

contained and very mobile, thus avoiding the costly transport and accommodation problems which usually plague opera groups on tour.

"This opera group I hope will be put on a permanent footing, thereby creating employment for a limited number of artists. Musicians coming back from England have found time and time again that there's little to do here professionally. Outside the National Orchestra I think it would be true to say there is practically no musical profession apart from teaching. So we want to create a professional opera. Our plans for next year include, besides *La Serva Padrona* and *The Telephone*, Benjamin Britten's *Let's Make An Opera*, and Mozart's *Bastien and Bastienne* and *The Impresario*. We have a lot of work ahead, we haven't much money, but we've got terrific enthusiasm."

Mr. Munro said that the sets and costumes for Pergolesi's *La Serva Padrona* were designed by John Holmwood and are on loan from the Auckland Community Arts Centre. *The Telephone*, of course, was a modern-dress work, in which the main prop was the telephone itself, over which the heroine receives numerous proposals of marriage from her various admirers.

Donald Munro comes from Dunedin, and recently spent several years in England, where he sang many times on the BBC Third Programme, played the role of Adonis in a production of *Venus and Adonis* at the John Blow tercentenary, in Delius's *A Village Romeo and Juliet* under Sir Thomas Beecham, and in Cherubini's *Les Deux Journées*. He was winner of the Tagore Gold Medal for the year's best student at the Royal College of Music in 1941, spent two years with Pierre Bernac in Paris, and worked a season with the Old Vic Theatre Company. Mary Langford, of Auckland, is a winner of the James Stenberg Aria competition, and is well known for her broadcasting work. She was most successful as Serpina in *La Serva Padrona* last year.

Quiet Heroine

COUSIN KATE is Miss Kathleen Denison, 38, intelligent, calm and dignified. She has little money of her own and has been housekeeping for a wealthy grazier up country. In response to an urgent appeal from her widowed cousin Henry she returns to the city to look after the sick man and his family. Unfortunately, her welcome is by no means unanimous. Hilda, the elder daughter, is furiously jealous of her, while Vicki, the younger daughter, seethes with the emotional conflicts of first love for a young migrant.

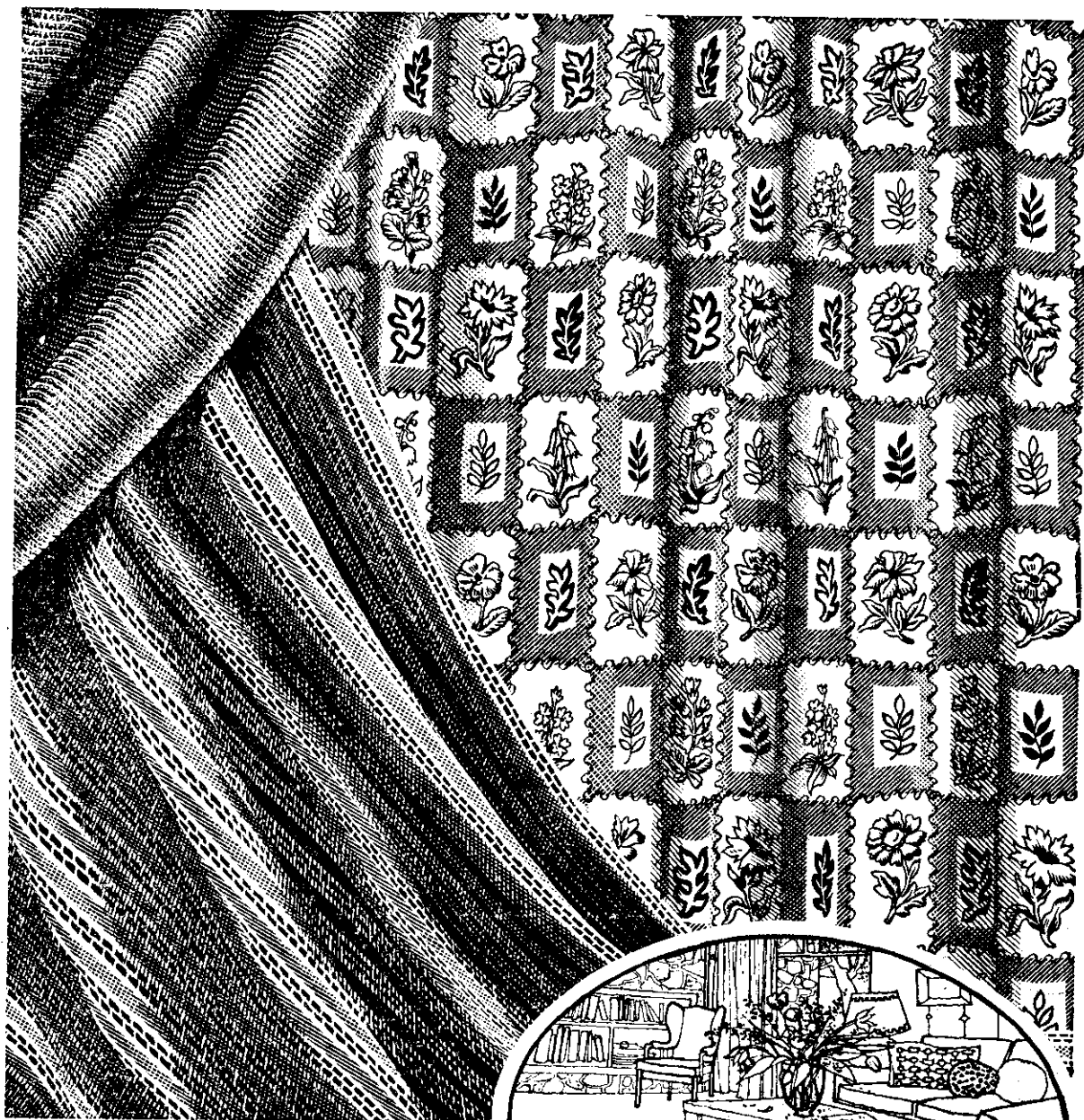
There are complications in plenty when Kate finds herself having to invent a sea-captain husband to get rid of the embarrassing devotion of the lonely Czech migrant boy. But there are complications upon complications when Kate herself falls in love and must divest herself of her previous "husband."

Invincible Kate, then, is not quite the conventional heroine. Listeners can follow the adventures of this practical, sensible woman on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7.0 p.m. from all ZB stations.

MATAURA SCHOOL JUBILEE

The above Jubilee will be held on the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th of February, 1955. Circulars available from
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