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HAROLD BECK, the distinguished New Zealand cellist now touring his homeland (below), was for six years principal cellist of the Halle Orchestra. In 1953 he appeared as soloist in the first performance for many years of the Delius Cello Concerto. The performance took place on a Sunday evening in Manchester's Free Trade Hall. Mr.

ON TOUR AT HOME

Beck described the occasion for us: "Our Sunday night audiences were used to popular concerts, so I was anxious as to how Delius would fare. When Barbirolli came and told me there was a full house I was very relieved. Afterwards I was astonished at the reception the composition got." This concerto is now one of Mr. Beck's favourite works, but he does not play it as often as he would like. "All these enterprising concert managements think that people are scared of Delius," he said. "In England it took the efforts of Beecham and Barbirolli to get him into the concert hall at all."

With the Halle Mr. Beck toured the Midlands and used to take part in the festival of modern music held annually at Cheltenham. "Although it doesn't cut

NEWS OF BROADCASTERS ON AND OFF THE RECORD

UNASSUMING

THE celebrated Spanish soprano Victoria de los Angeles, who is now touring Australia, and will come to New Zealand at the end of September, is apparently a very unassuming person. Word comes to us from Australia that she has an aversion to spotlights, is not over-fond of public receptions or the Press, and likes to live quietly, taking plenty of rest. In the intervals of her concerts she refreshes herself with a plain cup of tea—no milk, lemon or sugar.



Mr. Beck has now left the Halle and for the last six months has been principal cello of the London Symphony—a completely different type of orchestra. It has no permanent conductor of its own, stays in London a good deal, and the Festivals it usually attends are the

Bath and the Three Choirs. "The beauty of the London Symphony is that when we are playing classical works we may have Josef Krips to conduct us, and for modern works there is Igor Markevitch, who is equally accomplished in this field," Mr. Beck said. "It's very good for an orchestra to have the best conductors for both modern and classical works."

Very happy to be back in New Zealand, Mr. Beck told us: "I've wanted to come back for a long time, and I did hope to see the country, go to Mount Cook, and so on, but now I find it will be nothing but rehearse and play." After the New Zealand tour Mr. Beck and his wife go to Australia, Mrs. Beck's home, where he will be giving concerts. They then fly to Johannesburg to re-join the L.S.O., which will be playing there under Krips.



a great dash, it's just as important in its own right as the bigger ones," he said. "Each year many new modern works are performed. The composers come along every day—the critics come, too, and they can attend the rehearsals. All round there is a very convivial atmosphere. It's an intimate kind of festival that really makes history." Mrs. Beck, who is with her husband in New Zealand, described the visit of Vaughan Williams to last year's festival. "He had come especially to hear a new work by a former pupil of his, and during the concert he listened to it with great concentration. The item following was to be a Brahms Symphony, and when this started Vaughan Williams unplugged his hearing aid, sat back and appeared to go to sleep."

New Zealanders will not be hearing the Delius Concerto, but they will hear cello concertos by Elgar and Dvorak. Studio broadcasts by Harold Beck next week will be broadcast from all YC stations at 9.30 p.m. on August 14, 8.0 p.m. on August 17, and 8.55 p.m. on August 17.

★

"**T**RUTH is none the less Truth because she wears a nose like George Robey and Charlie Chaplin's pants," says the New Zealand-born cartoonist David Low—"the most famous cartoonist in the world"—whose radio portrait, drawn by a well-known British journalist, Frank Owen, will be heard from 1YA on August 19. In this portrait Mr. Owen speaks of the personality and pri-

N.Z. LISTENER, AUGUST 10, 1956.