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EITHER serious nor popular music in America is reduced or restrained by the war. When, all within one month, New York City hears the Western Hemisphere première of Shostakovich's new Seventh Symphony and sees the Broadway opening of Irving Berlin's super-show, This is the Army, no one need fear for the future of either popular dance music or the classics. Amid the blasts of factory whistles and the clank of tank-treads. great music is still being played in America.

Musicians, of course, can be patriots, too-and in the United States the composers, conductors, singers, and instrumentalists of international fame are adding their talents and their reputations to symphony. patriotism's tremendous Brave, ringing songs are being whistled on street corners and in army camps. Not as many marching songs as the last war produced, for this is not a marching war. But all American musicians are taking part.

Dmitri Shostakovich is probably the known young symphonic com-

Left: Arturo Toscanini, rehearsing the NBC Symphony Orchestra, largest in the world, for Shostakovich's Seventh Symphony

> Dmitri Shostakovich, young Russian composer, who wrote his latest symphony between firefighting duties in Lenináraď

### MUSIC PLAYS ON IN AMERICA

(Special to "The Listener" from the War Services Board, Washington)

poser in the world. It is only fitting therefore, that this young Russian's latest major work should be introduced to the Americas by a conductor no less renowned than Arturo Toscanini leading the National Broadcasting Company's Orchestra.

This Seventh Symphony of Shostakovich is no ordinary work, even by an extraordinary composer. He wrote it in the very midst of the Nazi attack on Leningrad. The composer himself has described its fundamental theme as "devoted to the ordinary Soviet citizens who have become heroes of this patriotic struggle."

#### Composer for Two Wars

On the "popular" side of the musical ledger, Irving Berlin's show is just as much a sensation. The little U.S. Infantry ex-sergeant, who wrote and pro-duced the famous army show of the last war, Yip, Yip, Yaphank, has been contributing many of the most beloved tunes of this war, these past few months: "God Bless America", for instance, and "Any Bonds To-day?"—and genuinely contributing them, too, since all of his royalties have gone to the U.S. armed services, the Red Cross, and similar organisations.



Here in This is the Army, is his lifetime's major opus-a vast, vim-driven, breakneck-speedy, beautiful extravaganza, produced strictly of, for, and by the U.S. Army. All of its staggering profits are destined to go to the Army Emergency Relief. Everyone who takes part in it—even the swooningly hand-some leading "ladies"—is either a private, a corporal, or a sergeant. And almost everyone was an actor, singer, dancer of considerable repute before he put on the Army uniform.

The contribution of Mr. Berlin, composer, as distinguished from Mr. Berlin, producer, is a glad and glorious one. There is the song which gives the whole show its name, "This is the Army". There is a sentimental, eminently singable tune called "I Left My Heart at the Stage Door Canteen". There is a revival, introducing Mr. Berlin in person, of his ancient favourite, "Oh, How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning".

### Other War Songs

Among other well-known popular composers who have contributed to the gaiety of the United Nations there is

(Continued on next page)



America's all-army musical show, "This is the Army" was written, produced, and directed by Irving Berlin, seen here surrounded by some of his cast



In the U.S., leading composers of popular songs are turning out a steady stream of war-time pieces. Among them is Jerome Kern (above)