

NEWS OF BROADCASTERS, ON AND OFF THE RECORD

...g Scholarship. He gave two broadcast recitals last year—a programme of Irish songs and another of Hungarian folk songs—and he has also broadcast with the Auckland Studio Orchestra under Oswald Cheesman. He sings all the more serious kinds of music, but has a preference for grand opera. The programme of Irish songs to be sung by him on Sunday, April 3, at 4.0 p.m., includes such favourites as "Phil the Fluter's Ball," "The Wild Colonial Boy," "Father O'Flynn," "Ballynure Ballad," and "She Moved Through the Fair."

★
ANYBODY who wants strings always has the old obstacle of never being able to get enough. Don Richardson told us when we asked him about the formation of his orchestra, which is giving a series of 16 weekly broadcasts from 2YA on Wednesday nights under the title *Journey Into Melody*. "We are playing popular modern English dance music, and with eight strings we have the largest string section for an orchestra of our kind in this country. I've more or less based the formation of the orchestra on the Robert Farnon Orchestra of England, and that's why we're using one of his tunes as our theme and title-piece, *Journey Into Melody*. Besides the strings we have woodwinds, brass, piano and drums."

"I was born in Wellington and joined the Kiwis at the end of the war at 17," he said. "I went to Australia with them and stayed through their record-breaking two years in Melbourne, playing saxophone and clarinet. I did quite a lot of the writing towards the latter



Don Richardson (left) checks a point in the score with Zita Outtrim (violinist) and Bob Barcham (pianist), while rehearsing his Orchestra for a broadcast in the series "Journey Into Melody"

stages and was also deputy-conductor. While we were in Melbourne I studied theory and orchestration at the Melbourne Conservatorium. I left the Kiwis in November, 1953, and went back to Sydney. I intended going into business with a brother-in-law, but decided to stick to music. I played with several bands and then with Bobby Gibson's band in Sydney. I came back home last July.

"Before I started the present orchestra, which is purely a radio orchestra, I was teaching music and playing at the Majestic Cabaret. I teach accordion, piano, saxophone and clarinet, as well as theory and arranging. But I think, from my own experience, that arranging is hard to teach," he added. "It's largely a matter of experience and experimenting with ideas. The thing which gave me most help was working under Terry Vaughan. I used to be his official copyist when I was with the Kiwis, and that taught me a great deal. I do all my

arranging for the present series of broadcasts, and when I'm not conducting I sometimes help out on the bass clarinet."

★
DURING the Royal Tour of New Zealand and Australia the BBC's annual Christmas Commonwealth round-up, *The Good Neighbours*, which is being rebroadcast next week (see page 5), was produced in Sydney by Laurence Gilliam and Neil Hutchison, and written by John Thompson, the ABC's



John Thompson



Neil Hutchison

senior feature writer, Mungo MacCallum, ABC feature editor, and Alan Burgess, of the BBC. Now we have heard that John Thompson is going off to Africa. He will represent Australia in a team of radio men from the British Commonwealth who are preparing programmes which will be broadcast throughout the Commonwealth. In company with Laurence Gilliam he will spend several weeks on research and production of radio features about the Union of South Africa. The South African Broadcasting Corporation will provide a commentator and technical facilities. The African visit will produce material for the joint Commonwealth Feature Programme Exchange, the upshot of discussions at the Commonwealth Broadcasting Conference in London in 1952. We have also just heard from Sydney that Neil Hutchison, who is the ABC's Director of Drama and Features, has left by air to study television in England and the U.S.A.

AFRICAN VISIT

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IN *The Listener* of February 18 it was stated that Colin Horsley would begin "a six-week visit to his homeland at Wellington on April 23." This date was correct in reference to Mr. Horsley's broadcasting engagements, but he is giving an earlier public recital in Wellington on April 20.



★
FRITZ KREISLER lights the candle on his 80th birthday cake at a luncheon held in New York City on February 1. In his birthday speech he lamented the passing of what he called "the golden age of music." Modern music, he said, had "too much noise, too much velocity, and too much incoherence." The violinist gave his first concert in New York 67 years ago.



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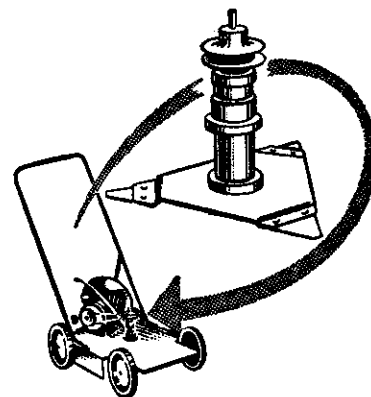
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