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MARTHA EGGERTH and JAN KIEPURA
She's Hungarian: He's Polish



MARRIAGE and MUSIC

Celebrated Husbands And Wives

WHEN we hear some famous person's voice speaking or singing through the medium of a gramophone recording, it is sometimes difficult to imagine the owner of it living the ordinary humdrum existence that we do. Somehow the fact that a celebrity has a private life is forgotten in the glare of his public one. Yet even opera stars and orchestra leaders have husbands or wives, a home, and very often children. Accordingly, a new series which began recently in the *For My Lady* morning session from the National stations, is intended to reveal the life and love stories of some of these people, such as Jan Kiepura and Martha Eggerth, Andre Kostelanetz and Lily Pons. The series is entitled *Husbands and Wives*.

The first pair mentioned are not very well known in this country. Kiepura, who is a Pole, has been seen in one or two films (*Tell Me To-night* and *My Heart Is Calling*) but otherwise he is com-

paratively unknown. From humble beginnings and non-recognition in his own country, he became one of Europe's leading operatic tenors. This led to film work in Vienna, where a young Hungarian girl named Martha Eggerth, who had already made a success in a film called

The Unfinished Symphony, was cast opposite him in a film based on Puccini's opera *La Bohème*. Common interests drew them together and before the film was finished Martha Eggerth had become Mrs. Jan Kiepura. Film work in England and America followed for Jan, although he was unsuccessful in obtaining similar engagements for his wife. However, when he returned, the two embarked upon a triumphant tour of the European capitals, concluding in Warsaw where they decided to settle down. In 1939 when Poland was invaded, the Kiepuras escaped to America where they are living now and where Martha has been more successful, for she was recently the star of a show on Broadway.

Smallest Prima Donna

Lily Pons and Andre Kostelanetz, on the other hand, are one of the world's best known couples, for they are both famous in their own right. Lily Pons is a Frenchwoman, celebrated as the world's smallest prima donna—she is just five feet tall. A further claim to fame is the fact that she is the only opera star ever to have a town named after her—it is called Lilypons in the U.S.A. She has been seen in New Zealand in two films, *I Dream Too Much* and *That Girl From Paris*, in both of which the music was directed by her husband, Andre Kostelanetz. He was born a Russian Jew, but became a naturalised American citizen in 1938. He is considered to be one of the world's most talented and original musicians, for he leads a 45-piece orchestra which can change from swing music to a symphony at a twist from its conductor's baton.



LILY PONS and ANDRE KOSTELANETZ
A town for her: symphony and swing for him

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5	E	J	W	S	I
6	G	R	P	C	N
7	S	J	Y	S	F
8	B	D	R	W	N
9	T	P	H	M	I
10	B	Z	G	A	U
11	D	L	E	C	I
12	Q	N	T	H	O

13	L	K	A	D	R
14	H	R	F	N	S
15	R	Q	O	B	U
16	H	X	M	W	D
17	R	Q	P	A	F
18	H	G	U	B	J
19	Z	N	Q	W	S
20	Y	A	T	M	K
21	J	V	L	X	P
22	D	K	D	S	W
23	H	F	L	M	V
24	J	K	D	M	R

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

1	D	J	O	V	F
2	T	Z	X	I	Y
3	F	U	T	B	Q
4	E	R	F	L	G
5	K	N	X	G	P
6	S	U	R	Q	O

(Continued on next page)