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BERTRAND RUSSELL'S talks on *Authority and the Individual*, which comprise the first Reith Lectures, aroused considerable interest when they were broadcast from 2YC a short time ago. Auckland listeners will now be able to hear them on Sunday afternoons from 1YA, starting at 2.0 p.m. this Sunday, December 11. The talks have already been published as a small book, but no interested person should miss hearing them spoken by the great philosopher himself. Russell's theme is concerned with the forces that shape society and which, by their interaction, affect the happiness of all mankind. How can we combine that degree of individual initiative which is necessary for progress with the degree of social order which is necessary for survival? That is the fundamental principle which is examined in these six stimulating lectures. *The Reith Lectures* will be broadcast later from the other national stations.

Music of Karl Goldmark

KARL GOLDMARK, who was born at Keszthely-am-Plattensee, Hungary, in 1832, was the son of a needy cantor in the local synagogue. On a cheap violin and a home-made flute, the future composer first gave rein to his musical ideas. After the revolution in 1848, he was to have been shot for a spy, and was saved only at the eleventh hour by the happy arrival of a former colleague. Then he composed his *Sakuntala* and *Penthesilea* overtures, showing the influence of Wagner, and the *Landliche Hochzeit* symphony which carried his fame abroad. His first and best opera, *The Queen of Sheba* (1875) was followed next year by *Merlin*, much of which was afterwards rewritten. A third opera, a version of Dickens's *Cricket on the Hearth*, was given by the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company in London in 1900. Goldmark died in Vienna in 1915. A recording of the *Sakuntala* overture (a work not often heard in New Zealand), played by the Boston Promenade Orchestra conducted by Arthur Fiedler, will be broadcast from 1YC at 9.3 p.m. on Tuesday, December 13; following this item Igor Gorin (baritone) will be heard in a recording of "Lift Thine Eyes" from *The Queen of Sheba*.

"Messiah" in Wellington

THE Royal Wellington Choral Union has assembled a distinguished group of soloists for its performance of *Messiah*, which will be broadcast by 2YC from the Town Hall at 8.0 p.m. on Saturday, December 17. The Australian Lorenzo Nolan will be the tenor soloist and John Andrews the baritone, while Valerie Peppier is coming from Christchurch to sing the soprano part. The well known Dunedin contralto, Mary Pratt, completes the list of soloists. The choir will be conducted by Stanley Oliver, and will be accompanied by the specially augmented 2YA Concert Orchestra. For those listeners unfamiliar with Handel's magnificent choral work, Mr. Oliver will discuss *Messiah* at 7.15 p.m. on Thursday, December 15, from 2YA.

Commonwealth Collaboration

AUSTRALIAN RHAPSODY, which listeners to 3YA will hear at 9.30 p.m. on Friday, December 16, is one of the results of the months that the

THINGS TO COME

BBC producer, D. G. Bridson, spent working with the Australian Broadcasting Commission. It is an impression in verse and music by Bridson and the Australian composer John Antill, giving a picture of Australian life and the Australian scene through the mind of an Airways pilot on a flight across the continent. He remembers voices and scenes that had played a formative part in his life and the scenes are filled in and completed in terms of music. The programme was recorded partly in the studios of the ABC and partly in the BBC Studios. An Australian actor Peter Finch as the pilot leads an All-Australian cast and the music is played by the BBC Scottish Orchestra conducted by Dr. Hubert Clifford, Australian composer and conductor. During the war Dr. Clifford was in the Empire Music Department of the BBC.



