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# THINGS TO COME

## A Run Through The Programmes

### Rachmaninoff and his Music

BECAUSE of its tremendous popularity with the public, with its perfect form, pleasing rhythms and opportunities for displays of virtuosity by the soloist, Rachmaninoff's second Piano Concerto has attracted pianists of all degrees of ability ever since it was published in 1901, but none of them has yet played it as well as did its composer. He was as great a concert pianist as he was composer and it is fortunate for the world that, although he died in 1943, his playing of this work (not less great, for all its popularity) can still be heard through the medium of gramophone records. These records will be heard by listeners to 4YA on Tuesday, August 19, at 3.0 p.m. in one of a series of programmes featuring Rachmaninoff's major works. Other programmes in the series will be heard on August 18 at 3.30 p.m. (first concerto), at 3.0 p.m. on August 20 (Symphony No. 2—the first symphony has not been played since its failure in St. Petersburg in 1895), on August 21 (third concerto), and August 22 (third symphony and suite for two pianos). The composer himself is the soloist in all but the last-named work.

### Orchestral Fantasy

ALAN RAWSTHORNE, a young British composer, believes in the importance of specially written incidental music for films, two notable examples of his work in this field being the music for *Burma Victory* and *The Captive Heart*. He holds the view that incidental music should scarcely be heard as music, but would be grievously missed if it were not there. Listeners will shortly hear his *Cortèges*, played by the orchestra of the Royal Opera House, London, and conducted by Constant Lambert. This work, recorded in the BBC studios, is a "fantasy overture," constructed out of musical elements of a processional character, varying from a stately funeral march to a lively tune, suggesting a military parade. It will be played from 1YA on Friday, August 22, at 9.30 p.m.

### Courage at Sea

A TALE of a courageous exploit in 1942 which won a man the British Empire Medal, and the Gold Medal of the Royal National Life-Boat Institution, will be heard from 4YZ at 9.45 p.m. on Friday, August 22. Its title is "Pat Murphy's Miracle," and it is one of the BBC series *They Lived to Tell the Tale*. Murphy, a North of Ireland man, was concerned in a fine piece of seamanship off the coast of County Down, where the small fishing port of Newcastle looks out to the Irish Sea. The arrangement for broadcasting was done by "Bee" (Gordon Boshell) and the programme was prepared by the BBC's London Transcription Service.

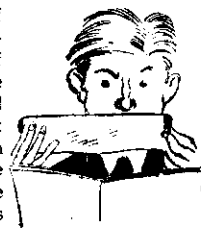
### Unfinished Requiem

IN 1791, when Mozart's health was showing signs of a complete breakdown, he received a visit from a strange-looking man, dressed in grey, who offered him a commission to compose a Requiem Mass for a patron whose name he did not give. Mozart accepted and set to work, but as he wrote he became

obsessed with the idea that the stranger had been a supernatural being and that he was writing his own requiem. There was, as it turned out, nothing sinister about his visitor at all (he was the steward of a wealthy nobleman), but by the end of the year Mozart was dead, and his last great work remained unfinished. Listeners to 3YA on Sunday, August 24, at 3.0 p.m., will hear the Mass performed by the University of Pennsylvania Choral Society and the Philadelphia Orchestra, conducted by Harl McDonald.

### Here They Are Again

BEFORE Noel Coward had ever thought of imploring his Mrs. Worthington not to put her daughter on the stage, Queen Victoria had expressed her fears of the world that lies behind the footlights, and its pitfalls for the susceptible. In a letter to the tutor of Prince Arthur (afterwards the Duke of Connaught) she "hoped and trusted that he never went behind the scenes on his visits to the theatre." Since the first Competitions were held in Well-



