

(continued from previous page)

out of the country. The couple were very lonely, and more than a little worried as their dollars shrank swiftly to cents.

Turn of the Tide

Then Kennedy met John McCormack, who heard him play and at once offered him a tour of America. In the season they gave six concerts in New York, six in Boston, six in Chicago, two in San Francisco (with audiences of 15,000 each) and concerts in all principal cities from coast to coast.

On his first appearance with McCormack (at Carnegie Hall, N.Y.) Lauri scored a hit. As they toured America, the praise of critics for the unknown 'cellist rose to a powerful chorus. Their closing concerts were given in the New York Hippodrome, because Carnegie Hall was not big enough. Lauri was successfully launched. So was his first son, David, born in New York.

David is now serving with the United States Army Air Force. He flew in the Atlantic Ferry Command for a long period, and when this was written he was with the 25th Weather Squadron, Bradley Field, Connecticut.

Late in 1920 Lauri and Dorothy went to London, where they again met Melba just before she went to the Continent.

Lauri's London debut was made with Chaliapin in the great basso's first appearance outside Russia after World War I., at the Royal Albert Hall. The young Australian was so successful that he played at six concerts in the famous hall within five months.

Critics of two continents were now recording the appearance of a new star who had even achieved the distinction of stealing both headlines and "leads" of critics' stories from such artists as McCormack and Barbirolli.

Crowned Heads

Lauri Kennedy, with Melba, found himself playing at Lord Farquhar's London house (Grosvenor Square) to an audience which included the Queens of England, Norway and Italy, Princess Mary, Princess Maud, Prince George and many other members of Royal families and the peerage.

In the next few years Lauri and Dorothy travelled 300,000 miles and played to 3,500,000 people in Britain and America. They had studied as an ensemble, which became as popular and richly praised as their individual work. It was in this period that their second son, John, was born. The success of the young Australians continued to mount. In 1927 Lauri played for Queen Elizabeth, then Duchess of York. He wrote for the occasion a setting of an old Scots melody, which the Queen liked and praised.

Mrs. Kennedy played as associate artist with such people as McCormack, Lucrezia Bori, Toti dal Monte and Enrico Caruso. Caruso even engaged her to supervise the musical education of his daughter Gloria.

In 1929 Lauri received a cable from Sir Thomas Beecham, asking him to return to England and help form the great new Symphony Orchestra under BBC auspices, in which Kennedy was appointed soloist and principal 'cellist.

With this orchestra Kennedy believes he has played with practically every con-

ductor and every living composer of note. He had the responsibility of editing, fingering, and bowing of scores, and instructing and training his 'cello section up to symphonic standard.

Conductors with whom he played included Beecham, Boult, Barbirolli, Busch, Casals, Goossens, Harty, Iturbi, Koussevitzky, Kurtz, Ronald, Sargent, Toscanini and Weingartner. He also reorganised the famous Chamber Music Players, and Kennedy, Sammons, Tertis, and Murdoch were considered to be the finest ensemble of its kind in existence. In chamber music he played and recorded with Carl Flesch, Mischa Elman, Jascha Heifetz and Kreisler.

Kennedy achieved another laurel by being appointed professor of 'cello at the Royal College of Music, London. Pressed to give concerts, he resigned from the BBC in 1935 to devote all his time to solo and chamber music.

The Greatest Compliment

Then came the greatest compliment yet. Toscanini was travelling to London to conduct the Coronation Festival of eight concerts with the BBC Orchestra—but he refused to conduct unless Lauri Kennedy returned to play leading 'cello. Kennedy cancelled an American passage to play for the Coronation in Westminster Abbey.

Later, to visit Australia in 1938, Lauri rejected an offer from Toscanini for a New York season. Since then he has scored repeatedly in America's greatest music centres, including successes with Sir Thomas Beecham in the Hollywood Bowl.

In His Father's Footsteps

It was at this time that their second son, John, gave the Kennedys one of the most gratifying surprises of their lives. John had grown up in England, where he was born, in the care of a doctor's widow, while his parents toured as musicians must. An ear affection necessitating frequent operations caused them considerable anxiety while he was a boy, but he was able to begin the study of law at Oxford University.

Then when he was 21 John wrote a startling letter. He had thrown away the prospect of a law career to devote himself to the 'cello. He had taught himself, yet had won the principal scholarship at the Royal College of Music, where his father had been professor of 'cello.

The parallel between father and son continued. The BBC cabled to Lauri that John Kennedy had been engaged to play 'cello solo at a broadcast concert from Birmingham. Unknowingly, the son had selected as his solo the first item ever recorded by his father, on an old Edison record in New York, many years ago—"Kol Nidrei." Further following his father by wedding a musician, John has married Priscilla Stoner, student violinist at the same academy.

"It seems John will take up where I left off," said Lauri, with satisfaction.

From the cellar stairs a barmaid called, "Beer's off the blue tap, Mr. Kennedy!"

And the world-famous virtuoso set about restoring the beer supply for the lumberjacks, sleeper-cutters, farmers, storekeepers, and business men of the quiet country town.

MORE than £500 was handed to the Mayoress of Auckland recently for the Obstetrical and Gynaecological Fund. This represented the proceeds of a concert in the Town Hall connected with the 12B "Spotlight on Amateurs" talent quest. There were more than 3,000 in the audience. The winners were: R. Opie (straight vocal), P. McGuire Quartet (popular vocal) and S. Cathcart (novelty number).

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