

# Choral works were a curious pair

NANTWICH and District Choral Society (conductor Michael Bridger) presented two modern choral works at their autumn concerts at the Civic Hall last week.

The choice of works — Winter Music by Michael Rose and Orff's Catulli Carmina — was curious. They are really too similar in style to make a satisfactory pair.

One suspects that, having decided to perform the Orff work, which demands four pianos and percussion, the Society felt that it must use these forces in the rest of the programme.

There cannot be many other reasons for a choice of Winter Music, a slight and instantly forgettable work,

whose percussive effects seem designed to conceal a lack of real musical inspiration.

The choir coped ably with the considerable difficulties of this piece, though their words were not always clearly projected. They were at their best in the largely unaccompanied sections, such as the quiet "A Chilly Winter's Night" and "Last Snow."

## Came to life

The evening really came to life after the interval with a performance of Catulli Carmina which reached the high standard we now expect of this Society.

Supported by an impressive percussion section, expertly handled by seven players, and beautifully accompanied by four pianos, the choir sang Orff's effective, vulgar music with great verve and accuracy.

The ladies were especially

good in their reiterated rhythmic passages.

Ruth Walland sang the soprano role and James Watson had fine declamatory singing in the important tenor part.

Between the two choral works there was a welcome change of atmosphere when pianists Heather Bridger, Joy Roberts, Rachel Richardson and Gary Brooks gave a deft performance of the Vivaldi - Bach Concerto in A for four keyboards.

A.R.J.

## CHORAL SOCIETY'S AUTUMN CONCERT

CATULLI Carmina by Carl Orff is to be the main work in Nantwich and District Choral Society's autumn concert at the Civic Hall on Sunday, November 16.

Written in 1943, a few years after the better known Carmina Burana, it is different in that the accompanying instruments are percussion and four pianos. Most of the words are by the poet Catullus and consist of a play within the work, which attempts to prove to young lovers that love does not last for ever. Soloists are Ruth Walland (soprano) and James Watson (tenor), and the pianists will be Heather Bridger, Joy Roberts, Rachel Richardson and Gary Brooks. Percussion is by Paul Shaw and Trevor Stokes, while Michael Bridger conducts.

The first half of the programme will be Winter Music, by the contemporary English composer Michael Rose. It is a setting for chorus, piano, duet and percussion of a sequence of poems on winter, chosen from sources dating from the 13th to 20th centuries.

Tickets are available from the Information Centre, Beam Street, Nantwich.

## Unusual accompaniment

A CHORAL work which is scored for an unusual accompaniment of percussion and four pianos is to be performed by Nantwich and District Choral Society at their autumn concert at Nantwich Civic Hall on Sunday.

It is "Catulli Carmina," by Carl Orff, which was written in 1943, a few years after the better known "Carmina Burana" by the same composer.

Most of the words are by the poet Catullus and consist of a play within the work which attempts to prove to young lovers that love does not last for ever.

Soloists will be Ruth Walland, soprano, and

James Watson, tenor. Michael Bridger will conduct.

The first half of the programme is to be Winter Music by the contemporary English composer Michael Rose. It is a setting for chorus, piano duet and percussion of a sequence of poems on winter subjects chosen from sources dating between the 13th and 20th centuries.

