



ISOBEL BAILLIE
"You must sing the meaning"

Sparrow Pictures

her last visit, regretted that the tour this time will not take in the smaller towns, and announced with great delight that she would visit her brother in Honolulu after she leaves New Zealand.

"They'll let me go if I don't want to take away any dollars—and of course I don't want to take away any dollars. But I do want to see my brother. Then I'll come back to Australia and fly to Singapore, where I have some engagements on the way home. And when I get home there's the Edinburgh festival and the Three Choirs festival and so many other things."

"That will be with Malcolm Sargent?"

"Oh, yes, it will. And there's just no one like him. He gets the very best out of everyone all the time."

Then she went to her rehearsal and I came back to my typewriter.

—J.

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"Oh boy, am I glad... the few weeks I haven't been able to get it has convinced me there's no polish like good 'old Waxshine."

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(continued from previous page)

'Johnny Miner,' for instance — you haven't heard that yet? Well, I hope you get the records; that's an excellent programme." And, she agreed, many of the talks were first-rate.

"But you don't ever do any talking yourself—the Brains Trust, or radio discussions?" I asked.

"No, I do not. I'm not a talker. But as it happens I am going to do a talk—a one-minute talk! It's for the birthday of Myra Hess this week and the Broadcasting people here asked me if I'd take part. So I'm going to say a few words. But I don't usually."

"Do you ever translate a song before you sing it, or make any explanations?"

"No. I don't think it's necessary, ever. If a singer is a true artist the meaning will be clear, in whatever language. If I began to talk I'd only confuse the issue. You must sing the meaning. If you do it well, they'll understand."

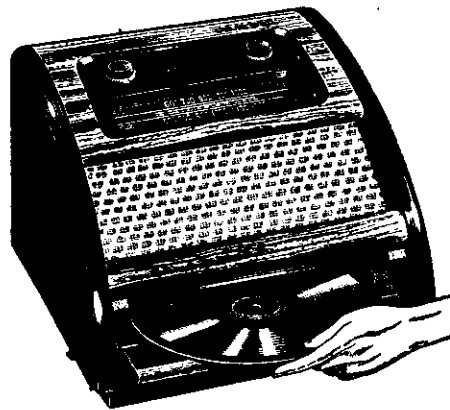
I mentioned Sir Thomas Beecham's recently-acquired habit of addressing his audience.

"Ah, but Beecham is a genius, and genius can do as it likes. In any case Beecham can do as he likes; or at least he believes he can do as he likes and he does do as he likes." She looked as if she found the continuing spectacle of Beecham doing as he likes unfailingly amusing. I told her it wasn't quite that way with interviewers—not on this side of the world anyway. Which led to the usual old Beecham stories, and a few new ones.

Honolulu—Singapore—Edinburgh

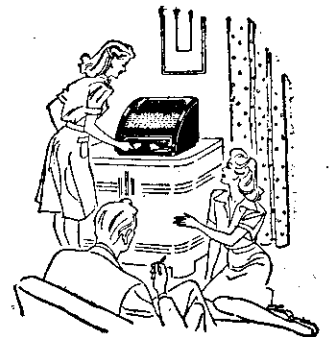
Miss Baillie was due at the first of a fortnight's rehearsals, so we brushed off a whole flock of topics from the tips of our tongues as we went from her hotel up to The Terrace. She begged for sweet-scented daphne to be in flower before she leaves in May, recalled an amusing story of a recital in Oamaru on

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