Gounod's "Romeo and Juliet"

FOR three-quarters of an hour, starting at 8.15 p.m., on Tuesday, December 13, listeners to 3YZ will hear excerpts from Gounod's opera, *Romeo and Juliet*, with Margaret Ritchie (soprano) and Frans Vroons (tenor) as the soloists. The BBC Theatre Orchestra and Theatre Chorus are conducted by Walter Goehr. Margaret Ritchie's solo is the "Waltz Song" and Frans Vroons's "Tis Love." They also sing two duets and the Theatre Orchestra's contributions are the ballet music and "Juliet's Slumber." Margaret Ritchie was born in Grimsby. She has sung principal parts at Covent Garden Opera House and as guest artist with the Sadler's Wells Opera Company. As well as making appearances in opera she has specialised in the singing of oratorio and lieder, and has toured Spain, Italy and Yugoslavia. This programme is the fourth in the BBC series, *Ring Up The Curtain*.

Maori Choral Music

THE Te Aroha Maori Concert Party gave two performances in the Wellington Town Hall on November 3 and 4 to help in raising funds for a War Memorial Meeting House which will be built in the Maori state house settlement at Waiwhetu, Lower Hutt. The choir was drawn from tribes all over New Zealand, including the South Island, and in its performances was led

MUSIC COMPETITION

IN order to allow reasonable time for composition after the annual musical examinations, it has now been decided to extend the closing date of the Music Competition being conducted by the NZBS to noon on Friday, January 6, 1950. Entries in the competition—for a setting for full orchestra and chorus of "The Stream and the Discovery"—were previously asked for by December 6. The judges for the competition will be Professor H. Hollinrake, of Auckland, and Professor T. Vernon Griffiths, of Christchurch. Entry forms are available from any of the New Zealand Broadcasting stations.

by Mrs. T. Floyd. The NZBS made a recording at one of the Choir's Town Hall performances, and this will be broadcast by 2YA at 8.0 p.m. on Saturday, December 17.

Composer's Tercentenary

JOHN BLOW, English composer and organist, who was born in 1649, was the teacher of Henry Purcell. He was a member of the Chapel Royal as a youth and at an early age produced three anthems included in Clifford's *Divine Services and Anthems*. When he was only 20 he became organist at Westminster Abbey, and five years later a Gentleman of the Chapel Royal, eventually becoming one of the three organists retained for this group. Purcell replaced Blow as organist at the Abbey in 1679, but Blow returned to the post in 1695 after the death of his extraordinary pupil. Among his output are 110 anthems, thirteen services, secular songs and many harpsichord pieces, and various odes for State occasions. Though his works have been belittled on the ground of crudities in the writing, more recent appraisals regard these deviations from the conventional as signs of uncommon originality and daring. Station 2YA will present at 8.16 p.m., on Sunday, December 18, *A Composer to H.M. Chapel Royal*—a programme commemorating the tercentenary of John Blow's birth.

Opera for Children

A GERMAN opera that from the first has given a large British public high pleasure is the *Hansel and Gretel* (1893) of Humperdinck. This, which was produced at Weimar the day before Christmas Eve, 1893, was put on at Daly's Theatre on Boxing Day, 1894, in a translation by Constance Bache, and less than four months later had one hundred times drawn audiences to enjoy its pleasant tunefulness. Thirty years later (on January 6, 1923) from Covent Garden it became the first opera ever broadcast anywhere in Europe. It is said of *Hansel and Gretel* that it is perhaps the only fine work in the operatic repertory to which one can take a child with a definite certainty of gratitude. His other operas (several of them, also, upon fairy-tale libretti) have had less success. Between 9.22 p.m. and 10.25 p.m. on Sunday, December 18, recordings of *Hansel and Gretel* will be heard from 4YA.

The Shop at Sly Corner

DESCIUS HEISS, the old jeweller and antique dealer, led a double life. He had brought up his daughter Margaret too scrupulously for him ever to appear to her as anything but an honest man—yet he was a fence. Margaret's musical education had been paid for from the profits he had made through the disposal of stolen goods. Heiss's shop assistant found out and blackmailed him, first for money, then for Margaret. This was too much. Heiss rebelled against his fate. How his rebellion worked out is told with a fine flavour of ironical coincidence. Listen to the play *Shop at Sly Corner* by Edward Percy, an NZBS production, from 3YA at 9.22 p.m. on Sunday, December 18.