

# Music by Auckland Composers

ON two occasions in the near future Station 1YA is to present a studio programme of works by composers now living in Auckland. The first of these will be heard on Sunday, April 4, at 8.25 p.m., and will consist of songs and piano solos by Henry Shirley, with the composer himself at the piano, and Ver-laine Henry (soprano). The songs will



Amalgamated Studios photograph  
THOMAS POWELL

include "Along the Garden Ways," "The Midnight Hour," "Frolic," "A Thought," and "Morning," and the piano solos will be a pastorella and "Where the Tui Sings."

For the second programme, to be heard at about the same time on Sunday, April 11, Muriel McFarlane (soprano), Terence O'Rourke and Trevor Crabbe (baritones), and Alan Pow (piano), will present *Songs and Pieces by Thomas Powell*. These will include a duet, "In All My Dreams," and a piano solo, "Marionette's Dancing Lesson." In several cases both words and music are by Mr. Powell, and all the items will be new to New Zealand listeners.

Henry Shirley is already well known in New Zealand as a broadcaster and musician of considerable repute, but Thomas Powell arrived from England only last year. Over twenty of his compositions, many of them written since his arrival, have already been studied by the NZBS and will probably be heard over the next few months.

For twelve years Mr. Powell was accompanist for the amateur operatic society of the London South Metropolitan Gas Company (now the South Eastern Gas Board). This society, he says, was regarded as the finest amateur group in Britain, under the musical direction of the late Sydney Herbert. Its reper-

toire included all of the Gilbert and Sullivan works and many other light operas, and there was an orchestra of 30 players.

Mr. Powell did not begin to study music seriously until he was nearly 40, he told *The Listener*. Then he began studying at the Blackheath Conservatoire of Music under H. Farjeon, a professor of harmony and composition for the Royal Academy. At forty, he won two scholarships in these subjects.

Now settled at Titirangi, Mr. Powell is optimistic about the future, musically. "If one has creative artistic ability of any sort this country must bring it out. I find Titirangi a source of inspiration," he said. "There is an excellent atmosphere for creative work."

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## PORTS of CALL

THE people of one of today's disputed territories, Ilha Formosa, the "Beautiful Island," live and work uneasily only 100 miles from South China's coast. Oppressed by the Japanese till 1945, they had barely time to recover before being called on to provide a home for China's National Government and some 4,000,000 refugees who fled the mainland when the communists took over in 1949. The problems of adjustment are huge.

For the traveller, however, the problems are much the same as ever they were: How to obtain towels in hotels; how to dodge the incredible traffic; does a 64-dollar meal mean bankruptcy?

Listeners will be able to hear a little about the larger problems and a lot about the little problems in a series of travel talks to be broadcast shortly in

★ A TAIWAN farmer brings his rice to town by bullock-cart ★

the *Women's Hour* from all ZB stations, 2ZA and 1XH. Entitled *Ports of Call*, the talks are by Jessie Goddard, née Jessie McLennan, formerly Organiser of Women's Programmes for the Commercial Division of the NZBS. Since her marriage Mrs. Goddard has been travelling in New Zealand's Near North, and her talks will deal not only with Formosa—now called by its Chinese name of Taiwan—but also with Singapore and Hong Kong. The latter city she also found grossly overcrowded with refugees, but the squalor was compensated by the fascinating life in the streets and sight of the glittering city by night.

*Ports of Call* will be broadcast first in the *Women's Hour* from 2ZB and 2ZA, beginning Friday, April 2. It will be heard later from the other ZBs and 1XH.

N.Z. LISTENER, MARCH 26, 1954.

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