

harmonia; but it is certainly a very good orchestra by any standard. With regular infusions of new blood it should become very fine indeed—one of the finest in the Southern Hemisphere.

"The National Orchestra's new conductor, James Robertson, is an excellent acquisition, a fine musician with a great deal of experience. He is a Mozart lover, delighting in works which all singers and instrumentalists admit are most difficult to present in an artistic way. He is also an authority on modern languages—the Maori tongue will probably attract him—has a strong but friendly personality, and is a fine public speaker and lecturer."

Mr. Gold believes that music is a vital ingredient in full and healthy living. "Many people will quarrel with this," he told *The Listener*, "but music cannot be expected to pay. It must be subsidised. And I believe that if music were taken out of life altogether those who complain the loudest about its cost and those who simply treat it as a sort of mental backwash to the day's activities by turning their radios on at 7.0 a.m. and leaving them on all day, would be the first to protest. Music is functional, too. Some of the greatest works were written to order, for an express purpose, just as today some composers write for plays and films. There would be nothing out of place in large organisations, city councils, big business firms and the like, sponsoring good music. New Zealand businessmen could well take a hint from the fact that one of Britain's largest department store combines supplies the Glyndebourne Opera Company with all the materials it needs free; and supports its own operatic and orchestral societies. And why shouldn't we have Opera instead of soap opera?"

Andrew Gold and Pamela Woolmore will be given a farewell concert by the Auckland Festival Society on July 29, and will leave for England soon afterwards. Mr. Gold will begin a concert tour of Wales on September 19, and after that, he says, engagements come thick and fast right up to next Good Friday, when he will sing in *Messiah* with the Cambridge Choral Society.

#### It Starts in Waitaha

YOU'VE probably never heard of Waitaha, and neither had Joan Faulkner Blake till she started browsing through the files of the Adult Education Service of New Zealand. Well, for the record, it's a little place in South Westland, and Mrs. Blake makes it the starting point for a series of talks on adult education which are now being heard from 2XG at 8.45 p.m. on Fridays, and will start in the 2YA *Business Women's Session* on Saturday, July 17. What the people of Waitaha wanted was a drama course, but the point of the story is in a letter written by one of the settlers when the course finished. Quite apart from play acting, he said, the visits of the adult education tutor had fostered a community spirit which had been sadly lacking and which might not have been developed in any other way for a long time. That's the sort of thing adult education has done for many other small communities, too. Mrs. Blake talks in a very entertaining way about such cases and about the achievements of the Service.

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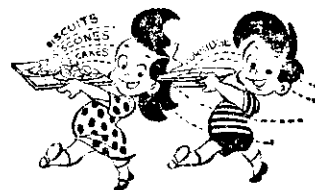
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