

# Choir's summer concert

NANTWICH and District Choral Society performed music by Monteverdi and Brahms at their summer concert at Brine Lees School on Saturday.

The concert began with a set of madrigals. "Tears of a Lover at the tomb of the Beloved," composed by Monteverdi in 1610. The dark beauty of these pieces was well perceived by Michael Bridger and his singers.

The Tessitura of the upper parts is appropriately restrained and the prevailing mood of the work is melancholic. Dullness might easily have crept into the performance, but well-disciplined singing and an imaginative interpretation prevented this.

Later, the choir sang the Gipsy Songs by Brahms. They revelled in these uninhibited songs: the tenors and basses were not to be downtrodden by a large preponderance of ladies! When required, the tone was ample, and blend and balance were good.

Two duets by Monteverdi, *Pur Ti Miro* (Jean Samuel and Michael Box) and *Hor Che Seneca e Morto* (Michael Box and Brian Greensill) from the opera, *L'Incorporate di Poppea*, were sung with all the artistry we now expect from these singers.

There were pleasant instrumental interludes. Christine Hewison, Ruth Meiller and Edward Hewison played Haydn's Trio in F, op. 10, No. 4, which would not win many converts for the composer. Fine playing alone could not enliven this rather dull work.

Heather and Michael Bridger scored a tremendous success with spirited playing of the 1st set of Hungarian Dances for Piano Duet by Brahms. Heather Bridger and Joy Roberts shared the accompaniments. Michael Bridger was the conductor.

H. G. K.