

Vigor to the last

By JOHN HORNER

Vigor was the first and the last impression made by the Burnside Symphony Orchestra at its concert last night.

A Purcell suite for strings set the pattern of the evening at the start and Bellini's "rum-tetum" overture for "Norma" kept up the operatic pressure with appropriate fury.

The confidence of most of the playing in response to Robert Cooper's baton was particularly enjoyable and sustained.

There were minor flaws in the details of the woodwind work in the very tricky second movement, but at no time did the performance show signs of distress.

Franck's ripe, fruity harmonies were enthusiastically revelled in, with plenty of personal passion.

Soprano Nine Leak contributed "Dido's Lament" (Purcell) and "Casta Diva" (Rossini) in a firm, steady, evenly controlled voice with simple dignity and gravity coming through the orchestra clearly without effort.