ington many thousands—old and young—have gone back stage and escaped unscathed. Now the Competitions are with us again. Station 2YA will broadcast items from the Town Hall from 8.15 to 9.0 p.m. on Saturday, August 23; Saturday, August 30; and Saturday, September 6. In addition, on Wednesday, August 27, the radio vocal test will be broadcast between 8.35 and 8.50 p.m. This test takes place before a microphone in the 2YA studio, and is heard by the judges in the Town Hall just as the ordinary listener hears it. From Monday to Friday each week results will be announced thrice daily by 2YA—at 3.50 p.m., between 7.0 and 7.15 p.m., and at 10.20 p.m. On Saturdays the results will be heard at 1.30 p.m., 7.20 p.m. and 10.50 p.m. The speech test will be judged at the NZBS recording studios by the Director of Broadcasting (Professor James Shelley) and the Supervisor of Production (Bernard Beeby). The Auckland Competitions will also begin on Saturday, August 23, and the evening session will be broadcast through station 12M on relay from the Town Hall from 7.30 p.m., when verse-speaking choirs and school choirs will be heard. The competitions will continue throughout the school holidays until September 6. Adjudicators will be John Lester (elocution), John Leech and Roy Spackman (vocal), Albert Bryant (instrumental), Constance McDonald (dancing), and F. H. Sutherland (Scottish items).

### Diaghilef's Influence

ONE of the most unusual figures in the world of the arts was Serge Pavlovitch Diaghilef. During the whole of his adult life he was a major influence in ballet, music and painting, yet he was not a dancer, not a composer, not an artist, nor yet again was he merely a patron. Often he is described as an impresario but this is an over-simplification. The key to his place in the arts is probably

## ALSO WORTH NOTICE

### MONDAY

1YA, 7.45 p.m.: *Dickens Characters*.  
3YA, 8.32 p.m.: *Clement Q. Williams* (baritone)

### TUESDAY

2YA, 8.30 p.m.: *Eight Shakespearean Songs*.  
4YZ, 7.15 p.m.: *Talk, "Wakatipu."*

### WEDNESDAY

1YA, 9.45 p.m.: *"Atomic Energy: Its Discovery and Use."*  
2YA, 8.0 p.m.: *National Orchestra*.

### THURSDAY

1YA, 7.15 p.m.: *Talk, "World Problems Are Our Problems."*  
4YZ, 7.41 p.m.: *James Simpson* (tenor).

### FRIDAY

2YA, 8.0 p.m.: *Play, "Dinner at Eight."*  
3YL, 9.0 p.m.: *Opera, "The Rhine-gold."*

### SATURDAY

3YA, 8.27 p.m.: *Play, "The Persecution of Bob Pretty."*  
4YO, 9.1 p.m.: *Haydn's Symphonies*.

### SUNDAY

3YA, 9.22 p.m.: *The Ashburton Vocal Study Group*.  
4YA, 4.2 p.m.: *Talk, "UNESCO," by Julian Huxley*.

best given in Arnold Haskell's description of him at St. Petersburg University, where he joined a group of earnest young intellectuals, soon becoming the leader of the group—"the man who could put their theories into practical reality." From one of his friends Diaghilef would take an idea and translate it into practical possibilities, introduce it to a painter, a composer and a choreographer, and throughout the formative period he would stimulate, suggest and criticise until the idea was a concrete entity in which the arts of music, painting and dancing were fused. This month falls the 18th anniversary of the death of Diaghilef, and 1YX will present at 9.0 p.m. on Sunday, August 24, at 45-minute appraisal of his significance in the ballet.

### Winner Takes All

THE Princess Turandot (from whom Puccini's opera *Turandot* takes its name), must have been a particularly eligible young spinster, for although her promise to marry any comer who could answer correctly three riddles was offset by the condition of death for failure, there appears to have been no dearth of applicants. Of course, it is a disguised young prince who gets her; and by way of added dramatic interest the audience is provided with the spectacle of a juicy suicide somewhere in Act III. It is a silly story—one with which W. S. Gilbert would have been quite in his element—but it is the music that matters. The composer of *La Bohème*, *La Tosca* and *Madame Butterfly* does not let us down, although the work was composed at a time when his health was on the decline—in fact, his death necessitated the completion of the last act by someone else (who did it remarkably well). Listeners to 1YA at 8.15 p.m. on Sunday, August 24, will hear *Turandot* broadcast in its entirety.



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