

and is now on a world flight sponsored by a syndicate of newspapers.

Fridays will have life in other countries as the special topic. Interviews and talks by visitors to New Zealand, travel talks, and talks dealing with life in other parts of the world, will be included. On the first Friday (April 8) an interview with Keitha Weir, another Wellington girl who returned recently from abroad, will be heard. The interview is titled *Women and Children in Berlin To-day*.

The talks included in these half-hour sessions will generally be of no more than five or ten minutes' duration, and they will be separated by interludes of music so as to make a more palatable radio sandwich to go with the morning cup of tea.



Spencer Digby photograph
MIRIAM PRITCHETT
A half-hour off for morning tea

CHANGED PLANS—More Broadcasts by Walter Midgley

BECAUSE of a last-minute change in plans, Walter Midgley, the noted English tenor who is at present touring New Zealand, will give a number of extra studio broadcasts during the early part of April. The first of these will be from 2YA at 8.0 p.m. this Thursday, March 31, when he will be heard in a classical recital. And at 9.33 p.m. this Sunday, April 3, he will sing a ballad programme from the studios of 1YA.

During the coming week Walter Midgley will be heard in three further broadcast recitals from 1YA. At 9.30 p.m. on Monday, April 4, he will sing a programme of popular songs, at 8.37 p.m. on Wednesday, April 6, he will sing a group of classical numbers, and at 8.0 p.m. on Friday, April 8, he will give a second classical recital. In the following week he will be heard from 2YZ Napier in three evening recitals. These are timed for 7.43 p.m. on Monday, April 11, 8.15 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13, and 8.13 p.m. on Sunday, April 17.

Walter Midgley, who is only 37, is one of the most outstanding of the younger group of English tenors who have risen into prominence since the war. As an operatic tenor he ranks in popular acclaim with Peter Pears, who has had the added advantage of creating the tenor roles in Benjamin Britten's three new operas, *Peter Grimes*, *The Rape of Lucretia*, and *Albert Herring*. Walter Midgley started his career in the chorus of the Carl Rosa Opera Company, and after only two weeks, he says, he was taken out and began singing in principal roles. Since then he has sung with all the principal opera companies in England.

At the 1947 Edinburgh Festival he sang in the role of Macduff in Verdi's opera *Macbeth*, which was brilliantly produced there by Professor Charles Ebert of the Glyndebourne Opera. The role of Macbeth in this performance was sung by Francesco Valentino, but it was Midgley who stole the show, and it was subsequently remarked in *The Scotsman* that the first international lesson learnt from the Festival up to that time was that if Verdi had written *Macbeth* for a tenor of Midgley's calibre, it might have been more successful as an opera.

Great Heroic Role

Walter Midgley also scored one of the most outstanding successes at Covent Garden since its re-opening after the war, when he sang the part of Prince Calaf in Puccini's *Turandot*. His singing in this performance firmly established him, in English eyes at any rate, as being in the front rank of the world's heroic tenors. In recent years he has also been a constant performer for the BBC in their opera broadcasts.

Several public concerts will be given by Walter Midgley during the latter part of April and early May, all but one of them being in the North Island. His schedule for these appearances as we go to press is as follows: April 20, concert in New Plymouth; April 21, concert in Wanganui; April 26, concert in Nelson; April 28, concert in Masterton; May 2, concert in Hutt City; and May 4, concert in Wellington. His accompanist for these performances will be Wainwright Morgan, and portions of the Nelson, Hutt and Wellington concerts will be broadcast by the NZBS.



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