

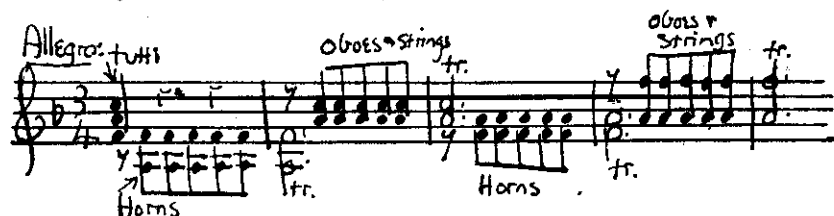
Finale at Rotorua

IN this article, BESSIE POLLARD discusses in outline a symphonic work which will be presented by the National Orchestra at the final public concert of the 1949 season, in Rotorua on November 24

The "Water Music" Suite (Handel)

THE Suite known as the *Water Music* is the set of 20 airs and jolly dance tunes (such as the bourree, hornpipe, minuet and so on) loosely linked together in Serenade or Divertimento style, which Handel composed for one or more pageants on the River Thames in London. Out of the confusion of tales attached to this most attractive work, almost the only one supported by documentary evidence comes from an account in the *Daily Courant* of July 19, 1717, which says that on July 17 of that year the King (George I.) and "many persons of quality" proceeded in barges down the Thames from Whitehall to Chelsea. One barge contained an orchestra of 50 instruments (including trumpets, hunting horns, oboes, bassoons, flutes, "but without voices"). Handel's music so delighted the King that he "caused it to be played three times in going and returning." Today the music is usually performed as a suite, from the original serenade of five or six numbers, arranged for modern orchestra by Sir Hamilton Harty.

The opening movement—*Allegro*—of this abridged Suite features horns answered by woodwind and strings—



Then comes the *Air*—a lovely, gracious melody in true Handelian style—



Two dance-form movements follow in succession. The first of these is a bourree—a quick gavotte ("A" below), and the second, a hornpipe ("B" below), an English dance-form in triple time popular in the 16th and 17th Centuries—



The *Andante Espressivo* has a most appealing melody treated dialogue fashion by woodwind and strings—

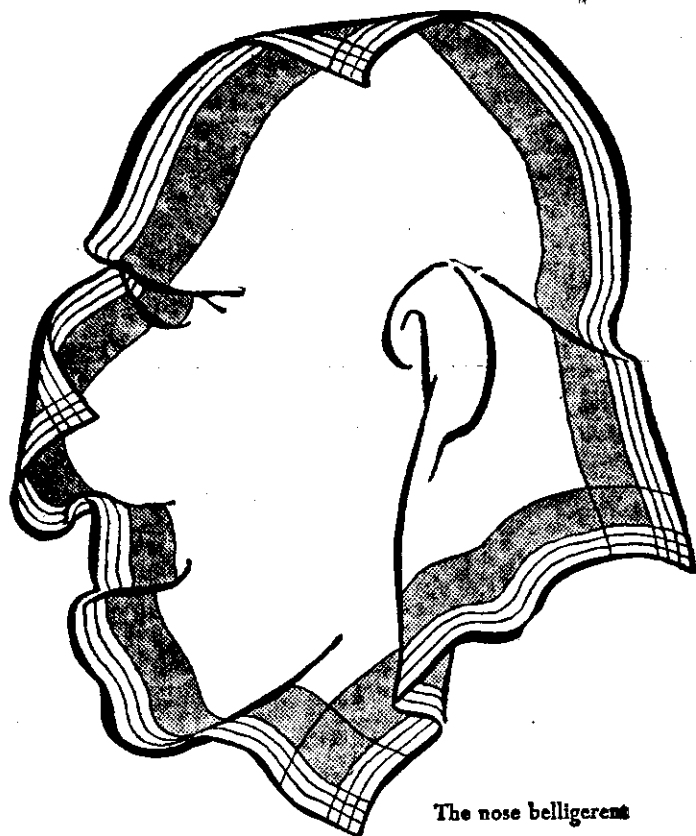


The *Allegro deciso* is direct and challenging; based on a bold syncopated theme—



Handel's famous "Water Music Suite," arranged by Sir Hamilton Harty, will be presented at the Rotorua concert of the National Orchestra on Thursday, November 24.

N.Z. LISTENER, NOVEMBER 18, 1949.



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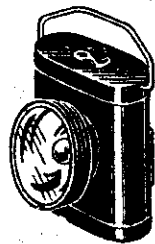
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