

S.A. ORCHESTRAL CONCERT

Triumphant Of Modernism

By H. BREWSTER JONES

Following its valiant attempt to cope with the difficulties of Delius at the recent Nordic concert conducted by Percy Grainger, the South Australian Orchestra on Saturday night, in the Adelaide Town Hall, played at times in electrical fashion, another example of modernism—the Symphony in D minor (Oscar Franck), with its broad sweep of phrase, its glorious sonority, and its fiery glow of passion.

There must be some very simple explanation for the shaky, ragged quality of performance of this orchestra in certain works and the compact sureness of this performance. It apparently lies in the type of orchestration played. Modern orchestration, which we may conveniently date from the time of Wagner, Liszt, and Mahler, includes an infusion of the brass family which is absent in the works of the older composers. The orchestra of the South Australian Orchestra which dominates the situation. By their inventive strategy and rehearsal for competitive performance they may have arrived at a state of efficiency which the other sections of the orchestra could not match. This is particularly noticeable—exuberance of volume.

If those in authority will abandon their insistence on more soloistic performance than the more subtle because in point of chronology he is earlier—and possibly more simple—the South Australian Orchestra may be able to impart a fillip which eventually will lead to collective results.

Concerts for violin and orchestra, op. 64 (Mendelssohn) Arved Kurtz proved his skill as an executant and demonstrated his scholarly attributes. The soloist in the first movement of the South Australian Orchestra failed to efface itself sufficiently in the accompaniment; the second and the successive playing of the soloist was at times marred by the result. Kurtz demonstrated in the unaccompanied portion—the cadenzas—what an excellent and bold and brilliant of command were his. The orchestra, which dragged unduly heavily in his first movement and in movement; and in the brilliant finale he was hampered with an accompaniment which was either insufficiently or overplayed. In the first of certain players at the tempo, that a debacle was narrowly averted. By his performance of the concerto, Arved Kurtz completed his performance in a manner which enhanced his reputation as a violinist.

The programme of this symphony orchestra is added with the responsibility of suitable subsequent concerting, but the only consolation reflection is that better orchestras than the South Australian have fallen in this branch of their work.

The programme of orchestral numbers included overture, "Romance", on the subject of the knights and their players and public alike. Quite a good performance, which however, lacked finesse and grace. The first of two Spanish dances, Granados, tripped its measure with rather leader-like freedom. In the final section broke into freedom of action. Spanish castanets which mark the very rhythms, were suggested by rounded tones, reminiscent of a baby's rattle, which played tricks with the atmosphere. "Flora's Song" by the first and second half of the orchestra, was maintained—except for some rather blatant blasts of brass which punctuated the music. There was no comparison between the first and second half, for the orchestra and conductor. The Symphony, and although the performance was not by any means perfect it proved the most suitable impetus to its endeavor. Any modern symphony of similar caliber, with suitable timidity would have served the same purpose. The opening phrases of the Franck, while lacking mystical suggestion, were of high quality and fine string tone. The dramatic climax of the introduction, and also the repetition, came off particularly well.

The Allegro, which begins the first movement, grace into the "Faith" motive and the canonic devices so dear to the heart of this composer were

nicely stressed. Despite a shaky horn entry much precise and colorful playing proved the orchestra. The music entered into the spirit of this work which has been described as being "by turns sorrowful, mystical, aspiring and serene." The vivid patch of color at the recapitulation was announced by trumpets, trombones and tuba with a virility of style which persisted to the end of the movement. The pizzicato at the opening of the allegretto-scherzo movement should have been a shade more delicate and the cor anglais, despite its good firm grasp over the important notes, may have been a shade more pastoral in its quality. The French horns, which spluttered as usual, gave an uncertainty of effect to phrases intended to be warm and direct; but this movement, which has been likened in one place to a dance of the angels in a picture of Los Angeles was played generally with understanding by conductor and orchestra.

The Finale, which incorporates themes from both the other movements, and thus completes the cyclical unity aimed at, is charged with joy. The persistent note of the strings and mystery expressed in poignant terms, but with the re-entry of the strings, intended to be warm and direct movement of the basses, a passionate note of triumphant happiness returns. The moments of doubt, which occur in this movement may be almost described as a pean of joy, and reflected the greatest credit upon orchestra and conductor alike.

The Town Hall was well filled for the first of the regular season of concerts by the South Australian Orchestra, and particular enthusiasm was expressed after the violin playing of Arved Kurtz and the measured playing of the Symphony, which had been carefully studied and rehearsed by Harold Parsons, who made his first appearance upon the conductor's rostrum since his trip abroad.

Adm 11.6.35

N.S.W. PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

Vital Changes May Be Made

SYDNEY, June 10. Vital changes in the State secondary school examinations system are likely, if the intermediate examination is abolished and a new examination standard adopted for those who are desirous of following a commercial or technical career. In this case, to supplement the leaving certificate examination, which, however, will be retained as the standard for entrance to the Sydney University.

The Minister for Education (Mr. Drummond) said tonight in framing his policy, he would be guided by the recommendations of the Educational Council.

News 11.6.35

Intermediate Certificate Users Here HELP YOUNGS TO GET JOBS

Education Chief's Comment

SYDNEY SCHEME The abolition of the intermediate certificate in this State would be difficult.

