

Wellington Subscription Concerts

THIS year is an important landmark in New Zealand music. It will be the tenth anniversary of the National Orchestra's foundation. Later in the year, in October, there is to be a concert in Wellington, at which the occasion will be celebrated appropriately. The plans for this are still in the making, but before that, concert-goers are to be offered what the NZBS considers to be the finest season of programmes and artists it has yet presented. During the concert year, the Subscription ticket system will operate as before, giving subscribers eight concerts for the price of six. There are to be several special concerts as well, the first of which will be the all-Beethoven night, with the pianist Richard Farrell as soloist, which we mentioned in last week's issue.



Harold Beck

Richard Farrell, of course, is only the first of the artists whom the NZBS has engaged to appear with the National Orchestra during the concert season. Following Farrell, the celebrated Polish pianist Witold Malcuzyński is to be the soloist in a performance of Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3. Malcuzyński's appearance with the Orchestra has been arranged by agreement with R. J. Kerridge, who has brought him to New Zealand for a series of solo recitals. The Rachmaninoff Concerto No. 3 has been heard before here in performances by Richard Farrell and Aleksandr Heilmann, but, as this was some time ago and the Concerto is not as well known as the ubiquitous No. 2, another performance should be welcomed, especially when the interpreter is as eminent as this one. Malcuzyński's first public appearance was at Carnegie Hall in 1942, and he has since rapidly made his way to the front rank of contemporary pianists. Today, as a man in his forties, he has reached full artistic maturity.

Towards the end of June, the English pianist Lance Dossor is to be the soloist in a performance of Mozart's B Flat Concerto, K.450. Making his debut in England in 1937, Lance Dossor has since been very highly regarded in England and Australia. From Mozart to the astringencies of Bartok (but Bartok in the more approachable mood of the Third Piano Concerto) brings us to July and the visit of Paul Badura-Skoda. This young man, not yet out of his twenties, has had a dazzling rise to fame. Listeners will probably be familiar with his recordings and he has played extensively in Europe, England, and, four years ago, in Australia.

After the pianists comes Harold Beck, a New Zealander who has had a most successful career overseas as a 'cellist, and will be for a short time during the year on a visit to his homeland. Harold Beck left New Zealand in 1937 for Australia, and went on to England in 1948. Until last year he was principal 'cellist of the Halle Orchestra, and is now principal 'cellist of the London Symphony Orchestra. He will be heard in Wellington on August 11, as soloist in



LANCE DOSSOR

the Dvorak 'Cello Concerto.

To round off the season the NZBS is to present in September Madame Victoria de los Angeles, widely regarded as the finest woman singer of today. She is equally at home singing opera, lieder, folk song and sacred music. Though her choice of programme has not yet been settled, it is hoped that she will sing Mozart's "Exsultate Jubilate" and some Spanish music for soprano and orchestra.

Though programmes for only the first four Subscription Concerts in the Wellington series have as yet been made available, it is noticeable that they diverge from the familiar quite a lot. The staple classics are not very widely represented, although Mozart has two mentions in the "Prague" Symphony, and the Piano Concerto, with Lance Dossor as soloist. The emphasis, in the Subscription Concerts (as distinct from Special Concerts, like the all-Beethoven evening) has been on the more unfamiliar works of the great composers. There is Ravel's *Concerto for Left Hand*; Balakirev's *Symphonic Poem Russia*, and Tchaikovsky's "Little Russian" Symphony. The Third Subscription Concert on June 27, is devoted to works which, with the exception of Mozart's Piano Concerto, are relatively modern. There is Sir Arthur Bliss's *Music for Strings*; William Alwyn's

Second Symphony; the *Nocturne* for Horn and Strings by Matyas Seiber, with Peter Glen as soloist, and Richard Strauss's *Symphonic Poem Don Juan*.

Not, of course, included in the Subscription Concert series, but interesting to know about just the same, are proposals to extend the Youth Concerts which were begun as an experiment last year. Wellington is to have two concerts, on June 12 and October 24, and they are to be presented in other centres as well.

BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS

SUBSCRIPTION Concert booking applications for the National Orchestra's Wellington season of eight concerts open to the general public on Thursday, April 12. Music-lovers who have not previously been subscribers to the Subscription Series may apply from that date to:

The Concert Manager,
New Zealand Broadcasting Service,
P.O. Box 6166, Wellington,

for booking application forms and full information, which will be sent by return mail. As the demand for seats is always heavy and allotment is made according to the order in which applications are received, intending subscribers are advised to write in promptly.



★ VICTORIA DE LOS ANGELES, one of the world's most eminent women singers, and (top of page) Paul Badura-Skoda, the distinguished young Viennese pianist, both of whom will appear with the National Orchestra this year

THE GOONS . . .

(continued from previous page)

pitched comic roars that the Welshman vents in the Goons there's a fine tenor voice which could be a career in itself.

Harry has an Italian teacher, and is constantly being asked to sing, even if it means giving up comedy. But he's a born comic, and still gets plenty of letters from fans of Secombe the Goon.

Those Goon fans can be found all over Britain, though not all the species are the kind who form themselves into fan clubs. Instead they fall into what has been called "The Goonist Movement."

"We've had letters from University dons and from undergraduates," said Harry. And he took out one received that week which began: "May a Victorian spinster send her most grateful thanks to the Goons for the delight their show brings to her. . ."

RIGHT: Ray Ellington adds comedy to any situation



BBC photograph