

# Ballet In Classical Tradition

By HAROLD TIDEMANN

A new two-act ballet, "Le Jardin du Craie" (The Chalk Garden) by Adelaide choreographer Harvey Collins, was given its first performance by the SA National Ballet Company at the Shedley Theatre, Elizabeth, last night.

In the classical tradition, to Mozart's "Eine Kleine Nacht Music" in the first act, and Tchaikovsky's "Serenade to Music" in the second, the ballet, set in the French Napoleonic period, was strong in atmosphere.

A poetic stranger, portrayed by Harvey Collins, appears at a garden party given by a widowed father for his ailing daughter's debut.

The girl falls in love with the poet, but on realising that he has left without her knowledge, she collapses and dies of grief.

The stricken father locks the garden leaving it to decay, and when the poet returns years later he pursues visions of his "Spirit of Love" in the silent, forsaken "Garden of Chalk."

Graham Western's decor, particularly the ice-cold effect of the deserted garden in the second act, was quite successful and the dancing of the eight apparitions very good.

Kaye Kenefick, in the leading role of the girl, danced splendidly considering she had injured some rib muscles during the afternoon rehearsal.

A pas de six in the first act, and Harvey Collins's solo in the second were outstanding, and the ballet should be a feature of the company's season at the Arts Theatre from November 6 to 9.

On the second half of the programme, the Burnside Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Robert Cooper with Donald Woolford as leader, played Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4 ("The Italian").

The concert was arranged by the Elizabeth branch of the Freedom From Hunger Campaign.