchestrally speaking, this has been a week to remember.

On Tuesday, Dr. Black's City of Burnside Symphony Orchestra gave the concert of its life, culminating in Schumann's "Rhine" Symphony.

Last night the Elder Conservatorium Senior Orchestra, under Lloyd Davies, reached a new peak with an astonishingly daring performance of the Brahms No. 1 in C minor.

Strictly speaking, from a "safety first" point of view, the students had no business to be attempting this symphony.

Although minus one horn, Mr. Davies, in a spirit of "toujours l'audace," enlisted four staff members to assist him.

The result was bracing and justified the risks involved.

Individual Stars

The Elder Hall's spaciousness gave the orchestra room to blend successfully, the young string chorus being large enough to keep the brass and wood wind in proper perspective.

Some lovely individual playing came from oboe, clarinet and horn soloists.

The only time the symphony sounded frantically difficult was in the quickest passages in the finale, when the conductor risked some anatomical dislocation in his desperate, but successful, determination to maintain an even keel.

When we find students standing up so bravely to the Brahms No. 1, and amateurs to the Schumann No. 3, we realise that the orchestral future of Adelaide is brighter than we had suspected.

The concert opened with a nippy performance of Mozart's "Seraglio" overture, followed by the first two movements of the Max Bruch Violin Concerto.

Powerful

In this the soloist, Coralie Leyland, displayed really powerful feeling in the rhetorical opening, and a deep serenity in the slow movement.

Her expression becomes freer with each concert appearance.

The leader of the orchestra was Melvyn Cann.