

Aled's progress

RECORDS

NOW that in the wake of the BBC cashing in on the success of their Christmas programmes and subsequent records, Aled Jones has become a household name it should not be forgotten that the young treble's first LP was in fact made for Sain Recordiau (which is based in Llandwrog, Caernarfon) as long ago as November of 1983.

That first LP, Aled Jones: *Diolch a Chan* (Sain 1294), contains a selection of favourites, including Franck's *Pants*

Ifan Payne

Angelicus and Faure's *Pie Jesu*.

Accompanied by Andrew Goodwin on the organ this record showed the young singer already to possess a striking interpretative ability, as can be heard in the decorated repeat to Handel's *Where E'er You Walk*.

Since this was both Aled's first record and, indeed, the first such Welsh record, it is sure to become a collector's item and an historic document of a rare talent.

A year later, in November 1984, Sain recorded Aled Jones again and this album, *Ave Maria* (Sain 1304), is an instructive testament to the singer's growing maturity.

The voice is stronger, free of the slight waver to be heard on the first recording and, above all, displays as he explodes dead centre onto each note the phenomenal security of pitch that is such a hallmark of his singing.

Again, in an aria where traditionally one might not have expected it, the young treble shows an extraordinary maturity of dramatic interpretation during the recitative of *Ombra Mai Fu* by Handel.

To bring us right up to date Sain has issued a single in which Aled shows his affinity for a wider repertoire with his

singing of *Bridge Over Trouble Water* and *Too Young to Know* (Sain 116S).

Backed by a group of musicians, Aled's singing of Hefin Elis's attractive Ballad *Too Young to Know* is particularly assured and attractive.

Aled Jones may have the voice of a boy, but he has the musicianship of a man.

Also from this important Welsh record company come two recent pop releases. *4 Yn Y Bar* is an attractive, eclectic folksy group which performs in a Welsh-Appalachian-Irish-Scottish-Nina and Frederick style... a bit of something for everyone you might say.

But his is a most accomplished group which deserves a far wider hearing outside Wales.

There is no reason why the simple, haunting tune of *Alaw Araf* could not become as big a hit as *Annie's Song* and, backed by *Byth Adra*, it should be a national hit single.

The LP contains an insert with excellent notes, translations of the Welsh songs and photographs.

With its light-alloy-to-heavy-metal rock, Maffia is at another extreme in the Welsh pop world and their most recent release *Da Ni'm Yn Rhan O'rh Gem Fach Di* (Sain 1307A) contains a side of studio recorded songs and a side of the group's live performance at Pesda 84 Roc.