

Irish Programmes at All Stations for St. Patrick's Day

"LILY OF KILLARNEY" AT 1YA

"The Lily of Killarney" is to be the next opera to be produced by Madame Irene Ainsley at 1YA. The section chosen for Monday is to be the "Kitchen Scene."

This opera, which is full of good Irish tunes, is founded on Dion Boucicault's play, "The Colleen Bawn." Older generations will remember that it was played in New Zealand by the Alice May Opera Company in the seventies. Sir Julius Benedict was a German who followed in the steps of Handel by spending a great deal of his life in England. He is remembered chiefly by "The Lily of Killarney."

It may be said that the whole programme for Monday is Irish, for, apart from the songs in "The Lily of Killarney," others that are redolent of the air of Erin will be sung. These include: "Kathleen Mavourneen," "The Minstrel Boy," "Danny Boy" and "Casey the Fiddler."

The cast for "The Lily of Killarney" will be:—

Elly: Miss Irene Ainsley;
Sheila: Madame Irene Ainsley;
Haedress Cregan: Mr. Robt. Peter;
Miles va Coppaleen: Mr. Wilson;
Father Tom: Mr. Walter Brough.

A special Irish programme will be broadcast from 1YA on Saturday evening, the vocalists being the Madame Mary Towsey Quartet. The songs will be essentially Irish, as befitting the occasion, St. Patrick's Day. The elocutionary items of Mr. J. F. Montague will also be appropriate, while Mr. J. J. Sullivan, an Auckland solicitor, will give a talk on "Old Ireland."

The instrumental trio will play the "Londonderry Air."

Songs to be sung by the quartet, which comprises, Madame Mary Towsey, Miss Gwenyth Evans, Mr. John Bree and Mr. P. Rose, include many of the old favourites, as a glance at the programme will show.

WELLINGTON TOWN HALL CONCERT

St. Patrick's Day will be celebrated by a relay of the Irish concert from the Town Hall. This is one of the musical events of the year, and the organisers on this occasion have provided a "bill of fare" right up to the standard of "the best-ever."

The programme will, of course, be of a national character. It will include airs familiar to the sons and daughters of the Emerald Isle played on the great organ; choruses by the Marist Bros. School Choir, and other delightful numbers. The contributing vocalists will include Miss Frances Morrison, of Blenheim; Mr. G. H. Andrews, of Timaru (baritone); Mr. Dan Faley (tenor); Miss Wheelan (mezzo-soprano); Miss Nora Greene (contralto) and Mr. William Renshaw (tenor). Mr. Leon de Mauny (violinist) and Miss Phyllis McMillan who will appear in dancing specialties, will also contribute to the evening's enjoyment.

The children's session at 2YA will also observe St. Patrick's Day. Auntie Gwen and Auntie Dot will have the Buckle Street Convent assisting them with the choruses appropriate to the occasion.



EXT week will be Irish week at the Stations. That being so, one may appropriately say that the ether will never have been so full of Irish airs before. St. Patrick's Day happens next week and the songs of the Emerald Isle which will monopolise the programmes at the stations on various nights will permeate New Zealand. All stations will broadcast Irish entertainments on Saturday, St. Patrick's Day, and in addition 1YA and 3YA have special Irish programmes, the former on Tuesday and the latter on Thursday. At 1A Madame Irene Ainsley is producing "The Lily of Killarney" and at 3YA Madame Gower-Burns's Grand Opera Quartet is submitting a very attractive Irish programme. High in the esteem of all who love Irish songs stands Tom Moore, who by frequently writing his poems to traditional airs did much to keep the melodies in circulation among the people. Everyone knows "The Minstrel Boy," that song of burning patriotism, "The Harp That Once Through Tara's Halls," "Kathleen Mavourneen," "Killarney." These, and many others will be broadcast next week.



AS the Patron Saint of Ireland, St. Patrick is acclaimed with enthusiasm throughout every country where the English language is spoken, and nowhere, of course, with such affection as in Ireland.

The shamrock, or small white clover, is almost irreverently worn in the hat all over Ireland on St. Patrick's Day. The popular notion is that when St. Patrick was preaching the doctrine of the Trinity he used this plant bearing three leaves upon one stem, as a symbol or illustration of the great mystery.

ALMOST as many countries arrogate the honour of having been the natal soil of St. Patrick, as made a similar claim with respect to Homer. Scotland, England, France and Wales, each furnish their respective pretensions; but, whatever doubts may obscure his birthplace, all agree in stating that, as his name implies, he was of a patrician family. He was born about the year 372, and when only sixteen years of age, was carried off by pirates, who sold him into slavery in Ireland where his master employed him as a swineherd on the well-known mountain of Sleamish, in the county of Antrim. Here he passed seven years, during which time he acquired a knowledge of the Irish language, and made himself acquainted with the manners, habits and customs of the people. Escaping from captivity, and after many adventures reaching the Continent, he was successively ordained deacon, priest, and bishop; and then once more, with the authority of Pope Celestine, he returned to Ireland to preach the Gospel to its then heathen inhabitants.

