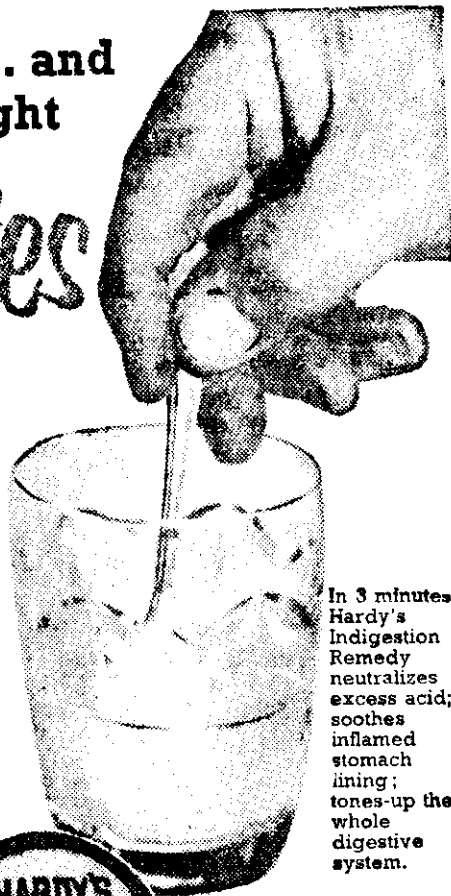
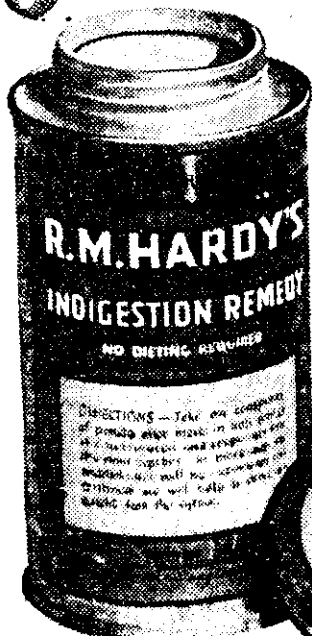


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## ZB CONCERT HALL

# Classics for Sunday Evening

NEXT week, for the first time, the NZBS Commercial Network will broadcast a concert by the National Orchestra. This will inaugurate a new Sunday evening series entitled *ZB Concert Hall*. The first programme will consist of Vaughan Williams's "Fantasia on Greensleeves" and Cowen's "Language of Flowers" suite. Two subsequent programmes will also be by the National Orchestra. The conductor is Warwick Braithwaite.

The remainder of the programme in the first series will comprise excerpts from the latest LP recordings, featuring some of the most prominent names in the concert world today. Some of the discs will be first recordings by artists, and will be for most listeners the first opportunity of hearing them.

Included in the series will be some of the latest recordings made by Arturo Toscanini and the NBC Symphony Orchestra; by Inez Matthews, contralto, who has sung with great success in *Carmen Jones*, and with Todd Duncan in *Lost in the Stars*, and is in constant demand for concert appearances; and by David Oistrakh, the famous Russian violinist. Oistrakh (*Listener*, July 30) has become almost a legend from behind the "Iron Curtain." He has seldom performed in Western countries, but whenever he has he has drawn acclaim from the critics. In America, on the basis of recordings alone, he has been ranked with such masters as Heifetz and Menuhin.

Toscanini conducted the NBC Symphony for the last time in April this year, thus ending 68 years as a conductor and 17 years with the orchestra specially formed for him. Before leaving for Italy, however, he returned once to the podium—to perfect some recordings in which one or two notes had failed to satisfy him. Toscanini was always a perfectionist. After his final concert, the *New York Times* critic Olin Downes wrote: "There has never been a more gallant and intrepid champion of great music, or a spirit that flamed higher, or a nobler defender of the faith."



ARTURO TOSCANINI

William Kapell, one of the brightest hopes among modern pianists, will be represented by some recordings from the last series made before his death. He was killed in an air accident near San Francisco in October last year while on his way home from a tour of Australia.

There will also be a programme by Roberta Peters—the latest, and, from all reports, the brightest star of the Met. She has been singing the coloratura roles taken by the famed Luisa Tetrazzini, at the turn of the century, by Galli-Curci during the first quarter, and by Lily Pons in the thirties. Recordings by these three great artists will be heard along with that of Miss Peters.

Another programme will feature other "Unforgotten Stars" of singing, with recordings by Enrico Caruso, Giovanni Martinelli, John McCormack, Tito Schipa, Lucrezia Bori, Rosa Ponselle, and other "greats."

*ZB Concert Hall* plays from all ZB stations and 2ZA at 9.0 p.m. on Sundays, beginning August 22.

## Away from It All

EVEN the most disillusioned of us probably retain the hope that somewhere in the world there's the sort of



DAVID WENTWORTH

tropical paradise you read about in escapist novels where you could get away from it all. This idea of a care-free paradise, says David Wentworth, in a series of talks to be heard from 1YA, is an illusion, for man carries his problems and worries with him wherever he goes. But there are, he thinks, still a few places where one can escape some of the worries of industrial society. One of these is the Torres Strait Group, which lies between New Guinea and Australia. Among the people of these islands, he says, he spent one of the happiest periods of his life. "I've lived in many parts of the world and seen some wonderful places, but I can't think of anywhere where I've been more contented and settled. . . I tried to trace the cause of this feeling because it was a novelty . . . and I came to the conclusion that it was caused partly by the people and partly by the climate, but mostly by the people." Mr. Wentworth has called the story of his stay there *The Carefree Isles*. It will start from 1YA on Thursday, August 19, at 7.15 p.m.

N.Z. LISTENER, AUGUST 13, 1954.