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PROGRAMMES FOR EASTER

WHEN Johann Sebastian Bach was offered—with no great enthusiasm—the post of cantor at the Thomasschule, Leipzig, to which he was attached for the rest of his life, he was warned that his music was not to smack of the theatre. Soon after that his *St. John Passion* had its first performance in St. Thomas's Church. The *St. John Passion* is probably second only to his *St. Matthew Passion*, generally considered the greatest work of its kind ever written, and these two have, as usual, a prominent place in Easter programmes from NZBS stations.

Those who have heard the BBC recording of the *St. John Passion* will not need to be told to listen when it is broadcast again from all YC stations on the evening of Good Friday. The performance is by the BBC Choral Society and the BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Sir Adrian Boult. Stations which will broadcast the *St. Matthew Passion* in whole or in part on Good Friday include 1YA and 3YA and the four YZ stations. The broadcast from 3YZ is of recorded excerpts from a performance by the combined Greymouth Methodist and Presbyterian Church choirs.

Among other Easter programmes of local origin to be broadcast on Good Friday are *Easter Epilogue*, by the chapel choir of St. Peter's Church, Cambridge, from 1XH; *Crowned with Thorns*, from St. Mary's Church, New Plymouth, from 2XP; *From Olivet to Calvary* from Trinity Methodist Church, Wanganui, from 2XA; and *An Easter Offering*, from Chalmers Church, Timaru, from 3XC.

From the ZBs

THE story of Edward German and his success as a professional musician is told in *A Man and His Music—Edward German*, a BBC programme which will be broadcast from 2ZB at 9.0 p.m. on Good Friday. The programme features the BBC Welsh Chorus and Orchestra conducted by Arwel Hughes, and the songs sung by Denis Griffiths (tenor) include some of the settings to Kipling's *Just So Stories* which gave German enormous delight and pleasure to write.

This programme is one of a number of BBC features, both musical and spoken, which Commercial stations will broadcast on Good Friday. From 1ZB and 3ZB at 9.0 p.m. there will be programmes of English song, and at the same time 2ZA will broadcast a feature on the music of Lionel Monckton and 4ZB will present *Tantivy Towers*, a light opera by A. P. Herbert and Thomas F. Dunhill.

Spoken features from the BBC will be broadcast from all Commercial stations at 7.30 p.m. One of these, about Cecil Rhodes, is mentioned on page 19. From 3ZB will be heard *The Boy From Greece*, the story of Vassilios Vello, the Greek boy with the Welsh accent who spoke in the programme which preceded the Queen's Christmas Message in 1952. (This moving story of a boy's courage will be heard also from 2YA at 9.30 a.m. on Sunday, April 18). Other programmes are *Destroyer*, the story of H.M.S. Kelly, from 2ZB; *Quest in the Desert*, a feature about Lasseter's Reef, from 4ZB; and *Rendezvous in Crete*, which tells how a German General was kidnapped on Crete, from 2ZA.

N.Z. LISTENER, APRIL 9, 1954.