

PLUMP AND JOLLY

Peter Dawson Is Still Enjoying Himself And Won't Retire Yet

THOSE who like their music rich and rollicking, their baritones plump and jolly, gave a sigh of regret when Australian newspapers reported the retirement of Peter Dawson. The sigh was wasted. Peter Dawson certainly means to retire—but not for five years at least, and probably not then if his voice still rolls through the air in the way it does now.

Australian-born, he takes his success as it comes. And he sings because he likes it. When he stops liking it, he'll stop singing. There's nothing "arty" about him. If you meet him when he makes his New Zealand tour in October, talk to him about boxing, or steak and onions, or how to pay income tax—but whatever you do, don't treat him as a highbrow. He may know a lot about music, but he prefers to make light of his own musical gifts.

He is a fairly short man, as comfortably stout as his rich baritone suggests. He has a baldish head and a face that crinkles like an apple while he listens to other people's stories. He laughs deeply, with bubbling good humour, in all the right places. His talk and actions exactly suit the voice you hear in microphone recordings.

When he is interviewed, Peter Dawson may be strumming the piano, or shaving, or half undressed. It never matters to him. When I saw him, in Melbourne, he was strumming. He said: "Sit down, te-tum, sit down, sit down."

I sat down. Was I interrupting his daily practice?

Certainly not. He never practises, except on the audience. Hasn't practised any other way for 15 years.

Prefer singing to an audience to making records?

Yes, yes, tiddly-tum, he does. He very much prefers it. Only thing about making records is you can stop if you don't feel good—also you can take off your coat if you want to, and chip the orchestra. It's informal and it makes money. He has recorded 2,000 titles, which sold 12,000,000 copies—the best selling baritone of his type in the world.

Well, what sort of songs does he like singing best?

Why, that's easy. This sort of stuff: I've a head like a concertina, I've a tongue like a button-stick—dump-de-de-dump (that's the orchestra). Those are the songs he likes to sing. The good old Kipling stuff.

Peter Dawson has written much of the music he sings with Kipling's ballads. It has been published under a dozen names, of which the best known is J. P. McCall.

Peter Dawson is glad to be out this way again. He has no great admiration for London audiences. They give plenty of applause, but without discrimination, he thinks. The most intelligent audiences in England are in the industrial Midlands.

"But Australian and New Zealand audiences are good. They have a high standard. It is all rubbish for people to say they lack musical standards or conscience. Besides, they show common-sense in preferring songs in English. Why should we be forced to listen to

a song in some other language just because a singer does not know any English."

Then he went rollicking into song: "Boots, boots, boots, burrrrrr (that's the drums)."

Did he follow any diet to keep his voice in trim? I asked.

Him? Diet? He eats what he likes, goes where he likes, does what he likes. It keeps him tough—not like those Italians who wear coats over their throats, all coddled up. Throats should be open to the air.

"I blacked his blooming eye—boom-de-boom."

"Good-bye, Mr. Dawson, thank you."

"... his blooming eye—boom-de-boom. Oh, good-bye—de-boom. No trouble at all..."

There is a voice that goes rolling, rollicking, booming up and down the passages of Melbourne's big hotel. It is only cut off when the lift door slides shut behind me.

Peter Dawson is "practising," his wife the audience. They're having a wonderful time.



PETER DAWSON

2YD WELLINGTON
990 k.c. 303 m.

- 7. 0 p.m. Andre Kostelanetz
- 7.35 "Those We Love" (episode 7)
- 8. 0 Tit-bits, a session of tuneful favourites
- 8.40 2YD trailer
- 8.45 Dad and Dave
- 9. 0 This week's special: "Radio City Revels"
- 9.30 2YD singers
- 9.45 Strings! Fifteen minutes of smooth rhythm
- 10. 0 Close down

IZM AUCKLAND
1250 k.c. 240 m.

- 10. 0 a.m. Sacred and orchestral music
- 11. 0 Concert session
- 12. 0 Luncheon music
- 2. 0 p.m. Selections from the shows and musical comedies
- 3. 0 Piano selections, miscellaneous items and Western songs
- 4.20 Hawaiian and popular medleys
- 5. 0 Organ and piano accordion selections
- 5.30 Announcements
- 5.40-6.0 Light orchestral numbers
- 7. 0 Orchestral music
- 7.30 Concert session
- 8.15 Scottish session: J. M. Deas
- 8.15 Operettas
- 10. 0 Close down



FRANZ LEHAR, whose light operatic compositions are familiar to listeners, is featured in the "Melody Masters" session from 3YL on Sunday evening, August 13

4YZ INVERCARGILL
680 k.c. 441 m.

- 11. 0 a.m.-1.0 p.m. Selected recordings
- 2. 0 Mexican melodies played by Harry Horlick and his orchestra, with vocal interludes
- 2.30 Grand massed bands, assisted by the Jolly Fellows Quartet
- 8. 0 "Andante con Variazioni in F Minor" (Haydn), played by Lili Krauss (piano)
- 8.16 Famous artists: Elizabeth Schumann (soprano)
- 3.30-4.0 Medley time
- 6.30 Selected recordings
- 7. 0 Relay of Evening Service from St. Mary's Basilica. Preacher: Father J. Murphy. Choirmaster: A. Mahoney. Organist: Miss R. Shepherd "John Halifax—Gentleman"
- 8.15 Recital by Vladimir Rosing (tenor) of songs by Russian composers
- 8.30 Coronets of England: "The Life of Queen Elizabeth"
- 9.12 Robin Hood and Merrie England
- 9.30 Slumber session
- 10. 0 Close down

3ZR GREYMOUTH
940 k.c. 319 m.

- 12. 0-1.30 p.m. Luncheon music
- 5.30 Sacred Song Service, conducted by The Salvation Army
- 6.15 Sweet music
- 6.30 Melodies of the moment
- 6.46 Carson Robison and His Buckaroos
- 7. 0 Boston Promenade Orchestra and Miliza Korjus (soprano)
- 7.30 Drury Lane memories
- 8. 0 Lighter moments with the masters
- 8.30 "The Buccaneers"
- 8.45 The Band of H.M. Grenadier Guards
- 9. 0 Music in the Russ Morgan manner
- 9. 6 "Singapore Spy" (episode 10)
- 9.30 Sydney Kyte and his Piccadilly Orchestra and Allan Jones (tenor)
- 10. 0 Close down

2YH NAPIER
760 k.c. 395 m.

- 11. 0 a.m.-1.0 p.m. Selected recordings
- 2. 0-4.0 Afternoon concert session
- 6.30 Miscellaneous recordings
- 7. 0 Relay of Presbyterian Service from St. Andrew's Church, Hastings. Preacher: Rev. D. J. A. Shaw. Organist: Miss Airmid Lock. Choirmaster: A. L. Baumgart.
- 8.15 Selected recordings and station (approx.) announcements
- 8.30 Evening concert session
- 8.31 "The Hebrides" overture
- 9. 0 The Hall Negro Quartet
- 9.40 "Serenade to Music" (Vaughan Williams) presented by orchestra and soloists
- 10. 0 Close down

2YN NELSON
920 k.c. 327 m.

- 7. 0 p.m. Classical music
- 7.30 Light opera and musical comedy
- 8. 0 Miscellaneous light classical music
- 8.30 Concert programme, opening with "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" (Dukas), played by the Philadelphia Orchestra
- 8.48 Every Walk of Life: "The Taxi Driver" (episode 2)
- 9. 0 Light classical
- 9.30 Pinto Pete
- 10. 0 Close down