

## SOME RECENT MUSIC

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and the singer sounded as if he thought he was singing a ballad by Piccolomini. The other performance I heard of "Adelaide" was an excellent one. It was sung—with piano—by a man who happens to be my milkman. It was really beautiful. But this old acoustic record—ugh! Surely there is a more recent one available?

\* \* \*  
BEETHOVEN'S Ninth Symphony was provided by 1YX this week. Perhaps in response to a recent request in *The Listener*? It was, as usual, Stokowski conducting. This is another piece of Beethoven of which there should be a better recording available (until the awaited Toscanini one comes to light). Stokowski's readings are unreliable in any event, but with Beethoven they are better not heard.

There have been other recordings made of the Ninth. Weingartner made one in 1935. There must have been some other set held in stock before Stokowski's arrived, and if it is still there, then there are plenty of people who would like to hear it; and if it came from one of the main Nationals, it would reach more people than heard 1YX last Sunday.

## LISTENINGS

WITH the war coming closer we shall naturally have to do with fewer of the table trimmings to which we have been accustomed. If we were besieged we would have plenty of the primary lashings that make a meal. But one of the nastiest knocks we could suffer would be the total loss of the cup that cheers, and cheers, and cheers. How the heck the British won Waterloo without tea I don't know. They had beer, which isn't a bad substitute in an emergency, but it's not the stuff that tea is made of. Tea is the great upholder, the hope-bringer, and the brew that makes the dogs of war look for a leg to bite. If war snatched it from us we certainly would fight the fiercer in order to finish the business so that we could wrap our lips over the edge of a tea-cup once more.

When the news is dark the cry goes up: "Put on the kettle!" If/when we receive good tidings we celebrate by cuddling the caddy. Instead of ringing the welkin we wring the tannin. In times of doubt and peril we cry "Whatterabout a cupper?" Tea, and T.N.T. are twin defenses. Perhaps cups will have to be weaker; maybe they will be less frequent; but it is difficult to conceive a condition when the clarion cry "Shove

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KEN ALEXANDER



on the makin'!" will be answered by the hollow moan of an empty caddy. Hitler probably tried to cut off Britain's supply of the "doin's". Probably Ribbentrop advised Hitler, "Der tea leaves we cut away and der oak it dies." The Japs know more about tea than that but we can trust the navy to keep the tea-lanes open So:

*Go, sink your beers!  
The cup that cheers  
Is vital you'll agree,  
We'll take the strain  
And come again  
Cheered by our cupper-tea!*



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