

Perhaps the best choral work of all

A CHANCE to hear what is arguably the greatest choral work of them all, Bach's Mass in B minor, presents itself at St Mary's Church, Nantwich, on Saturday week, May 10 (7.30pm).

It's to be sung by Nantwich Choral Society, whose enterprising conductor, Stephen Buckman, has never been afraid to tackle the highest peaks of music.

Last year he directed a Nantwich performance of Bach's mighty St Matthew Passion. The soloists are all well known in this area; soprano Fiona Motherwell, contralto Marjorie Seddon, tenor Paul Phoenix and bass Andrew Tinkler.

Accompaniment will be by the excellent Nantwich Sinfonia.

Church concert

NANTWICH: Singers are planning to hit the high note of their 1997 programme with a concert at St Mary's Church. Nantwich Choral Society is holding the recital of Bach's Mass in B Minor at the church on May 10 at 7.30pm. Tickets are available by phoning (01270) 625641.

Cash windfall for drama and Bach

By
**SUSAN
YOUNG**



**THE NATIONAL
LOTTERY**

DRAMA and music have been winners in the National Lottery thanks to grants of more than £9,000.

The Arts Council has awarded money to three groups in Crewe, Nantwich and Sandbach to develop projects and skills.

Sandbach Youth Theatre, formerly known as Curtain Call, received £4,565 to help them develop, write and put on their next play.

Youth theatre director, Mark Jones, took over the reins last year and plans to take some 25 youngsters on a residential playwriting weekend in Wales.

Once their play is written they will be able to stage it and hopefully take it on tour.

"It's absolutely great," said Mark. "I'm really proud, of myself and of the youth theatre."

"I'm really looking forward to taking the group away, it will

be a lot of hard work but I'm sure it will be worth it."

Nantwich Choral Society was awarded £3,937 to put on a performance of JS Bach's B Minor Mass at Nantwich Parish Church.

The Dane Bank Theatre Players also benefited from the Lottery with £500 to help them make giant puppets and masks to take part in the 1997 Chester Mystery Plays.

Society hits the lottery jackpot



GRANT:
Nantwich Choral Society members Jane Lincoln, Stephen Buckingham, Clare Hoy, Ray Potts and Philip Jackson with the letter promising £4,000 for the society. 3058K25A

NANTWICH Choral Society enjoyed a double celebration this week.

Not only was its performance on Saturday at St Mary's Parish Church of Bach's *Mass in B Minor* a huge success, but it received a National Lottery grant.

The society applied for the grant in January to the Arts For Everyone 'Express Scheme', specifically for Saturday's concert, and the request was granted in time for the big event, with the arrival of a cheque for £3,937.

Chairman Jane Lincoln said: 'We wanted the grant so that we would be able to perform with professional soloists, conductor and orchestra.'

'We were keen to give people living in South Cheshire a rare opportunity to hear this incomparable work.'

The soloists were Fiona Motherwell, Marjorie Seddon, Paul Phoenix and Andrew Tinkler, and the conductor Stephen Buckman.

The choral society evolved from a WEA evening class in 1972, and performed its first 'Messiah' in December of that year.

Now it has more than 90 singing members, drawn from Nantwich and the surrounding area.

Stephen Buckman has been the society's musical director for 15 years and accompanist Joy Roberts has been with the choir from the beginning.