

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Burnside concert all Russian

Last night's Burnside Symphony Orchestra concert, conducted by Bob Cooper, was all Russian.

However, eagle-eyed political analysts should also take into account that on the very day of the announcement of "Advance

Australia Fair" as the new National Anthem, Burnside's concert began with a determined performance of "God Save the Queen."

Adoption of the standard programme formula led to a Glinka overture, a Khatchaturian violin concerto and a Tchaikovsky Symphony, the most cheerful "Little Russian."

All of the music has a fairly straightforward character about it, suitable for an amateur orchestra with its strength and weaknesses.

Last night's strength included some very nice wind playing from time to time and some long clean lines from violins and cellos.

The weaknesses included an untidy few bars from violas and a sadly out of tune pair of drums.

And don't think I'm knocking tympanists or amateur orchestras — I'm all in favor.

Beryl Kimber was the guest soloist in the concerto. The slow movement was especially affective with its beautiful build-up of tension from a quiet beginning.

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