

give great heart to those who write music in New Zealand."

Mr Woodbridge mentioned that Australian composers have already benefited greatly from the establishment of the APRA Foundation. Last year they received from broadcasting alone about £22,000 for performing rights. Ten or 12 years ago this figure was less than £1000 a year. Mr Woodbridge also mentioned that the Sydney Symphony Orchestra under Nicolai Malko would soon be recording an LP of Alfred Hill's "Green Water" and Robert Hughes's "Xanadu"—winner of an APRA-ABC competition held for symphonic works two years ago.

"The public may not be aware of the high costs involved in producing a musical score," said Mr Woodbridge. "These leave a composer completely in the wilderness unless he has some organisation to help him. From the work of this Council we may see only one good composition a year for the first few years, but that doesn't matter. At least we've broken the stalemate and got started." One other point made by Mr Woodbridge was that the General Manager of the ABC had asked him to say that his organisation was extremely anxious and willing to present works on the ABC network that had been recommended by this Council.

## PROVINCIAL TOUR

THE soloist in the National Orchestra's provincial tour to Hastings, Napier and Gisborne will be the pianist Maurice Till. He will be playing the popular *Rhapsody in Blue*, by George Gershwin, at Napier and Gisborne on April 30 and May 2, and *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*, by Rachmaninoff.



Spencer Uigby photograph

MAURICE TILL

at Hastings on April 29. An interesting work on the lighter side for Napier and Gisborne will be Weinberger's *Under the Spreading Chestnut Tree*, a set of variations and a fugue. The composer wrote these after seeing King George VI doing this dance—a popular one at the time—at a Youth Camp in Britain in 1938. The symphonies in the programmes are Haydn's No. 97 (Hastings) and Dvorak's No. 2 (Napier and Gisborne).

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## THE WHITE RABBIT

THE Elizabethan soldiers of fortune had many spiritual successors in World War II. One such was Wing Commander Yeo Thomas, or "le lapin blanc," as he was known to the patriots of France. As a director of a Paris fashion salon, his background before the war was hardly that of an adventurer, except for some wandering in Russia during the revolution. Then, not a young man, he enlisted in the ranks when war came, little knowing the agonies he would endure before peace came.

Bruce Marshall's novel about Thomas, *The White Rabbit*, has been adapted for radio by Morris West, whose adaptations of Paul Brickhill's *The Dam-busters*, *Reach for the Sky* and *The Great Escape* were so successful. Production is by Ralph Peterson, who has recently returned to Australia after four years with BBC sound and television programmes. He also supervised the screenplay of his West End play and novel, *The Square Ring*. With one of the best-known radio actors, Bruce Stewart, as Yeo Thomas, *The White Rabbit* tells of Thomas's work against the Germans, his capture and torture by the Gestapo, and his fight for survival in Buchenwald. In a typical incident he persuades the soldier-servant of



BRUCE STEWART

two German officers on a train to smuggle a suitcase containing a radio transmitter through the barrier with his officers' suitcases while a Gestapo search party is examining all passenger luggage.

Now being heard from 3YZ, *The White Rabbit* will start from 1YA and 2YZ in the week beginning May 13, and later from other National stations.

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