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to England  
TRAVEL**

**SHAW SAVILL**



**"F**OR the recent 20th birthday celebration concert by the Schola Cantorum in Wellington I was invited by Stanley Oliver to visit Wellington and sing as a guest member of the choir," Olga Burton, soprano, told us recently when we asked her about her singing career. "I first studied singing in Wellington with Stanley Oliver and Anna Ginn," she said, "and sang as a chorister and soloist in the early years of the Schola Cantorum."

**N.Z. SINGER** Olga Burton now lives in Auckland, and she will be heard in the Sunday National Programme in the session *N.Z. Singers*, at 4.0 p.m. on April 17, singing a group of well-known ballads. She told us that she also learnt the violin in Wellington with the late Ava Symons and Leon de Mauny, and was a member of the old 2YA Orchestra. She sang as vocalist with the Maurice Clare String Orchestra, and went to Melbourne in 1948 to study singing with Florence Austral. There she broadcast for the ABC. Later she went to England and the Continent, studying in London with the late Elisabeth Schumann and Roy Henderson. "Since returning to New Zealand in 1951, I have done frequent studio and

# Open Microphone

recorded recitals for the NZBS, and have been a soloist for Choral Societies and Music Festivals," she said.

**WE** were looking at the Junior Song Book for Standards One, Two and Three in the Broadcasts to Schools programmes, and wishing they'd had such interesting songs when we were in knee-pants, aprons and pinned-on hankies. Joan Easterbrook-Smith, who arranged the songs and takes the lesson on Tuesday afternoons, told us something about

her aims in running the SINGING session. "I wanted to make FOR JOY the songs a bridge for children of seven, eight and

nine between the rhythmic songs they learn in the Infants and the more elaborate work of the higher standards," she said. "So often the juniors get self-conscious just when they should be learning the rudiments of time and notation easily."

All the songs in the Junior Book are written in easy keys with simple accompaniments. Some have a descant and they can all be played on the recorder. This is an asset in country schools where there is often no piano. The recorder, too, is a sympathetic accompaniment to children's light voices. The songs chosen are tuneful and rhythmic, so that whole groups of mixed country classes or families can sing them. This sometimes has amusing results. Four children once visited Mrs. Easterbrook-Smith and sang round the piano for her. One little girl not yet of school-age knew the words only by hearsay, and blithely carolled about "the angels hobbling round my bed" and the "turtle-ducks" of "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

Mrs. Easterbrook-Smith receives many letters from children, parents and teachers. One man who comes from Tyneside sent her a most interesting explanation of "The Keel Row," whose words must have puzzled many



Mrs. Easterbrook-Smith

## NEWS OF BROADCASTERS, ON AND OFF THE RECORD

people. The children tell her their favourite songs which act as a guide for the future. The songs in the session are sung by Freda Boyce, of Broadcasts to Schools, and Mrs. Easterbrook-Smith herself plays the piano.

**ONE** of our most popular broadcasters on music, Owen Jensen, starts next week a new session in the Sunday National Programme called *A Listener's Notebook* (April 17, 4.15 p.m.). He is going to discuss a major work each Sunday (beginning with Grieg's Piano Concerto) and follow up his description with a recording of the work or as much of it as can be fitted into the time allotted to the broadcast. Those familiar with Owen Jensen's previous broadcasts in programmes like *Music Magazine* and *Fortnightly Review* will know that he doesn't analyse the music under discussion so much as talk about it in his own inimitable style, bringing it wonderfully alive and indicating the composer's intentions



Owen Jensen

**A LISTENER'S** and the general background, structure and meaning of the work.

After the Grieg Concerto he will discuss on successive Sundays Beethoven's "Emperor" Concerto, Beethoven's Violin Concerto, Lalo's *Symphonie Espagnole*, Dvorak's "Cello Concerto, Brahms's Violin Concerto, Handel's Concerto Grosso in D Major, two Vivaldi Concertos for Viola d'Amore and Orchestra (Op. 25, Nos. 2 and 4), Berlioz's *Harold in Italy*, and Mozart's Piano Concerto in A Major, K.488. The work discussed each Sunday will be rebroadcast from YC stations during the following week. Mr. Jensen, who had been living in Wellington for the past three years, recently returned to his old work in Adult Education in Auckland.

**J. JEFFERSON FARJEON**, author of the short story "The Man Opposite," which will be broadcast in the Sunday National Programme at 2.0 p.m. on April 17, is the son of Benjamin Farjeon, an Otago pioneer who was Sir Julius Vogel's partner in the ownership of the *Otago Daily Times*, and who subsequently returned to England to become a popular novelist. Writing to us from Ditchling, Sussex, Mr. Farjeon says: "As a penniless

**SON OF** boy my father 'wrote his way' from England to Australia during the early gold rush days, and when the gold fever spread to New Zealand in 1861 he did the same thing from Australia to New Zealand. But he did not stake out a claim in the Tuapeka goldfields as he had intended—he staked it out instead in the office of the *Otago Daily Times*, the newspaper which was born out of the Tuapeka rush. In the words of my sister, Eleanor Farjeon, 'Vogel, who had the funds, was proprietor and editor;



**CORBET WOODALL**, of Whangarei, who was one of the commentators on the second cricket Test at Auckland, is photographed conducting his Sunday morning programme, *Sports Digest*, from 1XN, where he is a staff announcer