English Cathedral Music

CINCE the early days of the 16th Century a tradition of choral singing, beginning in the cathedrals but certainly not confined to them, has grown up in England. It is not surprising that many of the cathedral organists should provide much fine music for their choirs to sing, especially as some of these organists, particularly in Tudor days, were the leading composers in England. Motets, settings of the Liturgy and the Psalms, anthems and other works were designed for special church festivals, and four centuries have produced an enormous collection of what may be called English cathedral music.

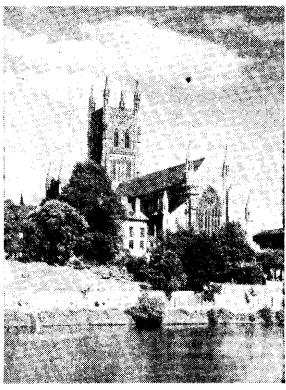
Last year the BBC recorded eight quarterhour programmes of this music, sung by the choirs in six of England's oldest cathedrals, as well as in the Chapel

of New College, Oxford, and St. St. Paul's Cathedral, conducted by Dr. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. Composers, from the great Elizabethans like Byrd, Morley, and Orlando Gibbons down to Ralph Vaughan Williams and others of the present day, are represented. During the next few months these programmes are to be heard from all YC and YZ stations and the six main X stations.

English Cathedral Music will start from 1YC at 8.0 p.m. on Tuesday, April 29, from 3YC at 7.0 p.m. on Wednesday, April 30, and from 2XG in the week beginning May 5. The first programme comes from York Minster, the Cathedral Church of St. Peter. Listeners will hear the choir, under its conductor, Francis Jackson, sing the anthems O Lord, Increase My Faith, by Orlando Gibbons, Almighty God, Fountain of All Wisdom, by Ernest Bristow Farrar, and Sing We Merrily Unto God, by William Crotch.

The chief glory of York Minster is in its windows. No other English church has preserved so much of its original glazing or conveys so well the colour and glow of the interior in which medieval man delighted. However, most of these windows were removed and packed away during the war, and though five of the biggest have been restored, it may take twenty years to complete

A Peter Philips motet and a Stanford hymn will be heard from the choir of Durham Cathedral, conducted by Conrad Eden, and from Westminster Abbey the choir under Dr. William Mc-Kie will sing motets by Stanford and Byrd and anthems by William Mundy and Byrd. The choir of the Chapel of New College, Oxford, conducted by Dr. H. K. Andrews, will be heard next in anthems by John Weldon and Jonathan Battishill, followed by the choir of Worcester Cathedral, under David Willocks, also in two anthems, by James Nares and Charles Wood. The choir of



WORCESTER CATHEDRAL, from the north-west

John Dykes Bower, sings an introit by Edward Bairstow, Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silende, and anthems by Thomas Morley and Orlando Gibbons. In the last two programmes anthems by Thomas Weelkes, W. H. Harris and Stanford will be heard from the choir of St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, conducted by Dr. William H. Harris, and by Gibbons, Weelkes, and Vaughan Williams from the choir of Canterbury Cathedral under Gerald H. Knight.

Concerto Contest

AT its festival this year the Auckland Competitions Society will conduct for the first time the Auckland Star Piano Concerto Contest. The test piece will be Concerto No. 2 in B Flat Major, by Beethoven. An unusual feature of the contest is that by arrangements with the NZBS the three finalists will play the full concerto with the augmented Auckland Radio Concert Orchestra conducted by Oswald Cheesman, and the final will almost certainly be broadcast. The orchestra will also be available for rehearsals with each of the finalists. Up to the final the contest will be conducted with two pianos, and only the first movement will be played. An official accompanist will be available if required. The contest is open to all under the age of twenty-eight on December 31 next. Entries close on May 23, and the competitions festival will be held from August 23 to September 6. The first prize will be £125 and the second prize

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