



ARTHUR BENJAMIN
"To me, opera means the Verdi-Puccini tradition"

Evremonde (Fabian Smith, baritone), and Charles Darnay (Alexander Young, tenor).

Arthur Benjamin is one of Australia's best-known composers. He left his native land when he was 18 to study at the Royal College of Music, and returned to become a professor at the Sydney Conservatoire after the First World War. In 1921 he went back to London and in 1925 his first published work, a string quartet, won a Carnegie Award. Since then his career as pianist and composer has taken him to many parts of the world, and his first symphony was written in Vancouver, where for five years he conducted an orchestra for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. In 1950 he toured Australia, and he now lives in England. He has written piano and violin concertos, though perhaps his most popular work is the well-known *Overture to an Italian Comedy*.

New BBC Play

LISTENERS to a new BBC play, *For Dear Life*, to be broadcast here shortly, will hear the story of a young blind man's personal faith, and his final triumph over all obstacles. Lucian Evans, nephew of the Bishop of Bethesda in North Wales, is a lay preacher who believes in the coming of a great Christian revival. He meets Myfanwy Grey, a rich American divorcee, and is captivated by her youthfulness of heart. The bishop, knowing her past, and that she is twice the age of his nephew, frowns on the whole affair. But when Lucian has an operation to restore his sight, Myfanwy fears he may be disappointed on seeing her and makes a promise to the bishop. Just what this promise was, and how hard the decision it forced her to make, is revealed in this satirical drama. *For Dear Life* plays from 1YC at 7.46 p.m. on Sunday, September 5, and later from other National stations. It was produced by William Hughes at the BBC's Midland studios.

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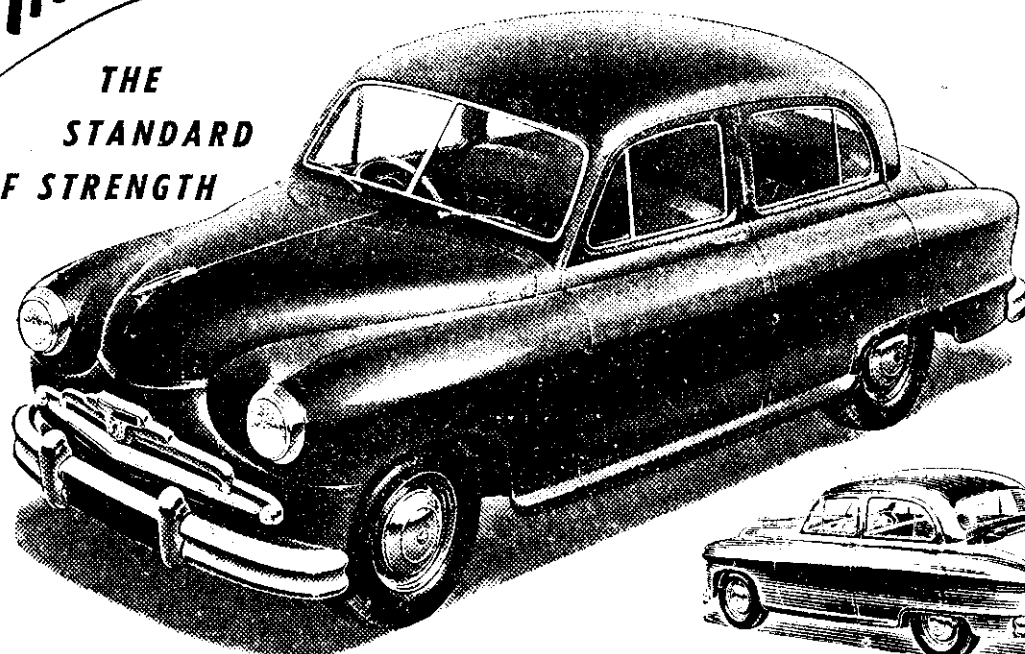
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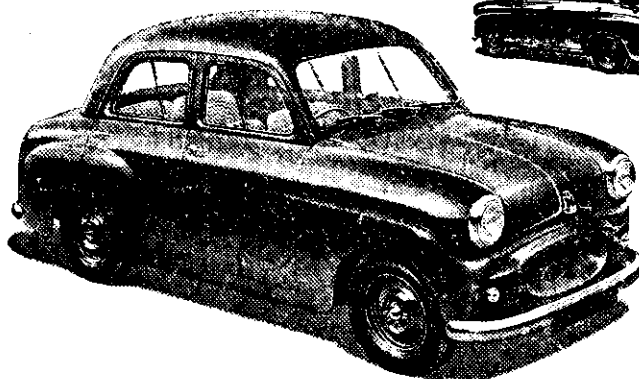


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