

Story of the Strausses

"THE Danube isn't Blue—it's Green," declares Spike Jones, the joyful debunker of many a popular tune. Nevertheless it will remain blue for all who take their Danube and its music seriously. An Australian producer, Dorothy Crawford, has chosen The Blue Danube as the title for a new feature which will be heard over all the Commercial stations except 2ZA, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, at 5.30 p.m., starting on Tuesday, October 26.

In a letter to the NZBS the producer says: "We have always thought the story of the Strauss family and their contemporaries, coupled with their music and that of the many great composers living round about their time would make ideal radio entertainment. Strauss music predominates in this feature, but the music of many other composers is interwoven with the story so that the programme includes a wide selection of the works of Beethoven, Schubert, Wagner, Offenbach, Mendelssohn, Verdi, Liszt and Brahms."

Johann Strauss, called the father of the great Waltz dynasty, was brought up in the atmosphere of a beer and dance hall. In 1826 he intoxicated the public, not with his father's wares but with the sparkle and melodic freshness of his own dance music. Johann Jr., most brilliant of three sons, was known as the "King of the Waltz"; Eduard, the youngest son, composed 318 dances, and Joseph became an architect, but studied music secretly. His published works totalled 283.

The musical cast will include the Australian Symphony Orchestra, Valentine Stewart (tenor), David Allen (baritone), Alan Eddy (bass), Glenda Raymond (soprano), and the musical director is Hector Crawford. The dramatic cast will be Douglas Kelly (Johann Strauss Senr.), Keith Eden (Johann Strauss Jr.), Patricia Kennedy (Anna Strauss), Robert Peach (Eduard Strauss), and Phillip Bray (Joseph Strauss).



Above: Hector Crawford, who is musical director of the new Australian programme "The Blue Danube." At top: Keith Eden and Betty Leggo, who play the parts of Johann Strauss the Younger and Olga Smirniska, his first sweethearts

ANCIENT AND MODERN

A RADIO adaptation of Donn Byrne's novel Crusade is now being played at the four main Commercial stations in the Women's Hour at 3.0 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The plot is developed from the crusading adventures of a dispossessed Irish knight who falls in love with the daughter of a Saracen chief.

Another new serial with a special appeal to women listeners, Marriage Register, is now running at 1ZB at 10.45 a.m. Each episode is a self-contained quarter-hour story expressing some of the drama and also the humour which are inseparable from every story of marriage. The serial opened at 2ZB on October 29, and will start at 3ZB on Friday, November 5, and 4ZB on Friday, November 12. The time of each broadcast is 10.45 a.m.



