



A Joyfull Noyse

THE CANTERBURY WAITS

Philomena Kennedy

IT WAS indeed a 'Joyfull Noyse' in the Town Hall on the evening of the 29th of May. With each item entertainingly introduced, we first heard 'Spanish Music from the Time of Columbus' which included pieces that were tender, jolly, raucous ('Calabaza, no sé' on the rauschpfeifen) or even, I thought, slightly South American ('Pase el agoa' on recorders and viols).



Several Almans, slow dances during which sweet nothings could be whispered to one's partner, dominated the section entitled 'The Jacobean Fancy'. 'The Mediæval Sound - from the Time of Robin Hood' included 'Ja nun hons pris', by Richard Cœur de Lion, played on the gemshorn (a goat's horn - "first catch your goat in C sharp") and the intense 'Lamento di Tristan' on bagpipes and tabor.

After the interval we heard some very agreeable music by Michael Praetorius, interspersed with suitable readings, some of them humorous.

The Canterbury Waits, founded in 1971, wear costumes of dark blue, silver and white.

They play an astonishing, and sometimes strange, variety of instruments, among which are the ear-piercing shawn (said to be good for the health - of the player!), pibcorn, nazzari,

hurdy-gurdy, sackbut, bombarde, serpent, bones, racket and garklein; one of the players also makes some of the instruments. It was a delightful evening.

