

Music Review

Bach Presented with Fresh Vigour

By ALAN KOZINN

Easter is a couple of weeks away, but churches and their choirs are already dusting off Passion settings in anticipation. Sacred Music in a Sacred Space, the series directed by Kent Tritle at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, presented Bach's St John Passion on Wednesday evening. Mr. Tritle is an expert choral conductor, and the beautifully blended sound he elicited from his chamber choir was as effective in the serenely devotional chorales as in the more colorful dramatic sections.

The solo performances were less consistent; indeed the most remarkable voice was Curtis Streetman's rich bass, which he applied to Pilate's brief and fairly spare appearances. Mr. Streetman projected with a power and clarity that the other singers generally lacked, but that was necessary due to the church's reverberant sanctuary.