

DAVID I. KRAM

CONDUCTOR

26 Kylie Ave
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9th September 1986

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

On September 6th 1986 I had great pleasure in conducting the 37th Inter-Varsity Choral Festival in Brisbane. The major concert featured three demanding works for chorus; a choral symphony, 'Gaudium Vitae' by Dr William Lovelock; an unaccompanied choral motet by Michael Leighton-Jones; and 'Hymnus Paradisi' by Herbert Howells.

The choir of 130 young voices was made up of members of ten University choral societies from all over Australia, rehearsing for two weeks prior to the concert, often up to nine hours singing per day. Despite a throat epidemic during the rehearsal period, the choral sound was vital, positive and assured. The participants were enthusiastic and sang with intelligence. We were able to divide the choir into two sections for the opening movement of the 'Hymnus Paradisi', and a semi-chorus was auditioned and specially rehearsed for that work and the Leighton-Jones work. We were also able to select four choristers to undertake small solo parts in the Lovelock.

Thus the choir proved capable of mastering the rhythmical and textual exigencies of the Lovelock, the unaccompanied motet style of the Leighton-Jones, and the massive, often convoluted part-writing of the Howells. The collaboration with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra was eminently successful. John Colwill of the Brisbane Courier-Mail wrote of the concert "..... fine playing from the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and good singing from soloists Merlyn Quaife and Richard Greagor. The sound from the Festival Chorus was strong, with clear diction, but especially in unaccompanied sections...a pleasure to listen to".

David I. Kram