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JUNIOR SYMPHONY

John Bishop's Work For Melbourne Children

JOHAN BISHOP, who spent six years in Wellington as conductor of the Royal Choral Union and the Wellington Philharmonic Orchestra, has been appointed to the Elder Chair of Music at Adelaide University and Director of the Adelaide Conservatorium of Music.

This means that Mr. Bishop goes back as Professor and Director to the city where he started his musical career. He was South Australian scholar at the Royal College of Music, London, where

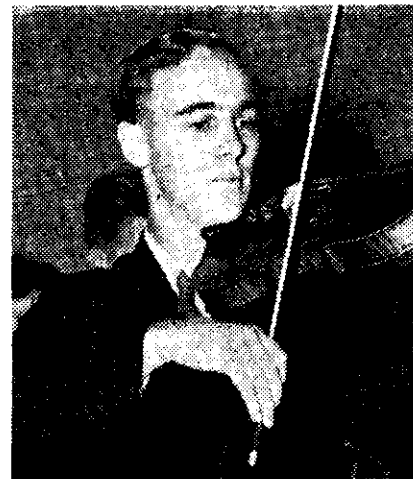
from the main channel of music. Today, these children are creating music themselves and bringing it to their schoolfellows. Mr. Bishop believes that making music is much more important in musical appreciation than listening.

The children meet every Saturday morning, in the Melba Hall of the University Conservatorium. The youngest of the group is a 10-year-old boy flautist, the average age of the members is 14 to 16, and 19 years is set as the maximum age.

"Rehearsal time has great value for these students," says Bishop. "Concert



Above: John Bishop conducts a rehearsal of the Melbourne Junior Symphony Orchestra. Right: Wilfred Lehmann, first leader of the Junior Symphony



he studied conducting under Sir Malcolm Sargent and Sir Adrian Boult, and pianoforte with Herbert Freyer. From Wellington he went to the University Conservatorium of Music, Melbourne, in 1934, and was appointed Director of Music at Scotch College, Melbourne, in 1937.

His work among Victorian school children has attracted attention, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that it was a factor in his appointment to Adelaide. He was President of the Victorian School Music Association, and organised and conducted Melbourne's Junior Symphony Orchestra, consisting of 80 boys and girls drawn from public and private schools. The following information about this orchestra is from an article written by Betty Gill, and comes to us by courtesy of the Australian High Commissioner.

In the past, development of musical gifts was possible only to a limited extent in most Australian schools, since there was little or no orchestral activity, and many gifted students who could have contributed greatly to the cultural life of their schools—and eventually even to Australia itself—were cut off

performance is important, but nothing is more important than actual work which goes on from week to week. It is achievement that matters."

One serious difficulty in maintaining the high musical standard of the orchestra is the changing personnel. The children leave school, or other studies may take up so much of their time that orchestral activity has to be given up. Because of this, auditions are held frequently throughout the year, so that new young players can take the place

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