

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY CHORAL SOCIETY

PRESENTS

A CHORAL CONCERT

WITH

THE BURNSIDE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

BONYTHON HALL

12 September, 1969, 8.00 p.m.

PROGRAMME NOTES

Byrd's Mass for Five Voices (Soprano, Contralto, two Tenors and Bass) was first publicly performed in 1899, having at that time been rediscovered by Richard Terry. It is the third of his three Masses, model and contrapuntal, and usually follows the principle of a syllable to a note. The mood of the work is solemn. The sections to be performed are the Introit and the Gloria in Excelsis Deo.

Scarlatti's Serenata, like the other works on the programme, contrasts in mood to the Mass. It was written about 1720 as a birthday piece for a Portuguese princess and is a secular cantata in which each of the four seasons (soloists) competes, taking it in turns to describe its own peculiar virtues. The prize goes eventually, by common acclaim (chorus), to Autumn, since it was in that season that the princess was born. It is an elaborate piece of fairytale flattery, opening and closing with brief choruses, and is scored for two sopranos, contralto and tenor soloists and small orchestra of strings, flutes, horns and trumpets.

INTERVAL OF TEN MINUTES

Te Deum Laudeamus, by Haydn, is a joyous setting of this prayer of adoration. Written for choir and orchestra, the work is in three parts, the first section being in praise of the Holy Trinity, the middle brief adagio section being a simple and quiet plea for help for Mankind, and the work concludes with a song of worship of and trust in the Almighty. Written after Haydn's trip to England, this music belongs to the period of the last six Masses, the Creation and The Seasons.

Vivaldi's Gloria is a setting for two sopranos, contralto, choir and orchestra of this prayer from the Mass, although the size of this work would preclude its use in the liturgical service. There are eleven sections, seven of which are choral. The music is diversified, containing polyphonic movements and sections of transparent simplicity, lyrical arias and powerful choral numbers.

The organizers of this concert wish to thank Mr. W. Sanders of Dulwich, who made available to us the organ used in the performance.