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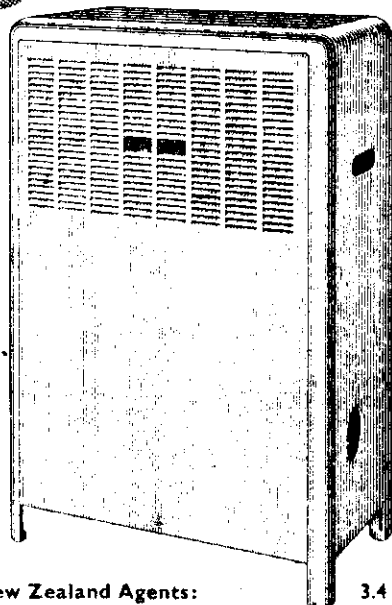
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Britain's Young Musicians

From J. W. GOODWIN,
London.

THE name is Allan Schiller. It's worth remembering, because in a few years when he can reach the pedals with ease he may be one of the world's great pianists; that shortcoming rather than any lack of musical maturity is his handicap now.

I heard Allan play with the National Youth Orchestra in Edinburgh's largest hall. I can scarcely say that I saw him play, for he was almost dwarfed by the grand piano and looked small and frail even in comparison with the orchestra members, none of whom was older than 18.

If he had not already made his mark in the musical world he would have to wait another 18 months before he reached the minimum age of 13 to join the orchestra.

Allan's father, a violinist, started him off with piano lessons at the age of seven, and two years later the boy gave his first concert with the Yorkshire Symphony Orchestra in his home town of Leeds.

In the loyal and clannish North, people were soon calling him a child prodigy, but there was more than local pride behind him: the following year he had the honour, for which pianists several times his age are still waiting, of playing with the Hallé.

Of its conductor, Sir John Barbirolli Allan says: "He's a very nice man. I like playing with him a lot."

Critics Won Over

All of us liked it, and the critics also, as we listened to Mozart's Concerto in G. K.453.

"An extraordinary exhibition of early keyboard talent. He played with complete assurance and fluency and had a very delicate touch," reported the music critic of *The Scotsman*.

"His technique was flawless and his phrasing heart-rending," was the tribute in the *Manchester Guardian*. "Even allowing for the great advantage a child enjoys over an adult in melting hearts, the promise of the innate musicality, devotion, and discipline of this performance was exceptional."

"No trace of showiness," said the *Daily Mail*. "Just an agreeable surge of mastery when the figuration grew a trifle complex."

The National Youth Orchestra with which Allan Schiller played is one of the most exciting developments in British music. Founded in 1947, it gives the opportunity of a musical education to any musician between the ages of 13 and 18, selected after an audition in his home town.

Two things these 125 players have in common—musical ability and zest. For them the practice and performance of music is still fun, because there are no full-time music students in the National Youth Orchestra.

Their intensity of enthusiasm and sheer enjoyment has been caught by audiences as diverse as those at the Edinburgh Festival, at Birmingham and Bath, London and Liverpool, Paris and Brussels.

Perhaps one of the strangest things about the orchestra—under Royal patronage and with its president Sir Adrian Boult—is that for the last two years its financial backer has been the far from culturally inclined *Daily Mirror*.

New Music

Programmes are not planned solely for the safe and unadventurous adult tastes; in fact, there are sometimes firm reminders that the musical powers, tastes

and prejudices of musical children are not those of undeveloped adults.

At least, that was how I justify my reactions to a new work by Boris Blacher commissioned by Unesco's International Music Council. The composer—who was born in China in 1903 but has lived in Germany for the past 30 years—called it "Two Inventions"



SIR ADRIAN BOULT, President of Britain's National Youth Orchestra

for orchestra. It reminded me of a Heath Robinson invention, at best of musical doodles.

The programme note suggested that, as poetry is made with words and not with ideas, so Blacher might answer his critics that music is made with notes. It added, with perhaps greater truth than intended that the effect of his craftsmanship in unwinding the theme was "rather like playing to the end of a gramophone record and then setting the machine in reverse."

One critic wrote: "It is slick, as a great deal of modern writing is slick. But if it had any real musical value, this has escaped me." Another called it "economical, direct, and original in harmony and texture." You can take your pick.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN

NEXT week's election campaign broadcasts are:

PUBLIC ADDRESSES

Monday, November 8, 8.0 p.m., from 2YA and 1YA, Hon. C. F. Skinner (Labour, Buller) speaks from Auckland.

Tuesday, November 9, 8.0 p.m., from 2YA and 4YA, the Deputy-Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. K. J. Holyoake (National, Pahiatua) speaks from Wanganui.

Wednesday, November 10, 8.0 p.m., from all YA and YZ stations, Hon. A. H. Nordmeyer (Labour, Island Bay) speaks from Wanganui.

Thursday, November 11, 8.0 p.m., the Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. S. G. Holland (National, Fendalton) speaks from Palmerston North.

STUDIO BROADCASTS

(from all YA and YZ stations)

Friday, November 12, 8.0 p.m., the Leader of the Opposition, Rt. Hon. W. Nash (Labour, Hutt); 8.30 p.m., the Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. S. G. Holland (National, Fendalton).