



★ Clap Hands, Here Comes Anna! ★

ON our left we have that illustrious diva, Miss Anna Russell, the Divina Commedia of the contemporary stage. Despite (or because of) her Gainsborough manner, Miss Russell has flattened audiences from stages all over the world—and has fallen flat on stages all over the world likewise. But Miss Russell never gets in a flap (or flop) over this. Happily, gaily, she bursts the balloons of other people's artistic pretensions, all over the place, with only a delicate shudder when they try to pin a libel label on her. Miss Russell is guaranteed pneumatic and quite indestructible.

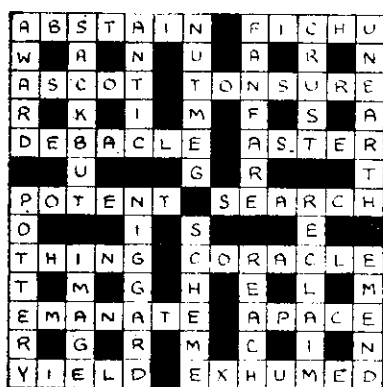
Anna is scheduled to make her initial impact on a New Zealand audience (under the auspices of the NZBS) at Auckland on March 31. Informed sources now advise us that she qualifies her statement "I'd be a Red-Hot Momma" with "... if I didn't Have Those Varicose Veins." It is, however, felt that hurricane warnings are still in order since Miss Russell is to hit all four main centres in the course of her tour. Wellington concert-goers should be prepared for high turbulence on April 2. Dunedin will get it on April 5, and Christchurch on April 12. Not that Anna—though she is a big girl—invariably knocks 'em down by force. At times she displays the ruthless, scalpel-sharp technique of the well-trained surgeon.

Audiences not pinioned to their concert-hall seats while Miss Russell dissects them, or rendered helpless in the aisles with laughter, can eavesdrop on operations by radio from all YA stations at 8.0 p.m. on the evening of each concert. As Anna Russell's programmes resemble the tenet of Anaxagoras (no relation) that "all is chaos" we shall note here just a few of the items she is likely to give out with. There is, for example, that song of the neo-Tchekhovians (picked up while snooping behind the Iron Curtain), "Da. Nyet. Da. Nyet"; and the unforgettable, unforgotten, "Schlumpf." There are the celebrated and unsolicited introductions to the French Art Song in "Je n'ai pas La Plume de ma Tante" and to the contemporary tone-deaf school in "My Heart is Red"; and Miss Russell puts the full force of her towering personality into the melodic "Schreechenrauf."

Besides these revelations we are to hear the "Guide to Concert Audiences," the Prologue to that grand old opera *La Donna Buflona*, "How to write Your Own G. and S. Opera," and the gen. on Siegfried and his aunts in Miss R.'s analysis of *The Ring*. It is confidently expected, too, that the Wellington audience will be knocked cold by her "Death Scene from the opera *Anaemia*," though the reaction may be mild compared with Sassenach Christchurch's reception of "Music Appreciation"—a short talk which she will illustrate (with typical hardihood) on the bagpipes.

"THE LISTENER" CROSSWORD

(Solution to No. 738)



Clues Across

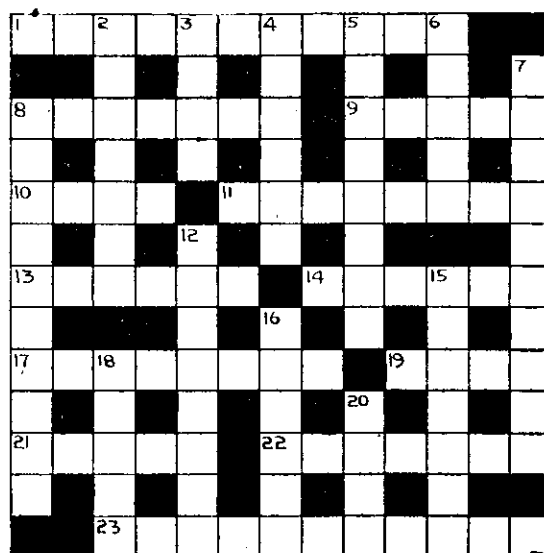
- "Kind hearts are more than coronets, And ——— than 23 across" (Tennyson).
- Part man, and wholly aggressive.
- Stories from a holy man briefly looking back about the beverage.
- Key to a university?
- Hogs rave in this small group of trees which was evidently worth making a song about.
- The first half is masculine singular, the whole is feminine plural.

- Depart in confusion and become separated.
- Get a lion in a diplomatic circle.
- In this tub you take a lucky dip.
- Soldierly form of aphid.
- Calamity of outraged youth.
- See 1 across (two words).

Clues Down

- Spoke indistinctly: did mother need a blood transfusion afterwards?
- "Yond' Cassius has a ——— and hungry look;" ("Julius Caesar").
- He's fit for an object of worship.
- Complete, but it could be altering.
- Give her a ring, and this is what she'll say, most probably.
- Candy canes (anag.).
- Did the queen blush when she held this hand? (two words).

No. 739 (Constructed by R.W.H.)



Wings Over The Sea

"PEOPLE don't realise that the Fiji flying-boat patrols are doing a really vital job, they do it so quietly," Bryan O'Brien said. He was talking to *The Listener* about a documentary, *Pacific Patrol*, which he has written on the work of Number 5 Squadron, R.N.Z.A.F., which is based on Lauthala Bay, Fiji. "The Sunderland flying-boats of Number 5 Squadron are on patrol all the time on our northern defence perimeter. There was talk a while ago that these 'planes were too slow, that they should be replaced, but outsiders fail to realise that it's precisely because they can move so slowly that they are invaluable in submarine patrol and rescue work."

Pacific Patrol is a study of day-by-day life at pleasant Lauthala Bay, some two miles from Suva. Some 400 men and women of the Air Force and their families live there. Bryan O'Brien recorded part of a concert, but life is not always so pleasant. He was able to record an actual "Dumbo" or rescue operation from the receiving of a signal from a patrolling aircraft to the prompt get-away of a high-speed launch.

Pacific Patrol will be heard in the Main National Programme at 9.30 a.m. on Sunday, April 3.



Bryan O'Brien

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