It would remove one of the standards demanded by the Public Service, banks, big insurance companies, and other large commercial institutions, when applying for jobs, said the Director of Education (Mr. W. J. Adey) today. Some substitute would have to be found for it.

Mr. Adey, referring to a report from Sydney that wide changes likely in the secondary school examinations there included the abolition of the intermediate certificate, said: "There was not sufficient information available about the New South Wales Department's intentions for him to offer an opinion." It was suggested that, with the abolition of the intermediate examination, a new examination standard would be adopted for those who wished to follow a commercial or technical career.

Recently the intermediate syllabus in South Australia had been widened by the inclusion of craft work, including wood work, sheet metal work, home science, and needle work. This had made provision for three types of intermediate certificate—the Intermediate Certificate for a purely academic training, the Commercial Certificate dealing with commercial subjects, and the Technical Certificate dealing with the craft subjects.

S.A. Technical Exam. Not to be Altered

Commenting on the announcement from Sydney that the intermediate examination might be abolished, there and a new examination standard adopted for those who wished to follow a commercial career, the Registrar of the Adelaide University (Mr. Easley) said today that the intermediate examination here already provided a certificate for those who wished to specialise in commercial and technical subjects.

Adm 12.6.35

WIDE VALUE OF PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

Proposal To Abolish Intermediate COMMENT ON N.S.W. SCHEME

Opinions of educationists in Adelaide differ on the wisdom of the proposal of the New South Wales education authorities to abolish the intermediate examination and to adopt a new examination standard for those desirous of following a commercial or technical career.

Some who favored it said yesterday that if few students ultimately took a degree course at the University, they could employ their time better in preparing for the intermediate and leaving examinations, which were mainly a preparation for a university course. Others considered that if the intermediate was regarded as a standard for entrance to the public service, banks, insurances, and other big establishments, it should be retained.

The acting chairman of the Public Examinations Council (Professor Kerr Grant) said that the New South Wales proposal was in the direction that he approved. He said that the curriculum, which at present was designed too much to meet the requirements of a university degree study, should do exactly the same work. Schools should be given the opportunity to enlarge the curriculum so that they could give students the course of education they needed to fit them for careers.

Three Types of Examination

In South Australia, said Mr. Adey, the public examinations were conducted under the supervision of the New South Wales the Education Department conducted the examinations, and syllabuses were drawn up by a board of studies, on which the Education Department, the University, and the representatives of the various schools were represented. Here the courses were divided into three types: the Public Examinations Board, on which the University, the Education Department, and the various schools were represented. There was a feeling here that the public examinations were designed to cater for the needs of those desired to matriculate for University studies, rather than to cater for the great majority of students who wished to enter into commercial or industrial careers. Recently provision had been made for the issue of three different types of intermediate certificate—academic, the commercial, and the technical. In the past the intermediate were granted by the public service, banks, insurance office, and commercial institutions as a minimum qualification for entrance.

The headmaster of Prince Alfred College (Mr. J. F. Ward) said that he would like to see another examination system, which would be regarded as a qualification for a boy going into business or for a girl entering into a variety of careers, at which any subject was finished, and a boy passing the examination had not gone far enough to become interested in any of the other subjects or subjects now set for the intermediate could be taken in other examinations.

"Retrospect Step"

Mr. H. Ward, principal of Murrumbidgee College, a member of the Public Examinations Board, said that it would be a retrospect step in South Australia to abolish the intermediate examination. "When boys were seeking employment it provided an impartial test of their general knowledge which was wanted. The majority of boys attending colleges would not be affected by the abolition of the intermediate examination, because their parents could usually afford to send them to school until they obtained their university entrance certificate. Boys and girls had to leave school at 15 years, which meant that they would not have the opportunity of obtaining a leaving certificate. In some of the other States examinations conducted in this way have been given general public recognition, but here, where there was no registration of teachers, the abolition of the intermediate in a school was a proper test. Because the majority of boys and girls could not stay at school longer than 15 years, many of them would be deprived of obtaining a public certificate to show what they had done at school."

Dr. Hugo Gray, who recently arrived in London, has accepted an appointment for a year's hospital research work in bacteriology at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Carnegie Gramophone Society

At a Carnegie gramophone recital in the south hall of the Elder Conservatorium yesterday, records of works by Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, and Grieg comprised the programme, which lasted for 90 minutes. A meeting of the society and intending members of the Carnegie Gramophone Society will be held in the South hall during the lunch hour today.

Adm 13.6.35

UNIVERSITY ORGAN RECITAL

In the Elder Hall at 1.10 p.m. today Mr. John Horner will begin another series of recitals by the University Organ. At each recital Mr. Horner will be assisted by either a singer or an instrumentalist. Today's programme includes the allegro from the eighth organ concerto and the "Faramondo" and "The Merry Widow" by G. Giuliani; and the fantasia and fugue "Ad nos, ad salutarem undam" by Luigi B. Ronaldi. For a violin solo.

Gramophone Recitals.—At a meeting yesterday of the recently formed Adelaide Gramophone Society, it was decided to hold three lunch hour recitals each week instead of one. A committee has been formed to arrange the programme for the further recitals to be given here yesterday. It comprised Messrs. W. D. Allen, D. J. Anders, and J. W. Lillywhite.