

Choral Society

NEITHER Rossini's Stabat Mater nor Mendelssohn's Hymn of Praise are easily recognisable as church music. But this does not take from the enjoyment they give and Tunbridge Wells Choral Society performed both very commendably at St. Luke's Church on Wednesday night.

The Stabat Mater is the more important work from every point of view. The highlight is, of course, the well-known air "Cujus Animam." This was sung by tenor John Stoddard, who spoiled it for me by hesitating before each high note to draw breath. He has a fine voice, not unlike Leopold Simoneau's at times, but has yet to master the difficult technique of oratorio singing.

Of the soloists, I liked the soprano, Iris Kells, of Sadlers Wells, best.

The baritone was Norman Tattersall, and Patricia Cracknell sang the mezzo-soprano part.

Dr. Harold May conducted the choir, which sang up to its usual high standard, and Walter Neal played the organ accompaniment.