

ORCHESTRA IN NELSON

NEXT week the National Orchestra will conclude its South Island season with concerts at Nelson, on October 18, and Blenheim on the following day. In this article BESSIE POLLARD discusses one of the symphonic works to be presented at Nelson.

"Carnival" Overture; Op. 92 (Dvorak)

DVORAK'S "Carnival" Overture (written in 1891 and dedicated to the Czech University at Prague) originally formed one of a set of three entitled *Triple Overture*. These three works were really tone-poems sharing one motif in common. The first was entitled "In Nature's Realm," Op. 91; the second, "Carnival," Op. 92; and the third "Othello," Op. 93. Dvorak gave them the generic title of "Nature, Life, and Love."

The composer himself provided the following notes regarding the "Carnival" Overture—"The lonely wanderer reaches the city at nightfall, where a carnival reigns supreme. On every side is heard the clangour of instruments, mingled with shouts of joy, and the unrestrained hilarity of people giving vent to their feelings in their songs and dance tunes."

The Overture begins with a vigorous theme for full orchestra, depicting the bustle of the fair—



A little later a melody from strings and woodwind reminds one of the Slav moods and colours of some of Dvorak's *Slavonic Dances*—



A very striking subject, treated fugato-fashion, begins in the violas, passes on to woodwind, and from there is taken to upper strings—



Another melody of considerable importance thematically is heard from the strings—



The lovely middle section of the Overture suggests the cool, clean atmosphere of some woodland dell—here's a fine example of Dvorak's lyrical writing. The flute gives out the main theme at first, against a fascinating rhythmic background from cor anglais, and the melody is taken over later by solo violin—



"Carnival" Overture, Op. 92, by Dvorak, will be heard at the Nelson concert of the National Orchestra, conducted by Andersen Tyrer, on Tuesday, October 18.

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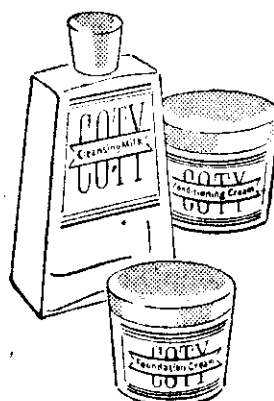
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