

WHERE MUSIC WAS PAID FOR IN SHEEP

Australia Began With One Piano

By ISABELLE MORESBY. Article and illustration supplied by the High Commissioner for Australia in New Zealand.

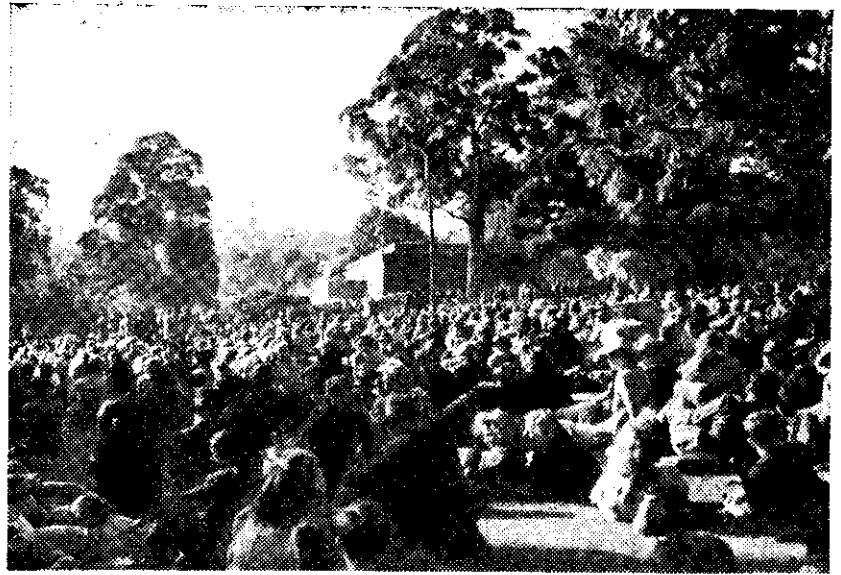
AUSTRALIANS are a musical people. They have a splendid musical heritage, and a climate, temperament, and living conditions all in favour of artistic development. Musical education is cultivated with zest, and the sunshine of the country finds its way into Australian voices. From the beginning, the classics have formed the foundation upon which serious music-making in Australia is built. Our standards are taken from the musical giants, but musical ideas and tastes are varied.

There are two University Chairs of Music in Australia (Melbourne and Adelaide), and three Conservatoria (Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide). Adelaide was the first to have a Chair of Music at its University in 1884. Later, the Elder Conservatorium was established. Melbourne University, in 1894, was the first

in the British Empire to make the experiment of forming a conservatorium of music as part of the University, Sydney has a State Conservatorium which is a branch of the Government Education Department. It was formed in 1916.

The First Piano

Instrumental music in Australia dates from that day in 1788 when Surgeon Morgan, music-lover aboard H.M.S. Sirius, of the First Fleet, landed his piano on the virgin shores of Port Jackson, now Sydney Harbour. In 1836, a piano was floated ashore through the surf, on the coast of South Australia. By then, music in Sydney was well established, and the English composer of "Maritana," Vincent Wallace, had already given a successful concert, performing some of his own works. He was rewarded with a gift of 100 sheep. In the same year, the Deane family, Tas-



MUSIC FOR THE PEOPLE—Crowds gather in Melbourne's Botanic Gardens for open-air orchestral concerts.

manion pioneers, went to Sydney and gave Australia's first string quartet concert.

A few years later, in 1841, Isaac Nathan arrived from overseas and inaugurated oratorio at St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, sowing the seed of yet

another branch of musical art. For more than 23 years, this "Father of music in Australia" exercised a deep musical influence in his adopted country. In Adelaide, more than 1000 miles away, a sacred concert was also given in 1841, and a Choral Society was formed. A



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