

The English Glee

TO musicians the word *glee* doesn't necessarily conjure up a picture of someone jumping for joy, for it also means a piece of music for unaccompanied solo voices, usually male. The word is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *gliv*, or *gligge*—which means music—and the great period of glee composition in England was the 18th Century.



Spencer Digby photograph
STANLEY OLIVER

In a programme called *The Story of the Glee*, Stanley Oliver will give some account of this old form of music-making, illustrated by a number of famous old glees sung by the Baroque Chorus. It will be broadcast from the YC and YA stations, first of all from 1YC at 9.30 p.m. on July 26.

The glees which have survived are now usually sung by small choruses, and the first to be sung in the programme is *Awake Aeolian Lyre*, one of the most popular glees ever written, composed by John Danby, who was organist to the chapel of the Spanish Embassy in London during the latter half of the 18th Century. Other glees which are sung in the programme are *How Sleep the Brave*, by Benjamin Cooke; *Here in Cool Grot and Mossy Cell*, by the Earl of Mornington (father of the Great Duke of Wellington); *The May Fly*, by John Calcott; and *Hail, Smiling Morn*, by Reginald Spofforth.

The glee is a purely English form; No other nation has it. Glee clubs have played a notable part in musical life in England, and several members of the Royal family have, for example, belonged to the Noblemen and Gentlemen's Catch Club, founded in 1761. Though glees are now usually sung by small mixed choruses, it is possible, says Stanley Oliver, "that they would be more effective if sung according to the composer's intention, which was for solo male voices. But I cannot share the opinion of the musical purist who believes that all music should be performed exactly according to the medium conceived by the composer or not at all."

The Story of the Glee will be heard first from the YC stations (July and August), and from the YA stations in September and October.

N.Z. LISTENER, JULY 23, 1954.

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Left: Authentic photograph of Rene Roos, Obermeilen, Zurich, taken on 17th March, 1948, before treatment with F"99"

Right: Authentic photograph of Rene Roos, taken on 5th June, 1948, after 11 weeks' treatment with F"99".



Left: Authentic photograph of Mr. Ernst Fausch, Dufourstrasse, 161, Zurich 8, taken on 15th June, 1949, before treatment with F"99".

Right: Authentic photograph of Mr. Ernst Fausch, taken on 27th September, 1949, after a 13 weeks' treatment with F"99".

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