

# As good as the music

The Burnside Symphony Orchestra, now in its sixteenth year, passed a milestone at its concert in the Burnside Town Hall last night.

When Robert Cooper, SA Symphony Orchestra leader, took over as conductor 3½ years ago, he decided to play a Brahms symphony each year and last night's performance of the elegaic Fourth bore out the strength of his belief that an amateur orchestra is as good as the music it plays.

With a sprinkling of guest professionals among its 60 players, the orchestra rose to the occasion and turned on an intensely musical performance of this searching work.

The orchestra's progress under Mr. Cooper has been remarkable. It is now better balanced, has

a sense of permanency, and can produce a full round tone at the conductor's command.

Opening with six movements from Handel's "Water Music" suite, an improved string volume was noticeable under the leader, Donald Woolford, and the contrasting rhythms were well marked.

With his firm, precise tone, Glenn Maddern was an admirable soloist in the bright Hummel concerto for trumpet and orchestra, the pizzicato accompaniment by the cellos in the andante movement being one of several delights.

After the spirited yet graceful scherzo, the surging fourth movement of the Brahms reached a passionate and convincing finale.

**HAROLD TIDEMANN**