

# Eight Days of Music

**A** PART from two lunch-hour recitals, one by the National Orchestra and one of chamber music, the complete programme for the Auckland Music Festival will be broadcast by 1YA, beginning with the official opening and inaugural concert in the Town Hall at 2.45 p.m. this Sunday, August 14, and ending with the final event, a Chopin recital by Peter Cooper, to be held in the Town Hall Concert Chamber at 2.45 p.m. on the following Sunday, August 21. The Deputy Mayor, Mr. Leonard Coakley, will open the Festival and the first concert will include items by the Auckland Silver Band, Saint Mary's Choir, Joseph Battersby the Hamilton tenor, and Trevor Sparling at the Grand Organ.

All the evening concerts will be broadcast on relay from the Town Hall, and will begin at 8.0 p.m. There will be two concerts by the National Orchestra, conducted by Andersen Tyrer—on Monday, August 15, and on Thursday, August 18, and the lunch hour recital on Wednesday, August 17, which will be broadcast by 1YD. In addition the Orchestra will be associated with the Royal Auckland Choir and the Auckland Choral Society in their performance of Elgar's *Caractacus* on Saturday, August 20. On this occasion too the conductor will be Andersen Tyrer. The soloists will be Constance Manning, Stewart Harvey, Joseph Battersby, and Ashley Pollock.

During its Monday concert the Orchestra will give the first public performance of *Fantasia and Fugue* by the Auckland composer and conductor, Harry Luscombe, while the major work of the evening will be *Symphony No. 4 in E Minor* (Brahms). On Thursday the major work will be Dvorak's *New World Symphony*, and Peter Cooper



MEMBERS of the Auckland secondary schools' combined orchestra at rehearsal. RIGHT: H. C. Luscombe, whose "Fantasia and Fugue" will be played by the National Orchestra on Monday evening, August 15

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will be the solo pianist in a presentation of Grieg's *Concerto in A Minor for piano and orchestra*.

A combined concert on Tuesday, August 16, by the Dorian Singers, Lyric Harmonists, Ladies' Choir, and Girls' Choral Class, conducted by Claude Laurie and Harry Luscombe, will include *Sing Ye to the Lord* (Bach), and *The Blacksmith* (Dyson). The Dorian Singers will present *Benedicite*, by Vaughan Williams.

An annual event in the Auckland secondary schools' musical calendar (when polio permits), a concert by massed school choirs conducted by Professor Hollinrake, and a combined

schools' orchestra conducted by Gordon Cole, will take place on Wednesday, August 17. This year interest has been so keen that three concerts are to be given instead of the usual one, and so many pupils have offered for the choirs that two groups have been formed representing most of the secondary schools in the Auckland metropolitan area. The first two concerts, by Group A, which are not on the official festival programme and will not be broadcast, will be on Thursday, August 11, at 8.0 p.m., and on Tuesday, August 16, at 2.0 p.m. Group B will give the festival concert, while the orchestra, whose members *The Listener* was told, have demonstrated a boundless enthusiasm, will play at all three concerts.

Thursday's programme will include a Youth Concert, and a recital by the Auckland String Players, who will give the first Auckland performance of *Diversions* by the New Zealand composer Douglas Lilburn. The former will include Haydn's *Divertimento for flute, oboe, clarinet, horn and bassoon*, played by members of the woodwind ensemble class conducted in Auckland by George Hopkins under the auspices of the Adult Education Centre. The soloists will be Dorothy Hopkins (soprano), Murray Gronwell (violin), Ronald Maconaghie (baritone), and Barbara Jury (piano). Tongan, Samoan



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and Cook Islands students of Wesley College, Paerata, will give a recital of Polynesian music and dances.

"A modest beginning, but one which we hope will whet the musical appetite of Aucklanders at least, and perhaps that of people much further afield," was the assessment of the Festival given to *The Listener* by Julius Hogben, chairman of the organising authority, the Auckland Music Council. The Council was formed in May of last year, and its objects include (besides conducting an annual festival) co-ordination of the activities of all music societies in the city to the best advantage of both the music-lover and the societies themselves; raising funds with which to assist students by scholarships and other means; encouraging young performers and composers; and in general doing

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THE AUCKLAND STRING PLAYERS (above) will give the first Auckland performance of Douglas Lilburn's "Diversions" on Thursday evening, August 18