

Music in the Cathedral



FROM the earliest times of the Christian era, Church music has been a profound influence in the lives of Christian people, and a source of musical creation and inspiration to composers down the centuries. The Christchurch Cathedral Choir, under the direction of C. Foster Browne, has prepared four programmes of Church music by New Zealand composers (some of it specially written for the Choir) and these will be presented by 3YC in a series of weekly broadcasts beginning on Wednesday, August 15, at 9.10 p.m. On that evening listeners will hear a group of works by Dr. V. E. Galway, Blair Professor of Music at Otago University, and City Organist in Dunedin—*Jubilate Deo, Pax Dei, Grant We Beseech Thee, Merciful Lord, I Heard a Voice from Heaven, and Te Deum Laudamus*.

Pax Dei to words by T. S. Eliot, was written for the consecration of the Cathedral Chapel of St. Michael and St. George on All Saints' Day, 1949. Composed by Dr. Galway one Sunday afternoon, it reached Mr. Foster Browne next day and was heard by the composer himself on the Friday following, when he visited Christchurch. The work was thus actually written, duplicated and performed within one week.

Among the works by another distinguished New Zealand composer, Dr. Vernon Griffiths, that make up the second programme, *Super Omnia Cedrum* was specially written for the Jubilee Celebrations of Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, last year, and first sung by the scholars of the college. Besides *Laudate Dominum* and *Cantate Domino*, listeners will hear two works for boys' voices, *Nunc Dimittis*, and a *Magnificat* which was written for the Cathedral Choir and dedicated to it. The programme will also include *Gloria in Excelsis Deo*, sung in Latin (written to complete the *Missa Simplex* dedicated to St. Mary's Convent, Christchurch). Dr. Griffiths was guest conductor and organist when this second programme was recorded in the Cathedral.

The two remaining broadcasts will consist of works by a group of composers. The third in the series is unusually interesting for the fact that the whole programme, in which will be heard *O Clap Your Hands Together*, by John Ritchie, *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis*, by Douglas Lilburn, *From Glory to*

Glory, by T. A. Moresby, and *Benedictus*, by J. Peters, were all specially written for the Cathedral Thanksgiving Service during the Canterbury Centenary.

Jack Peters gained his Mus. Bac. at Canterbury College, and is now organist at Southwell Minster, in England. He took the Durham Bachelor's Degree, and holds the F.R.C.O. and the Archbishop's Diploma in Church Music. T. A. Moresby, many listeners may recall, was on the staff of the 1st General Hospital of the 2nd N.Z.E.F. in Egypt. Last February C. Foster Browne presented organ works by this composer at a service held in the Cathedral during the conference of the British Medical Association in Christchurch.

Notable in the final programme, along with works by Galway and Moresby, is an anthem in the form of a carol, *In Bethlehem Street*, composed by C. Foster Browne to words by J. R. Hervey. Mr. Foster Browne has been organist and choirmaster at the Christchurch Cathedral for nearly fourteen years. The Choir of 24 boys and 12 men, all of whom will be heard in these programmes, is never augmented, and is known throughout the Dominion for the excellence of its work.

One Evening, One Programme

CHRISTCHURCH listeners who enjoy a well-integrated evening's entertainment should have a particular interest in a group of programmes devised by 3YC and to be heard from that station over the next few months, beginning on August 18 (at 7.0 p.m.). Each has been built around a central theme which is developed over the whole evening's presentations. The first presents music of the 16th, 17th and 18th Centuries, with readings from the works of notable authors of these periods, a recorded talk on antiques, and a short BBC programme, *The Court of Queen Elizabeth*. The September programme will be concerned with the music of Spain and will include a recital by the pianist Ernest Jenner, readings from George Borrow's *The Bible in Spain*, and a grim little short story "The Torture of Hope," by Villiers de l'Isle Adam. In October American music will be the main theme and the programme will include compositions by Grofe, Morton Gould, Copland, Gershwin, and Virgil Thomson. There will also be readings from Washington Irving and O. Henry.

N.Z. LISTENER, AUGUST 10, 1951.



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