

doing it. And while you haven't the stimulus of an audience in a studio, with a band there you get stimulus from that."

Miss Russell is working now on a number that will take the place of the "Analysis of *The Ring*," probably when she opens her next American concert season in November.

"You know that Verdi made operas from a number of Shakespeare's plays," she explained. "Well, in this number I ask why he didn't do Hamlet—Hamletto, you see—and I go on to show that if he had done it it might have turned out thus and so. I think that might be quite fun."

Miss Russell asked us at this point whether we had heard Verdi's *Macbeth* and went on to give such a vivid and hilarious description of it—"the sleep-walking scene is absolutely hysterical"—that we thought for a moment she had got on to another parody. Why hadn't she taken off something that apparently was simply asking for it? "Well, it's quite a take-off in itself, though terrifically effective as an opera."

Despite any appearance to the contrary Miss Russell loves Wagner's music though she thinks his stories are ridiculous. All opera stories were rather ridiculous, of course, "but I think Wagner takes the absolute cake."

When Miss Russell gets back home to America from her present trip she will go on tour with David Rose as a guest artist with various symphony orchestras. She will sing arias at straight symphony concerts, "but the arias aren't straight, they're all nonsense." After her tour with David Rose, Miss Russell will have two months' holiday before starting her new concert season, to run from November to the end of March. Then she will go to England and to South Africa and back again to England.

Like most practical artists, Miss Russell doesn't wait for inspiration for new material. "You never get anywhere that way," she said. "You know that. There are deadlines and all that sort of thing. No, I simply sit and think till I get something."

"Does Mr. Rankin help with your numbers?"

"He gives me more an idea of what I shouldn't do than what I should. He'll say, 'For heaven's sake can't you comb your hair at the back—it looks terrible!'"

Mr. Rankin remarked here that he thought "editing" was the word. "Yes, editing," she said, "when it gets too much of a good thing. Then I leave a few bits out."

Here the phone rang and while Miss Russell talked into it we had time to find out from Mr. Rankin that his usual job is accompanying concert singers on tour, and that he was looking for someone to tour with when he heard, about 18 months ago, that Miss Russell was also looking for someone.

Did he like this better than touring with a straight artist?—"Yes, she's very good company, and there's a lot of fun. You know, you have to put up with a lot of eccentricities from some people touring around." Mr. Rankin has not been to New Zealand before, but he was as far south as Manus when he was a United States Navy officer for two and a half years during the war.

Miss Russell came back from the phone to say: "We're to have another concert in Christchurch on Saturday. That's show business all over. You work for 1000 years before you get anywhere, and then you're tumbling over yourself to keep up with it." But did she find it exhausting? Not a bit of it.

TO NORTH AMERICA

Fly with your own New Zealand and Australian Airlines!

Direct from Auckland fast, twice-weekly services by the world's most modern airliners link New Zealand, U.S.A. and Canada—offering you the finest service across the Pacific.

- Fly express to San Francisco and Vancouver—or at your leisure. Stop-overs available at Fiji or magnificent Honolulu (no extra air fare).
- Choose from de-luxe first-class services with restful sleeper-chairs by Super Constellation, including the exclusive "Connoisseur" Service—

- or fly Tourist with excellent seating and cabin service—at a saving of 20% air fare.
- Prompt connections across U.S.A. or Canada—then on to Europe by associated British airlines.

Inquiries, Leading Travel Agents or TEAL
Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch.

*A giant Trans-Pacific
Super Constellation Airliner.*

QANTAS AND TEAL

Qantas Empire Airways Ltd. in association with TEAL and B.O.A.C.

NANZS