

Clearing the hurdles

By JOHN HORNER

With the youth orchestras of Victoria and SA stealing so much of the limelight this week, it was good last night to see that the old stagers and younger acquisitions who comprise the City of Burnside Symphony Orchestra are carrying on their steady progress as healthily as ever.

Still aiming high, conductor Robert Cooper set them some stiff hurdles to clear in the Brahms Symphony No. 3 in F.

It proved a good choice for their present state of grace.

In the rich, turbulent Brahmsian romantics of the outer quick movements, there is much tricky counterpoint to be fitted neatly together, but there is also plenty of fairly safe "cover" where the timid can disappear

momentarily when danger threatens.

But timidity and danger were not the main impressions conveyed by the symphony which caught the feeling of each movement at once, with all sections of the orchestra enjoying their big moments to the full.

In the Mozart horn concerto K447 there was no place at all to hide, but Rosalie Butcher was completely sure of herself.

Trifles by Auber and Gung'l completed the programme.