

# Saint's day is celebrated with music

CECILIA, patron saint of music, whose feast day was on Sunday, was celebrated in a concert of choral and orchestral music by Nantwich Choral Society, at the Central Methodist Church. The programme consisted of two works by Purcell and two by Benjamin Britten, whose birthday also falls on St. Cecilia's Day.

Purcell's ode, *Welcome to all Pleasures* opened tentatively. The chorus, however, quickly redeemed the situation with singing which was clearly well-rehearsed and confidently presented.

The orchestra gave an admirable performance of Britten's *Simple Symphony*. The *bourée* was suitably vigorous and the playful *pizzicato* was deftly effective.

The impassioned third movement was given careful attention in phrasing and dynamic detail, though there was a weakness in the middle strings. The final movement brought the symphony to a stirring close.

The highlight of the evening was a fine performance of a Britten masterpiece, his *Hymn to St. Cecilia*. From the gentle tenor opening the conductor, Edward Hewison secured a good balance, exemplary diction, and accurate hold of intonation.

The concert ended with a performance of Purcell's 1692 *Ode to St. Cecilia*, in which the soloists were Marian Greensill, Owen Wynne, Brian Greensill and Howard Watkin.—K.S.