

RECENT MUSIC

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by what feat of prestidigitation I might hear 2YC's opening announcements and some Scarlatti played by the 3YA Orchestra at one and the same moment. The Czechs solved it for me by starting their concert late, so I was able to enjoy a moment or two of Julius Harrison's arrangement of some Scarlatti sonatas (including that one which, as a piano solo, is too well known). But I dallied too long on this part of the dial, and missed one of 2YC's announcements, finding on my return that the string quartet was playing our National Anthem. It was refreshing by way of a change to hear the tune in this medium. Stripped of its associations with impatient cinema crowds, it is all the more plainly a grand tune.

* * *

Then followed two more tunes, a slow one and a quick one, the first of which was, I think, *Kde Domov Muj*, the

Czech anthem. The Czech of 1942 might well ask himself "Where is my home?" The second was presumably a Slovak tune. But whereas, perhaps foolishly, I had hoped for a quick glance over a few Bohemian folk tunes, with maybe one or two things by Janacek, Novak, or Suk, that I had never heard, I found that all the rest of the broadcast time was

taken up with Smetana's first biographical quartet, a work that does not seize my imagination very vividly. Perhaps difficulty of obtaining parts limited the choice somewhat. But the quartet was well played; I remember particularly the middle section of the second movement, and those frightening tremolos near the end of the finale.

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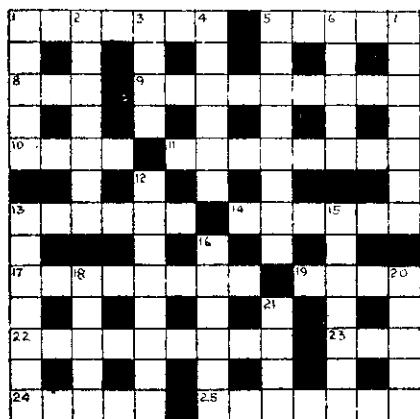
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THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

(Answer to No. 106)

(Constructed by R.W.C.)



Clues Across

1. Hurt fag (anag.).
5. An ample tree?
8. The proper place to find this person is 3 down.
9. Bow.
10. Achilles' vulnerable point.
11. A rum gent! (anag.).
13. Hidden Talent?
14. State induced by 17 across.
17. Drug composed of acorn and tic.
19. City in Norway.
22. Cap in time.
23. Found only before downs.
24. Animal or vegetable parasite.
25. Set near (anag.).

Clues Down

1. Pilfer.
2. Neat mug (anag.).
3. See 8 across.
4. We—or they?—find an idea here.
5. Conveyor of malaria.
6. Take care of these and the pounds will take care of themselves.
7. Voter.
12. I don't, Len! (anag.).
13. May be three-point, pancake, happy, or at the top of the stairs.
15. Sure, Pat! (anag.).
16. Here you find a rat in a pie.
18. Indian coin.
20. Attack with notes.
21. Sigh of grief found in argument.

It's tops

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