

'The Creation'

While our resident professional musicians are carrying off high honors during the Festival, our amateurs are doing big things too.

In the Town Hall yesterday afternoon, country choirs from Barossa, Loxton and Victor Harbor joined the City of Burnside Symphony Orchestra in Haydn's "The Creation."

Soloists were Brenda

Coulter, Neville Hicks and Robert Dawe; Donald Woodford led the orchestra and Emma den Hollander was at the harpsichord.

The prime movers in this enterprise were David Cubbin on the orchestra side and Boyd Dawkins on the choral.

For years they have been building up the elements without which country choirs could never have hoped to enjoy an orchestral accompaniment on this scale.

There were a few weak spots in the performance, but there is no need to dwell on them. The wonder was that with a minimum of combined rehearsal under a strange conductor the country choirs merged themselves so well into a single chorus.

Their best moments were in the big massive choruses wherein members could attack their notes with confidence and clean tone, more or less from memory.

Especially towards the end the confidence had grown considerably, and everyone was giving everything in a last-minute determination to finish with a flourish. They did.

The work of the soloists, orchestral and vocal, was always creditable, and the difference between a piano or organ accompaniment and a full orchestral one lifted the occasion into a new era of choralism in SA for those lucky enough to come under the influence of these new leaders.