

United choirs in Bach concert

NANTWICH and District Choral Society join with the Market Drayton Choral Society for a performance of the Mass in B minor by J. S. Bach, at Nantwich Civic Hall on Sunday, March 22.

The link-up offers a rare local opportunity to hear a large-scale choral work. Bach wrote his setting for the Mass for chorus, vocal solo and vocal duet between 1733 and 1739, and it is full of rich melodic and contrapuntal interest.

Of the four distinguished soloists the baritone Christopher Underwood has sung with the Nantwich Choral Society on several previous occasions.

The Mass will be accompanied by the Manchester Mozart Orchestra, whose leader, Fay Campey, is already well known to those who have attended local concerts by Manchester Camerata.

Edward Hewison conducts the performance which is supported by the National Federation of Music Societies and Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council.

Tickets are obtainable from the Nantwich Information Centre, Beam Street, or by phoning Nantwich 63850.

CHOIRS GRAND OVATION

Nantwich and Market Drayton Choral Societies, combined well in a recent presentation of the Mass in B Minor by J.S. Bach at the Civic Hall, Nantwich.

The choirs lined up to their titanic two hour programme which went without a minor hitch.

The religious works were snug with a feeling of reverence throughout - Part of the Mass Agnus Dei, was

particularly moving - the hallmark of good tuition and singing. Soloists - Vanessa Scott, Vanessa Williamson, Eric Baskeyfield and Christopher Underwood, gave heartfelt performances.

Five-hundred patrons gave the musical cast an enthusiastic standing ovation in appreciation of the beauties of J.S. Bach. The choir conductor was Mr.

Edward Hewison, and the Manchester Mozart Orchestra was under leader Fay Campey.

* Footnote - If there is a "weakness" it is to be heard in the male section where more voices are required in the Tenor register.

(By RON BAILEY)

A rare chance to hear work

AUDIENCES in South Cheshire rarely have the chance of hearing the largest scale choral works.

For that reason alone the capacity audience at the Nantwich Civic Hall last night had good reason to thank the Nantwich and District Choral Society and their allies, the Market Drayton Choral Society, for the opportunity of hearing the Mass in B Minor by J. S. Bach.

But, more importantly, the fusion of the highly capable choirs, resulted in a powerful and moving presentation of a magnificent work.

The audience's appreciation of those twin achievements was clearly shown in the lengthy ovation for the choir of around 100 voices.

MASTERLY

Edward Hewison's conducting bordered on the masterly and only occasionally was there a slight lapse of cohesion, despite the fact that the choral sections were not ideally balanced.

The performance had the advantage of four distinguished soloists in Vanessa Scott, Vanessa Williamson, Eric Baskeyfield and Christopher Underwood.

Particularly moving in capturing the deeply religious faith of the composer were the choral sequences "Et incarnatus est" and the "Sanctus".

The Manchester Mozart Orchestra, under Fay Campey, made a valuable contribution to a memorable evening.

J.P.

Societies give depth and power to Bach Mass

THE combining of two choral societies to provide depth and power for the performance of J. S. Bach's Mass in B Minor proved a successful move at Nantwich Civic Hall on Sunday.

The Nantwich and District Choral Society and their neighbours, the Market Drayton Choral Society, presented the moving and deeply religious work with great style... a point emphasised by the lengthy ovation from the audience.

Both societies excelled under the masterly baton of Edward Hewison and the soloists, Vanessa Scott,

Vanessa Williamson, Eric Baskeyfield and Christopher Underwood, complemented and united the performance superbly.

Only occasionally did the performance perhaps lapse because the choral sections were not ideally balanced, but most of the time the work ebbed and flowed smoothly with precision and accord.

Most uplifting were the choral sequences, "Et incarnatus est", "Confiteor unum baptisma" and "Sanctus".

The Manchester Mozart Orchestra, under the leadership of Fay Campey, made a valuable contribution throughout to make it a memorable evening for all who attended.

J. D.