

Richard Farrell Impressed the Americans

AS we go to press the New Zealand pianist Richard Farrell is on his way to Auckland, somewhere in the air between San Francisco and Whenuapai. All going well, he will start his eight weeks' concert tour of the Dominion with a recital at the Auckland Town Hall on Tuesday, June 8. He comes back to New Zealand direct from New York, where he has completed, at the age of 21, four years of study at the Juilliard School of Music under Madame Samaroff Stokowski.

Farrell has been praised by critics during his semi-professional appearances in the United States for the maturity of his interpretations, his brilliant technique, and the rugged vitality of his playing, coupled with a tone of liquid beauty. He brings back with him a repertoire that includes, besides the standard works of the great classical and romantic composers such modern compositions as Hindemith's Sonata No. 2, Copland's Piano Sonata (1941), and Prokofiev's Sonata No. 7 (1941).

Richard Farrell had his first piano lessons from Mrs. Florence Fitzgerald and Gordon Short, of Wellington. Coming from a musical family, he seemed to have music in his blood, and from an early age used to sit quietly listening to the gramophone as long as anyone would play records for him. At two he had learnt how to work the gramophone himself, and his parents used to marvel how—although he couldn't read—he would go to the music cabinet and always select the more "classical" records. Evidently he learnt to know the

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sun's atmosphere, and consequently about the sun's influence on the earth. We hope to find out more about such things as shortwave radio conditions and magnetic disturbances. We may be able to bring about improvements in the forecasting, for years ahead, of critical frequencies for shortwave transmission."

North Auckland Experiments

We asked him whether the 74-inch telescope being built at Mt. Stromlo, Canberra, would have any effect on his work. "The effect will probably be to take me out of solar astronomy into stellar astronomy," he said. A party of Australian scientists were coming to New Zealand soon to study cosmic noise, he went on. They were going to the Leigh headland north of Auckland where they could make use of the interference that reflected radiation from the sea made with direct cosmic radiation. They hoped in this way to be able to locate more accurately the sources of cosmic noise which seemed to be coming from the constellation Cygnus.

The conference which he would attend at Zurich was normally a triennial affair, he said, but owing to the war none had been held since 1938. All countries were represented, recent advances in astronomy were discussed, terminology stabilised, and so on. He had decided to go to Europe via New Zealand so that he could visit relatives here, he added. The other Australian delegate, Dr. Woolley, had gone via South Africa.



RICHARD FARRELL

look of the records he liked best—Gilbert and Sullivan, and operatic overtures and arias. At the age of six he sang French songs over the air, and a few years after this he composed a lament on the death of Archbishop Redwood.

Absolute Pitch

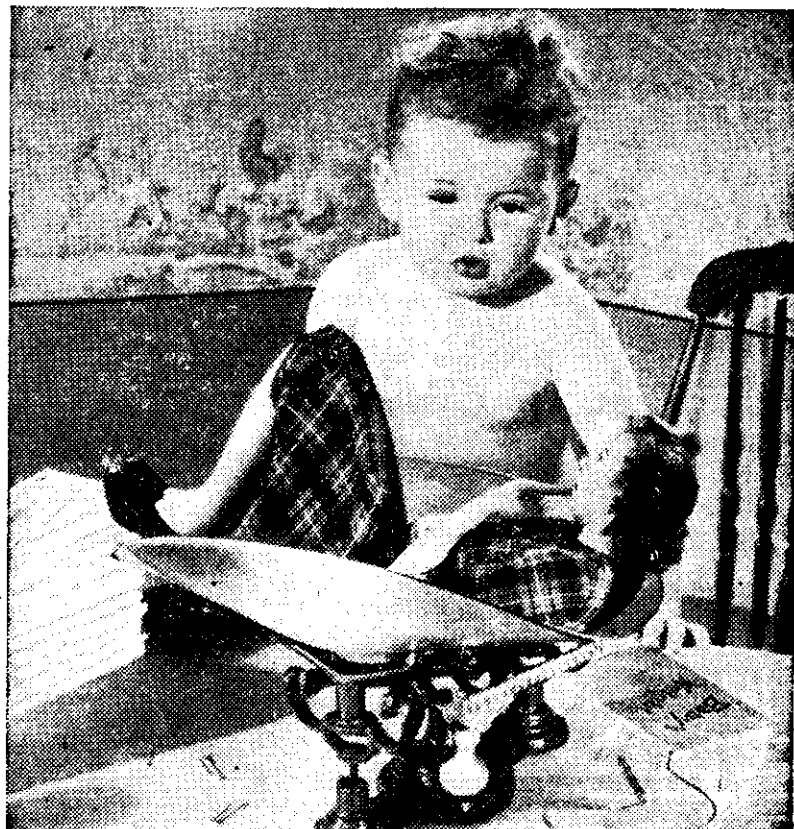
By the time he was 12 he could identify, without looking, any note of music that was struck on the piano, that is, he showed he has a sense of absolute pitch, a rare gift even among musicians. Mozart was said to have possessed it at the age of seven.

To-day Richard Farrell is regarded as one of the most promising of the younger pianists, and he has won special notice through his prodigious musical memory. Shortly after his arrival in New York in 1945 he played Copland's new Piano Sonata entirely from memory at a student recital. Copland, who was present at the concert, was most impressed. "Although I composed it myself," he said afterwards, "I can't memorise it."

Richard Farrell's interpretations of Beethoven, Brahms and Mozart, which New Zealand audiences are to hear, are rich and mature. He hopes to include also in his programmes a liberal sprinkling of Chopin, Schumann, and Liszt, and several of the more rarely played piano pieces of Ravel, Debussy, and Granados.

Although he has developed from a child prodigy into an experienced concert pianist, Richard Farrell still has one youthful ambition unfulfilled. When he was very young he used to say, "I'd rather be a conductor than anything." He has recently moved a little nearer to that goal, however, because while he was at the Juilliard School in New York he won a scholarship in conducting granted by Koussevitsky.

While he is in New Zealand Richard Farrell will give concerts in the four main centres and in several of the larger provincial towns. All of his concerts will be broadcast. He is due back in New York in September.



"D'ya feel uncomfortable, mum...I hope?"



BABY: Remember now what it's like to be a Baby, Mum!

MUM: Whew—what a life babies do lead! People doing this to you—that to you—and so many things to make your skin scratchy and irritated!

BABY: My complaint exactly, Mum. Guess now you're in the mood to listen—when I yell for Johnson's Baby Cream and Johnson's Baby Powder!

MUM: You bet I am—just ask me!

BABY: Please may I have some nice, pure Johnson's Baby Cream, to smooth over me and help prevent what my Doctor calls "urine irritation"? And, please, some soft, smooth Johnson's Powder, for times when chafes and prickles bother me?

MUM: Lamb—from now on, I'll do right by you!



BABY: You and Johnson's, Mum! Just wait till you see how those smoother-uppers agree with my pink pelt!



* Sterilised for your protection in accordance with the regulations.

Safe for Baby—Safe for You
Johnson's Baby Powder
Johnson's Baby Cream
Johnson's Baby Soap

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