

Tribute to former musician

IMMEDIATELY preceding the start of the concert by the Hampshire Youth Concert Band at St. Mary's Church, Southampton on Saturday came the sad announcement of the death of Evan Watkin, former principal trombonist of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and other London orchestras, sometime conductor of the Southampton Youth Orchestra, current brass teacher for the Hampshire Education Authority and a genial man who had given much of the last ten years to the encouragement of music-making among the young.

As a tribute to this popular figure, who will be greatly missed, the band played an appropriately solemn and moving hymn-tune, but, in many ways, the whole of the following concert was fitting testimony to all that Evan stood for — the achievement of excellent musical standards in combination with a sense of fun and the conviction that music exists to be enjoyed.

The band, playing under its regular conductor, John Knight, produced performances which could scarcely be faulted and which eminently justified its reputation and its position as West of England Brass Band Champions.

The programme, not restricted to sacred numbers in view of the ecclesiastical setting, was a shrewdly chosen cross-section of the band's repertory and formed an evening of relaxed listening.

J.R.B.