

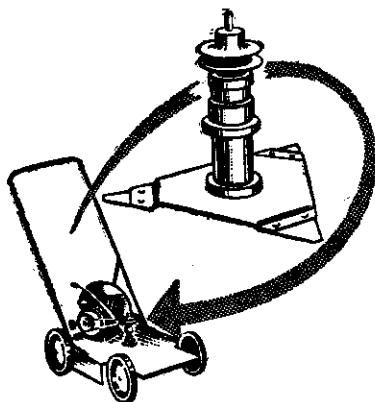


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MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

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A YOUNG lady with more than a soupçon of Parisian élan came into *The Listener's* normally rather drab and work-a-day offices the other day. She was Cara Hall, the talented Wellington pianist, back home after three years in London and on the Continent. It's obvious that she has given her heart to Paris. In Paris you really live, she says.

You find people not only GRAND TOUR vitally intent on cultural matters, but living surrounded by all that's beautiful, too. She herself stayed at the Cité Universitaire, in a hostel called the Collège Franco-Britannique, which was occupied by students from England and the Commonwealth countries. Her piano teacher was the famous Lazare Lévy.

Cara Hall gave broadcast recitals from Radiodiffusion Française and also public concerts. French audiences were the keenest, most perceptive critics she knew, and could be wonderful to play to—if they were on your side—when they showed their appreciation with immense enthusiasm. French audiences have catholic tastes in music, she said, though she recalled one occasion during a concert of 20th Century music when the audience did not approve of the extremely modern works they were being asked to listen to. There was much whispering and passing of notes of

Open Microphone

protest when suddenly a woman called out in disapproval. A man sitting behind her stood up and screamed "Imbécile! Imbécile!" whereupon she retaliated by hitting him in the face with her handbag. Attendants asked them to leave, which they did, escorted by at least a third of the audience, and the fight was continued in the foyer of the concert hall. However, Cara Hall's French friends were scandalised by such a happening and assured her that it was quite exceptional.

One of the highlights of her stay in France was her participation in a chamber quartet given in celebration of the composer Arthur Honegger's sixtieth birthday. A presentation book was given to Honegger by the artists, and in her inscription Cara Hall associated herself with all New Zealand musicians in wishing him good health.

In London she studied hard, hearing all the music she possibly could as well. Notable occasions were Toscanini's two farewell Brahms concerts in the Festival Hall, where he conducted the Philharmonia Orchestra. Miss Hall herself gave several recitals over the BBC Home and Overseas Services. Among New Zealand musicians whom she met in London was Dr. Ronald Tremain, a composer and teacher at the Royal College of Music and Trinity College. Just recently a new composition of his was very well received at a concert of contemporary music in Salzburg.

Very soon New Zealand audiences will have a chance to hear what effect her "grand tour" has had on Cara Hall's own musicianship, for she is to play the Mozart Piano Concerto in D Minor with the National Orchestra in Auckland on October 12. This concert will be broadcast from a link of the YC stations.

★
FOR something almost in the category of Famous Last Words, see the paragraph on Patricia Murphy in *The Listener* of August 27. "She will be returning to the mountains (for this year's leave)," it ran, "keeping her fingers tightly crossed on her ski sticks and hoping she'll be able to negotiate the 2XA stairs without a plaster cast." Well, for

BROADCASTS FROM BED

two weeks she did negotiate them with a certain amount of limping. An X-ray was then taken, revealing a cracked bone in the hip. After consultation with several Wanganui doctors, Patricia was ordered to bed for three weeks. When advertisers heard the story they were all for Patricia doing her morning broadcasts from bed—so that's just what she has been doing. Helpful Post Office technicians transferred Pat's telephone to her bedside. Sponsors were all kindness and co-operation. Some gave their advertisements by telephone, others brought their goods round to show Patricia (one brought an entire shipment of Austrian jewellery) till her bedroom looked like Aladdin's Cave. Patricia's home is near a railway line, and her earlier broadcasts were punctuated by an occasional engine whistle and some very good train effects, which all added colour to these broadcasts from an improvised studio.

★
THE death has been announced in London of the pianist Aleksandr Helmann, who toured New Zealand for the NZBS in 1949. Helmann developed coronary thrombosis after this tour and gave up concert playing.

BRILLIANT PIANIST but continued composing. He was 42. Helmann impressed critics as one of the most brilliant pianists to visit this country.



Aleksandr Helmann ten. Helmann was born in Russia in 1912, and went with his parents to the United States in 1923. He later settled in Britain, where he gave his first concert in 1934. He married an Englishwoman and soon established himself as one of the top pianists of his generation, appearing with the major European orchestras. He had an unusually

★
RAY SENTCH and his Orchestra are shown here giving one of their monthly broadcasts of modern dance music from Station 1XH Hamilton. The next broadcast by the band will be at 9.30 p.m. on Thursday, September 30, when "The Raymon Show" goes on the air once again.

