BACH B MINOR MASS

A Cathedral Performance

NE of the major musical events of the coming season in New Zealand will be the performance on Thursday, April 22, in the Christchurch Cathedral, of the Bach Mass in B Minor. Those taking part will be the National Orchestra of the NZBS, the Christchurch Harmonic Society, and the visiting English soprano Isobel Baillie, who will sing in the leading soprano part as guest artist. The Harmonic Society, which will provide a mixed choir of 150 voices, is being prepared by its conductor, Victor Peters, and the whole assemblage will be under the baton of Andersen Tyrer.

Full rehearsals are being held by the Harmonic Society on one evening each week, and several group rehearsals a week are taking place in the private homes of members. In addition the society will shortly begin giving Sunday afternoons as well to full rehearsals.

Seating Reversed

The Dean and Chapter of the Christ-church Cathedral are co-operating fully with the NZBS and the Harmonic Society in making all the preparations, and as the placing of a cheir of such size together with a full orchestra demands special arrangements, it has been decided that the performance will take place in the west end of the Cathedral. To fit in with such a scheme and enable the audience to see the performers, the normal seating will be reversed. Staging will be built to accommodate



VICTOR C. PETERS

the choir, while the orchestra will be situated on the floor of the Cathedral immediately in front of the staging.

Final placings of the microphones to give best possible reproduction for broadcasting will be made at a full-dress rehearsal on the night before the performance.

The date of the performance of the Mass has been timed to coincide with the early stages of the National Orchestra's Christchurch season, following immediately on its season at Invercargill. The exact composition of the orchestra, and the names of those singing the contralto, tenor and bass parts, will be announced later.

Ignas Friedman's Death

GNAZ FRIEDMAN, the Polish pianist who died in Sydney on January 26, was well known to New Zealand concert-goers. His first visit to the Dominion was made in 1927, and after he had settled in Sydney in 1939 he made three more tours under contract to the NZBS, in 1940, 1941, and 1943.

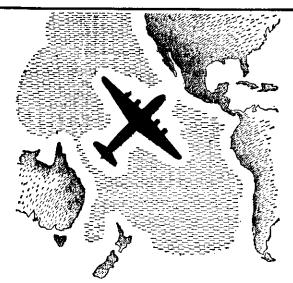
Friedman was born at Podgorze, near Cracow, on February 14, 1882. At the age of eight he could transpose Bach fugues into any key, and he made several appearances as a child prodigy.

He was sent to Vienna to become a pupil of Leschetizky, the teacher of Paderewski and Mark Hambourg, and soon became one of his prize pupils. His first concert tour was in 1905, and for the rest of his life he toured widely in Europe and America, lived in Berlin until 1914, then in Copenhagen, and subsequently in Australia.



IGNAZ FRIEDMAN

Friedman, who was recognised as one of the world's leading interpreters of Chopin, edited the Breitkopf and Hartel edition of Chopin's works (in 12 volumes) and also Neuport's Etudes. He studied composition under Hugo Riemann, and was the composer of a piano quintet, a Passacaglia and other piano works, several 'cello pieces, and a considerable number of songs.



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