

Dazzling show set for St Mary's

TICKETS are on sale for Nantwich Choral Society's next production which promises to be dazzling.

The concert on Saturday, November 14 contrasts the works of two of the greatest composers in the history of western music, J S Bach and Igor Stravinsky.

The soloists are new faces on the Nantwich stage and are all young professionals. The concert takes place in the beautiful Medieval Church of St Mary's and the Society says book your ticket early as this programme will be a sell out.

Box Office Tel 01270-625641. Tickets are also available from St Mary's Church shop and from choir members.

The classical scene with ERIC SNAPE

October 30, 1998

An inspired combination

"JOHANN Sebastian Bach, whose universal mind and enormous grasp upon musical art has never been transcended." That's a Stravinsky tribute, and he didn't hand out many.

Bach and Stravinsky are not composers who, at first hearing, would appear to have very much in common. Yet they do, and it's a stroke of inspiration by Nantwich Choral Society to unite them in a concert which takes place at St Mary's Parish

Church on Saturday, November 14 (7.30pm).

Bach's Magnificat opens the programme. Then Stravinsky's influence is felt in a performance of Bach's Canonic Variations on Vom Himmel Hoch.

This music was originally composed for solo organ, but it will be given in Stravinsky's startling arrangement for large orchestra and choir.

The concert concludes with Stravinsky's Symphony of Psalms.

FIRST NIGHT

Nantwich Choral Society - St Mary's Church, Nantwich

HARD to imagine a bigger contrast between two conductors than there is between Stephen Buckman and Patrick Larley.

Buckman, a musical martinet, ruled Nantwich Choral Society with a baton of iron until he left them to go south a year ago.

His successor, the willowy Larley, adopts a totally different approach; relaxed and laid back.

Review: Eric Snape

Yet Larley maintains the Buckman-Nantwich tradition of never being afraid to tackle the most difficult of works; it's an enterprising tradition of ever onwards, ever upwards.

Saturday night's concert at St Mary's parish church illustrated the point. There was a sublime work by Bach, a piece of

Bach that Stravinsky revamped, and, finally, Stravinsky's gloriously abrasive symphony of Psalms.

Bach's Magnificat in D received a good performance with the choristers in fine form.

There was clear, radiant singing by the soloists — soprano Stephanie Neal, alto Timothy Massa, tenor Neil Sharp, bass Adrian Blakeley and an unnamed second soprano — and the Nantwich

Sinfonia rendered a dramatic accompaniment.

The Bach Canonic Variations on "Vom Himmel Hoch," set for instruments and choir by Stravinsky, was not so successful, its counter-point being rather thick.

But the Symphony of Psalms sounded splendid; the setting of Psalm 150, with its repeated Alleluias and Laudates, was particularly impressive.