

Music for Connoisseurs

LISTENERS who prefer sometimes to travel the lanes and by-ways of music—the little-known works of great composers, traditional airs and antique folk music—rather than the familiar highways of the major compositions, should welcome news of a series of programmes to be broadcast from the YA stations and 4YZ, beginning early in March.

Among the 15,000-odd items listed in the files of NZBS music library, there is available for performance a great deal of music that, as far as is known, has not been recorded—and certainly never broadcast—in this country. Since last July, Bessie Pollard, who compiles and supervises the presentation of classical programmes for the YA stations, has worked through this collection and culled material for the new series—thirty-one programmes already and probably more to come. The amount of research involved was formidable and every item chosen had to be timed and annotated before its inclusion in the programmes.

The music for voice and instrument ranges across many hundreds of years, from songs of the 12th Century French troubadours, through Tudor songs for voice and string quartet, and French *bergerettes* and *pastourelles* of the 18th Century, down to songs by American Negro composers of today.

The evolution of piano music, illustrated with examples of keyboard writing from the 14th to the 17th Century, will be traced in three programmes, while the development of the trio sonata in the 17th and 18th Centuries will be presented in a set of six. The whole of the series, prepared from music held by the NZBS music library, will be broadcast by local artists and small instrumental ensembles.

The first of the broadcasts will be heard from 2YA at 7.30 p.m. on March 2, when a programme of 17th Century sacred songs, one of four illustrating stages in the history of sacred songs from Couperin to Rubbra, will be presented by Merle Gamble and Hilda Chudley, with Charles Martin at the organ. In the same programme listeners will hear a string quintet, led by Alex Lindsay, play a sonata with continuo, by Couperin.

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a fresh eye, and partly "because I am so fond of the country."

Now that he is back here again, he hopes to do some more work for the War Histories people, to do odd jobs in journalism, and to work at his great opus about New Zealand working class-middle class life.

Later programmes in this group will present *Three Divine Hymns*, by Purcell, sung by Muriel Hitchings, *Biblical Songs*, by Dvorak, sung by Sybil Phillips, and *Three Psalms*, by Rubbra, sung by Sylvia Dellow. All three singers will be accompanied by Charles Martin at the piano.

The eight songs which make up the first of two programmes called *English Folk Songs for Voice and Violin*, come from Somerset—songs with a rustic setting, such as "the Sweet Primrose," "The Lark in the Morn," "The Crystal Spring," and "Searching for Lambs."



This programme, sung by Isa Garden, accompanied by Ritchie Hanna, will be broadcast from 4YA on March 6. The second programme, also presented by Isa Garden and Ritchie Hanna from this

station, consists of another eight folk songs covering a wide range of subjects—tales of chivalry in "Flowers of the Valley" and in "Henry V. and the King of France," a simple devotional "Evening Prayer," two pictures of rustic simplicity, "The Merry Haymakers" and "Strawberry Fair," and two songs about sailors. The programme ends with a special arrangement by Vaughan Williams, of "The Lawyer," a charming love tale.

Following the rise of solo singing early in the 16th Century, John Dowland's famous *Book of Ayres*, with accompaniment for lute or voices, appeared about 1597. (The first printed book of songs so accompanied was issued by a Spaniard, sixty years earlier.) The lute, an instrument of Eastern origin, seems to have been used first in Spain, passing then to Italy, to France, and so to England. Beginning on March 8, 4YZ will broadcast three programmes of Tudor songs, with string accompaniment. In the first, listeners will hear a four-part Ayre "Diaphenia," one of the loveliest madrigals composed by Francis Pilkington, who died in 1638. This will be followed by two songs of John Dowlands, "Fine Knacks for Ladies," and "Woeful Heart with Griefe Oppressed," both from his second "Book of Ayres," and the programme ends with "Deare Though Your Minde," a song by William Corkine.



Songs by other Tudor writers, including Thomas Campion (who was physician and poet as well as dramatist and composer), will be heard in later broadcasts from 4YZ, the whole series being presented by May Burman (soprano), accompanied by Peter Garrity and Harvey Strang (violins), Colin Matheson (viola), and Victor le Petit (cello).



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