

Nantwich

IN the 15th Century November 22 became recognised as the name-day of St Cecilia, the Patron Saint of Music, and the St Cecilian Society was founded by 1683.

In honour of St Cecilia John Dryden completed his great poem *Alexander's Feast - or the Power of Musick*.

Handel undertook setting *Alexander's Feast* to music and the libretto was prepared by Newburgh Hamilton.

In celebration of St Cecilia's Day, the Nantwich Choral Society will be performing *Alexander's Feast* at the Parish Church of St Mary at Nantwich commencing at 7.30pm on Sunday.

The Choral Society conducted by Stephen Buckman will be accompanied by Nantwich Sinfonia (leader Harold Beech) with Joy Roberts on the harpsichord. Soloists will be Catrin Ley (soprano), James Watson (tenor) and

Philip Ravenscroft (bass).

Tickets priced at £3, with pensioners and students at £2 are available from Nantwich Information Centre, at the Door, or by telephoning 625752.

Sponsorship on this occasion is supplied by Mornflake Oats to whom the Society extends its grateful thanks.

• Contact Tom Dee with all your local Nantwich News on 257348.

Saint celebrated

NANTWICH Choral Society will celebrate the feast of St. Cecilia, patron saint of music, which traditionally falls on November 22, with a concert at Nantwich Parish Church on Saturday, November 21.

In the performance the choral society, con-

ducted by Stephen Buchman, will be accompanied by Nantwich Sinfonia (leader, Harold Beech) with Joy Roberts on the harpsichord. Soloists are Catrin Ley (soprano), James Watson (tenor) and Philip Ravenscroft (bass).

The concert is sponsored by Mornflake Oats and advance tickets, with concessions for pensioners and students, are available from Nantwich Information Centre, or on Nantwich 625752. They can also be obtained at the door.

Evening of fine music

THE alternative title to the poem "Alexander's Feast" by John Dryden is "The power of music" and this power was certainly present on Saturday in the concert given by Nantwich Choral Society and Nantwich Sinfonia.

Singers, instrumentalists and audience were gathered into this engaging music programmed as Handel's first Oratorio.

As one would expect from this composer we were led through a variety of emotions; melting arias, rich choruses, moving between praise to the ancient gods, victories over the foe, dancing measures celebrating Bacchus and the thundering drums and sounding brass when the call goes out for revenge, all good theatre and most enjoyable.

The society's conductor Stephan Buckman had rehearsed the choir to peak at the performance and there was much to applaud as the music progressed.

The Nantwich Sinfonia leader Harold Beech and Joy Roberts, harpsichord, supported well and the soloists Catrin Ley (soprano), James Watson (tenor) and Philip Ravenscroft (bass) enhanced the evening with stylish singing.

The concert was sponsored by Mornflake Oats and I can truthfully say they were well justified in making financial input in this fine evening. E.

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