

BACH DRAWS FULL HOUSE

A NEAR full house attended the Tunbridge Wells Choral Society's performance of Bach's Mass in B minor on Wednesday evening last week. The first performance of its kind in the town in ten years, it was held at Christ Church, Tunbridge Wells.

This colossal choral work is most demanding and difficult to produce. The chorus sang well, but lacked balance, the soprano and contralto almost drowning the male voices. Tonal quality was excellent and the words came over very distinctly.

IMPRESSIVE BASS

The soloists impressed, particularly the bass, Bryan Drake. Oratorio singing is most difficult, and this singer with a big voice managed the most intricate passages with ease.

One of the highlights of the performance was the singing by the choir of the words, "passus et sepultus est," and then the joyous outburst "et resurrexit tertia die."

Dr. Harold May conducted the chorus and orchestra, Dr. Allan W. Bunney, F.R.C.O., played the organ, and Walter Neal provided the piano continuo.