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VIGOUR AND SPIRIT

Listeners Should Enjoy Moura Lympany

MOURA LYMPANY, the young English pianist who has been variously described as "the greatest living woman pianist," "the best of the women pianists now before the public," and "etoile de premiere grandeur," will visit New Zealand in mid-July to give a series of public concerts and will be heard in studio broadcasts from the main National stations. On her way out she will spend a few days in Australia, where she will broadcast and play with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

She worked under Paul Weingarten in Vienna and the late Mathilde Verne and Tobias Matthay in England. In 1938 she entered for the Ysaye Pianoforte Competition at Brussels, and her success there (she won second prize) led to engagements in Britain and a concert tour of South America. She returned to England when war broke out, and in the following years her remarkable playing established her as the most brilliant of the younger generation of pianists.

Under the Piano

She had many adventurous experiences in England during the air-raids, and says that when she was living at her Surrey home she always used to sleep under her grand piano to get protection from flying glass and blast. The night before she was scheduled to give a recital at Queen's Hall, London, the building was destroyed by fire following a bombing attack. When she arrived from the country in the morning she found the hall a gutted shell, with a billboard displaying her name flapping uneasily on one of the remaining walls. The concert took place, however, only an hour late, in the near-by Duke's Hall.

Moura Lympany made her first public appearance at the age of 12, when she played Mendelssohn's G Minor Concerto at Harrogate under the conductorship of Basil Cameron. After this she undertook a tour of England as a child prodigy, and made broadcasts for the BBC. She had her first piano lessons at the age of seven while at school in Belgium, and studied for a time under Jules Debeve of the Liege Conservatoire. When she was 13 she won the Ada Lewis Scholarship at the Royal Academy of Music, and at 15 won the Academy's Challen Gold Medal and the Hine Gift for Composition.

At this stage of her career she decided to break off public engagements and devote herself to prolonged study.

Later she toured the large manufacturing towns of Britain, giving recitals to war-workers. She found herself in

(continued on next page)

Commentaries by an Expert



C. S. DEMPSTER, who reviews the Australian Cricket Team's tour of England each Friday at 8.45 p.m. from all Commercial Stations. Dempster visited England with the New Zealand cricket team in 1927 and 1931, and captained Leicestershire County for several seasons. Before the war he came to New Zealand with Sir Julien Cahn's team. He holds several batting records and last season captained the Wellington Plunket Shield team. Dempster is the only Leicestershire batsman to score a century against an Australian team

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