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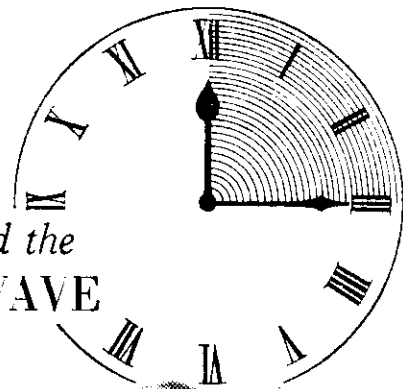
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Spencer Digby photograph

RECORDINGS of Bach's three sonatas and three partitas for unaccompanied violin by Maurice Clare will be played over a YC link on Monday, March 21, at 7.45 p.m., on Thursday, March 24, at 7.15 p.m., and on Mondays and Thursdays of the following two weeks. Mr. Clare's work on Bach has received world-wide acclaim from the critics, and many hours were spent in the 2YA studio correcting acoustics and recording and recording again the various movements until Mr. Clare and the NZBS were satisfied they had an authoritative interpretation. The talks are preceded by short introductions and on each night, between the sonata and the partita, Gerald Christeller, accompanied by Gwyneth Brown, will sing an aria from a Bach Cantata.

In his introductory talks, Mr. Clare mentions two points of special interest to musicians. First, the pitch at which he plays is lower than that commonly used today. At the time of Bach, there were three pitches in use—church organ high and low, and a mean pitch used in secular, chamber organs. This latter pitch, of 422 for A, probably used by Bach, is also used by Mr. Clare for these recordings.

The second point of interest is Mr. Clare's performance with the Corelli bow in use from 1690-1750. This bow is shorter by 2½ inches than the modern bow, has fewer hairs, is outward curved, is made of snakewood, and

has channels for 2-3rd the length which relieve the weight but adds to the strength. The effect is to make chord playing easier as there is more space between the hair and the stick both at the heel, where chords are started, and at the point, with the result that the more one presses the stick, the tighter the hair, thus bringing out the middle, or other parts. The tone is clearer, is sometimes less voluminous, and is used especially to emphasise the pulse of the partita's dance forms.

THIS coming Sunday, January 30, at 8.27 p.m., 2YZ will broadcast Melodic Memories, a programme featuring one of Hawke's Bay's leading baritones, Robert Houston, a vocal trio (Morag MacLean, Bonnie Houston and Jillian Daniells), and the Deepdene Girls' Choir, with organ accompaniment. They will sing special arrangements of favourite ballads. Robert Houston returned from studying in England under Dino Borgioli just over two years ago. The trio has performed many times on the air in Napier, and has become very popular with radio audiences under the name *The Melodiennes*. The Deepdene Choir is also a well-known group and has been trained by Helen Dykes (Aunt Helen of the 2YZ Children's Session). *Melodic Memories* is compered by Geoffrey Haggatt, and the choir's and trio's arrangements and the organ accompaniment are by Roland Lavin, Programme Organiser at 2YZ.



Robert Houston

IT is a curious paradox that Stephen Foster probably never once visited the Southern States of America which he wrote about in his songs. The composer was born in 1826 into a comfortable, cultured home in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His father was a prominent merchant, active in city affairs. Thus it is not true, as many have supposed, that Foster was a poor wandering minstrel driven by fate to a pauper's end. He was the most talked-of songwriter of his day and for a while earned a respectable in-

AMERICAN TROUBADOUR

come.

ABETTED by others on

Station 1YZ staff, announcer Lindsay Broberg conjured up this outsize Rainbow trout. With tail and fins that wiggled realistically and air bubbles (hydrogen-filled balloons) issuing from its mouth, it was acclaimed the prize-winning float of the floral section of Rotorua's annual New Year Procession. 1YZ technicians constructed the fabric of the exhibit, which was covered with blooms and dyed tai-tai fronds. Although Thermal Region fishermen are accustomed to hearing tales of the "one that got away," even the most gullible found this fish too big to swallow.



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