

New records by Handley

THE growing reputation of Vernon Handley as one of Britain's finest orchestral conductors means his services are greatly in demand for both recording and live appearances in this country and abroad.

In the past four months he has made three records, all with the London Philharmonic Orchestra. But such are the uncertainties of the recording trade, he does not yet know when any of them will be in the shops.

The time lag between recording session and record shop has become so long that a record Mr. Handley made with the Guildford Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir in November, 1973 will not be on sale until some time between May and July this year. This record will be of Gerald Finzi's *Intimations of Immortality* made for the Lyrita company.

Mr. Handley's new recordings with the London Philharmonic Orchestra are made for E.M.I., two of them in the bargain-priced *Classics for Pleasure* series.

One of these is a recording of Tchaikovsky's *Francesca da Rimini* and the *Fantasy Overture Hamlet*. The music on the other is Debussy's *La Mer* and *L'Après-midi d'un Faun* and

Fauré's *Masques et Bergamasques* and the *Pavane*.

The third disc is particularly interesting as it is the first complete recording made of the incidental music by Elgar to the children's play *Starlight Express*. This is too long to go on record and is likely to be released as a small boxed set.

Wide range of music

Mr. Handley told the *Daily Advertiser* that he hopes to make about half a dozen other records during the 1975-76 season. These will be with the London Philharmonic, Royal Philharmonic and New Philharmonia orchestras. Although plans have not been completed yet, they are likely to cover a wide range of music — not all of it British.

In September he will be going to South Africa for a series of six concerts in three weeks as guest conductor with the Durban Symphony Orchestra.

Details of this trip have not yet been finalised, but it may not be Mr. Handley's only conducting appearance abroad this year.

Earlier this month he was due to appear in Athens, but the trip was cancelled at the last minute because of the anti-British demonstrations in Greece. However, he hopes to go there later in the year. He may also be making a visit to Germany with the B.B.C. Welsh Symphony Orchestra in August.