

Dec. 1974.



NDCS

Nantwich and District Choral Society

Magnificat in D J.S. Bach.

Ave Rex William Mathias

Courageous Choral Society

FOR the audience in the Central Methodist Church on Saturday night Christmas must have got off to a good start with seasonal music by the courageous Nantwich and District Choral Society conducted by Michael Bridger.

A choir of sixty, some twelve instrumentalists and Edward Hewison at the organ presented an exhilarating event.

"The Great Magnificat" in D is as much Bach for the ordinary man as when it was composed in 1723 "to the glory of the Virgin Mary." The seven short, well sung choruses were interspersed with arias, a trio and a duet, some with notable contributions on oboes and flutes, enabling principals Jean Samuel, Sylvia Hurley, Heather Bridger, Michael Bax and Christopher Jones to display their undoubted prowess.

After an interval in which good coffee was served in the neighbouring church hall the music was perhaps more for the extraordinary man.

Ave Rex by Anglesey composer William Mathias, still a young man, with its polyphonic dissonances and syncopated rhythms, much more difficult to sing, play and weld into a cohesive whole, must also have been more difficult for some to listen to compared with Bach. But it was well worth the concentration demanded.

Robustly sung traditional carols, in which the audience joined, and "Verses" by choir and instrumentalists alone brought this splendid programme to an end.