



Vocalists are handicapped by the same lack of expression and understanding in their singing. Many have studied abroad and there are competent teachers in Japan, but there has, it seems, been a tendency to discontinue studying before complete mastery of the voice has been achieved. A few Japanese, it is

Not Built for Ballet

The opera was preceded by the ballet *Le Spectre de la Rose*. Ballet is not the strong point of the Japanese. However harmonious the effect produced by the united efforts of choreographer, scenic designer, and lighting crew it is at once ruined by the spectacle of the squat figures and thick legs of the dancers. The dancing was poor and the orchestra no better. A few months previously, however, I had seen a performance of *Le Lac des Cygnes* at the same theatre and had left at the end feeling quite pleased with what I had seen. Japanese ballet dancers, as with the musicians, are badly in need of organised

Few serious compositions in the Western style have been forthcoming from Japanese musicians. Konoye, Otake, and a few others have composed from time to time but none of their works has won a high place in the classical repertoire. The adaption and modification of their native music to Western forms would seem to be the wisest endeavour for them to pursue. The combination of native rhythmic forms to Western harmonies would, I think, result in music more to the taste of the Japanese public themselves and also more readily acceptable to the Western ear. And such study, and the benefits resulting from it, might well be reciprocal. Noteworthy efforts have, of course, been made already by students of both East and West, but the difficulties are great and progress slow. Some Japanese believe that the evolution of such a form would endanger their traditional music, a very reasonable fear, because such music is one of the treasures of any nation. However, the blending of musical forms of the West with the features of Japanese music (and one might at this point speak of Oriental music in general) would, I think, assist greatly the development of their native music itself and would mark an important contribution towards the progress of music as we know it.

Stations, Frequencies, Wavelengths and Times of Transmission: VLR, 9.54 mc/s, 31.44 metres (10.30 a.m.-8.30 p.m.) and VLR2, 6.15, 48.78 (8.45 p.m. onwards), National programmes. VLH5, 15.24, 19.69 (1.30-8.15 p.m.); VLH3, 9.58, 31.32 (8.28 p.m. onwards).

Headlines in the National Programmes: Nation's Forum of the Air, Wednesday, 9.30 p.m.; Over to Youth, Friday, 9.0 p.m.; Week-end Magazine, by Frank Legg, Saturday, 8.45 p.m.; Saturday Night Concert, Saturday, 10.0 p.m.; Current International Issues, Saturday, 10.45 p.m.

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