

French Music of Today

IT'S not usual for a woman to be taken seriously as a composer in France, so there should be special interest in a work to be heard from 2YC at 7.0 p.m. on Thursday, February 17. With this work, fittingly enough an overture, Germaine Tailleferre opens the first of four programmes of contemporary French music which are to go the rounds of YC stations. Germaine Tailleferre is a remarkable pianist and a member of the "Group of Six." She wrote the overture (which listeners will hear played by the Radio Symphonic Orchestra) in 1934, when she was 42. The melody of the work has the simplicity of French folk songs, and the mood is gay. On the same programme as the overture is the fifth symphony of Jean Rivier, Professor of Composition at the National Conservatory of Music. This will be played by the National Orchestra of the French Radio, the orchestra which first performed it at the Strasbourg Festival in 1951.

Neither Germaine Tailleferre nor Jean Rivier will be as well known to many listeners as some of the composers whose works are to be heard in later programmes of *Contemporary French Music*. The second and third are devoted entirely to Jacques Ibert and Arthur Honegger, who studied together at the Paris Conservatoire. Ibert is represented by his *Symphonie Concertante* for oboe and orchestra, and Honegger by his fifth symphony, both played by the National Orchestra of the French Radio. Jules Goetgeluck is the solo oboist in the first of these programmes. The series ends with works by Ravel—"Three Madagascan Songs" and "Alborada del Gracioso"—and Florent Schmitt—"Sextet for Clarinets." All of the recordings used were made available by the Transcription Service of the French Broadcasting System.

Hawke's Bay Women's Session

SUNNY Hawke's Bay has a lot to congratulate itself on—those luscious peaches you see on the beaches, for instance—but though these may delight a masculine eye the women in Hawke's Bay have been feeling a little left out of things. What they haven't had is a radio session of their own—one of those daily get-together sessions that help the housewife to get through the kind of morning when the notion of "happy families" seems strictly confined to a card game.

Well, 2YZ Napier have filled in the gap with their *Women's Session*, which takes the air at 11.0 a.m. for half an hour every morning from Monday to Friday. One of their staff announcers, Shirley Anderson, a Hastings girl who has recently been on a trip to England, is in charge of the session. This Hawke's Bay Women's Session is, indeed, the last link in the chain of Women's Sessions which takes in all stations up and down the country.

100 to 1 ...

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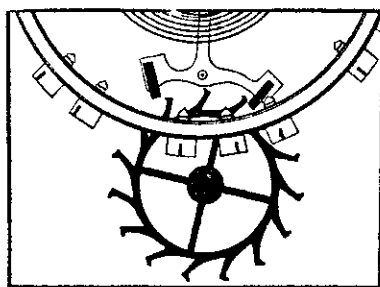
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