

CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA

By JOHN HORNER

A new and promising combination of amateur musical forces was tried out successfully in the Bonython Hall last night, when the Adelaide University Choral Society and a select echelon of the City of Burnside Symphony Orchestra joined forces in "The Season's Serenata" of Alessandro Scarlatti, a "Gloria" of Vivaldi, and a "Te Deum" of Haydn.

The exercise was under the inspiring leadership of Philip Britton, whose wide experience, repertoire and energetic adaptability have quickly added a new force to musical education in SA.

Before calling on the orchestra, Mr. Britton guided the choral society through a Byrd Mass for five voices, achieving intensity and much beauty of chording in the course of breaking the ice and testing the feel of the hall

— which was far from full.

For me the Scarlatti serenata was new and the most intriguing. Spring, summer, autumn and winter (Kathy Weber, Yvonne Smith, Jane Carter and Lazlo Petö) compete in describing their virtues in recitative and aria, with choral interspersions — all very fresh, melodious and well sung, to an accompaniment of strings, flutes, horn and trumpet.

Notable in the Vivaldi were a duet by the two well-matched sopranos and another between voice (Weber) and oboe (Alan Phillips).

Don Woolford led the orchestra and Emma Den Hollander supplied the harpsichord continuo in the Scarlatti.