

27/6/81

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NANTWICH Choral Society, conducted by Michael Bridger, presented their summer concert in Brine Leas School on Saturday.

Their programme opened with a performance of the Love Song Waltzes by Brahms. This work, intimate in character but with much variety within its small scale, was a good choice for the forces available for this concert. The all-important piano duet part was played by Joy Roberts and Heather Bridger.

Balance between choir and piano was good, and the singers fully captured the rich romanticism of the slower numbers.

Much of the work, however, is Brahms at his gayest, and the quicker movements lacked the essential Viennese lilt.

A similar lack of precision in accentuation made the rhythmic attack of John Garner's "Five Hymns" less effective than it might have been.

The admirable duettists and the singers did what they could with Borodin's "Prince Igor", but there was again some lack of power and precision in attack, and this work does really need the huge forces the composer envisaged.

In the event, the choir was at its well-tuned and responsive best in the lovely, unaccompanied "Spring Songs" of Moeran which opened the second half.

A.R.J