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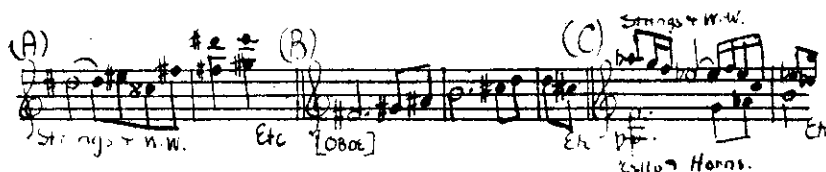
THIS is one of a new series of articles written for "The Listener" by BESSIE POLLARD. As with the preceding series, published some time ago, the aim is to help the student and the interested listener towards a more complete appreciation of good music.

(2) Tone Poem—A Hero's Life, Op. 40 (Richard Strauss)

RICHARD STRAUSS'S *A Hero's Life* was introduced in Frankfurt-on-Main on March 3, 1899, the composer conducting. It does not portray an individual or historical figure, but is rather a more general and free ideal of a collective great and manly heroism. The work is in six sections—the first of which "The Hero" opens with this magnificent theme announced by violas, 'cellos and horns, typifying the hero himself in all his youth, pride and strength—



Then follow three interwoven subjects, each expressing a fresh trait of the hero's character; "A" and "B" below might suggest the emotional aspect of his personality, while "C" below represents his more self-assertive moments—



The second section—"The Hero's Antagonists"—has three outstanding types, caricatured with caustic wit—"A" below shows us the petty, vicious adversaries; "B" below, the insidious, crafty type; while "C" below stands for the smug, conservative sort—



Section three—"The Hero's Helpmate"—has been described as one of the great love-pages of modern music; its main theme is given to a solo violin ("A" below); a flourish of trumpets brings in section four—"The Hero's Battlefield" ("B" below). Here the hero plunges into battle—the theme of the loved one is heard, inspiring him to greater deeds; the foe is slain.



Strauss identifies himself with section five—"The Hero's Works of Peace"—by quoting themes from his own works, *Don Juan*, *Thus Spake Zarathustra*, *Death and Transfiguration*, *Don Quixote*, *Till Eulenspiegel*, *Macbeth*, the opera *Guntram*, and the lovely song *Dream in the Twilight*.

The final section—"The Hero's Escape from the World"—incorporates this noble melody of resignation in the strings—



Resignation and contentment replace the hero's former restlessness—the hero theme is heard, finally announced most solemnly by the brass.

A Hero's Life, Op. 40, by Richard Strauss, will be heard from Station 2YC on Friday, January 7, at 9.0 p.m.

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