

## ALL SET FOR "NOYE'S FLUDDE"

A CAST including 140 children from Edinburgh schools will be performing Benjamin Britten's "Noye's Fludde" in St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, from Tuesday, September 6, to Saturday, September 10, at 7.30 p.m. each evening.

"Noye's Fludde," an opera for performance by children, tells the story of the Flood and the building of the Ark in the words of the Chester Miracle Play.

The idea that Edinburgh school-children might perform this work in St. Mary's Cathedral originated with Mr Dennis Townhill, the Organist and Master of the Choristers of the Cathedral. After discussion, the Provost, the Very Revd. Dr. R. Foskett, invited Mr Townhill to proceed with his plan. Discussions then followed with Dr. George Reith, the Director of Education for the City of Edinburgh, who gave the project his full approval. Mr John McColl was invited to produce the opera and auditions for the principal parts were held in October 1965. Children from many Edinburgh Secondary Schools attended the auditions and the standard of singing was good enough to enable two casts of principals to be drawn up, consisting of 18 children between the ages of 13 and 17 from Boroughmuir, Firrhill, Gillespie's, Gracemount, Leith Academy, Trinity Academy and the Cathedral Schools.

### REHEARSALS

While the principals rehearsed with the Music Director throughout November and December, the chorus of 130 children who are the animals were rehearsing their music with their music teachers at school. They were drawn from Clermiston and Leith Academy Primary schools and Ainslie Park, Trinity Academy and Leith Academy Secondary schools. During the second term Mr Townhill took over the chorus while the principals rehearsed with the producer at Leith Academy. The chorus worked with the producer during the Easter days at St. James' Goldenacre, and in

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(Continued from Page 5, Col. 6)

May and June the whole erts and consists of about 70 young musicians, will provide the orchestra to accompany came together. Rehearsals during June took place in St. Luke's Mission Church in Caledonian Crescent where the scenic designer with a hard-working team of boys from Ainslie Park Secondary School had built the setting.

The Edinburgh Secondary Schools' Orchestra, which is conducted by Mr Eric Rob-company the performances, augmented by a small nucleus of professional players.

SCAN, July 1966

# 'Noye's Fludde' in Cathedral

"NOYE'S FLUDDE" will be presented in St. Mary's Cathedral, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh, from Tuesday to Saturday, September 6 - 10, at 7.30 p.m.

"Noye's Fludde" is a mediaeval mystery play set to music for church performance by Benjamin Britten. It opens and closes with a hymn which is sung by cast and audience together.

The play tells the story of the Flood as recorded in Chapters 6, 7 and 8 of the Book of Genesis and it is performed by children between the ages of 7 and 18. Noye's three sons are played by boys aged 12-14 and their wives by girls from the same age group.

The part of Noye will be taken by Gordon Clinton, that of Mrs Noye by Marjory McMichael, and the Voice of God by William Halliburton.

### ANIMALS

Mrs Noye's friends, her gossips, are played by girls between the ages of 15 and 17, and children also play the part of the animals. The children are drawn from the Cathedral Choir School, Clermiston, and Leith Academy Primary Schools and Ainslie Park, Leith Academy and Trinity Academy Secondary Schools, and they have been rehearsing since October 1965. There are 130 in the chorus.

The production is with the enthusiastic support of the Director of Education for the City of Edinburgh, the

Producer being John McColl, a master in Leith Academy. The design, manufacture and painting of the setting and the making of the many costumes required is being done by a large team of pupils of the Technical and Art Departments of Ainslie Park Secondary School.

### ORCHESTRA

The orchestra of about 60 performers is drawn from the Edinburgh Secondary Schools Orchestra under Eric Roberts, with a contingent of 24 Recorders from the Edinburgh Branch of the Society of Recorder Players, two Pianists, William Stevenson and Lorna Murray, a Timpanist, David Bruce, and Alistair Hair, Organist. The Music Director is Dennis Townhill, Organist, and Master of the Choristers of the Cathedral.

The Scottish Committee of the Arts Council are supporting the production by giving a guarantee and it is hoped that the general public will respond by generously supporting this venture which is undoubtedly of considerable educational value as well as being an act of religious worship.