ANTAGONISTIC DRUIDS.

THE principal enemies that St. Patrick found to the introduction of Christianity into Ireland were the Druidical priests of the more ancient faith, who, as might naturally be supposed, were exceedingly adverse to any innovation. These Druids, being great magicians, would have been

formidable antagonists to any one of less miraculous and saintly powers than Patrick. Their obstinate antagonism was so great, that in spite of his benevolent disposition he was compelled to curse their fertile lands, so that they became dreary bogs; to curse their rivers so that they produced no fish; to curse their very kettles, so that they with no amount of fire and patience could ever be made to boil; and, as a last resort, to curse the Druids themselves so that the earth opened and swallowed them up.

A popular legend relates that the saint and his followers found themselves, one cold morning on a mountain, without a fire to cook their breakfast, or warm their frozen limbs. Unheeding their complaints Patrick desired them to collect a pile of ice and snowballs; which having been done, he breathed upon it, and it instantaneously became a pleasant fire.

The greatest of St. Patrick's miracles was that of driving the venomous reptiles out of Ireland, and rendering the Irish soil, for ever after, so obnoxious to the serpent race that they instantaneously die on touching it. Colgan seriously relates that St. Patrick accomplished this feat by beating a drum, which he struck with such fervour that he knocked a hole in it, thereby endangering the success of the miracle. But an angel appearing mended the drum; and the patched instrument was long exhibited as a holy relic.

SNAKE SUPERSTITIONS.

IN 1831, Mr. James Cleland, an Irish gentleman, being curious to ascertain whether the climate or soil of Ireland was naturally destructive to the serpent tribe, purchased half a dozen of the common harmless English snake (matrix torquata), in Covent Garden Market in London. Bringing them to Ireland, he turned them out in his garden at Rath-gael, in the county of Down; and in a week afterwards, one of them was killed at Milecross, about three miles distant. The persons into whose

hands this strange monster fell, had not the slightest suspicion that it was a snake, but considering it a curious kind of eel, they took it to Dr. J. L. Drummond, a celebrated Irish naturalist, who at once pronounced the animal to be a reptile and not a fish. The idea of a "rare living serpent" having been killed within a short distance of the very burial-place of St. Patrick, caused an extraordinary sensation of alarm among the country people. The most absurd rumours were freely circulated, and credited. One far-seeing clergyman preached a sermon, in which he cited this unfortunate snake as a token of the immediate commencement of the millennium; while another saw in it a type of the approach of the cholera morbus.

Old prophecies were raked up, and all parties and sects, for once, united in believing that the snake foreshadowed "the beginning of the end," though they very widely differed as to what that end was to be. Some more practically minded persons, however, subscribed a considerable sum of money, which they offered in rewards for the destruction of any other snakes that might be found in the district. And three more of the snakes were not long afterwards killed, within a few miles of the garden where they were liberated. The remaining two snakes were never very clearly accounted for; but no doubt they also fell victims to the reward.

On the Galtee or Gaultie Mountains, situated between the counties of Cork and Tipperary, there were seven lakes, in one of which, called Lough Dilveen, it is said Saint Patrick, when banishing the snakes and toads from Ireland, chained a monster serpent, telling him to remain there till Monday.

St. Patrick is commonly stated to have died at Saul on March 17, 493, in the one hundred and twenty-first year of his age. As the birthplace of St. Patrick has been disputed, so has that of his burial. But the general evidence indicates that he was buried at Downpatrick, and that the remains of St. Colum and St. Bridget were laid beside him.

IRISH VARIETY AT 3YA

At 3YA, St. Patrick's Day programme commences at the children's session when little coosings from the Ferry Road Convent will come along to the studio to help Uncle Sam and Aunt May. Among the items to be sung will be "The Dear Little Shamrock" by the children of the Primary School and "The Royal Ambassador's March" will be played by the Ferry Road Convent Boys' Orchestra.

The evening session programme will provide an entertainment of the popular kind, being bright and of much variety. The artists include Mr. E. A. Dowell, who always sings favourite songs; Mrs. D. W. Stallard, Miss Mabel Thomas, Mr. Dave McGill, Mr. Ivan Perrin (popular Irish melodies), Mr. Jack Oxley (zither banjo), Mr. E. A. Sargent (songs at piano), the Broadcasting Trio—and Mr. James Laurensen, who will deliver an Irish speech and recite an Irish poem.

On Sunday evening the studio concert following the broadcast of the service at the Church of Christ, will not be without its Irish element. This will be evident in the two songs to be sung by Mr. Frank O'Brien. This Sunday evening concert will, however, comprise many other good items by Miss Constance Flamank (contralto), Miss Maiona Juriss, A.T.C.L. (elocution), Miss Bessie Pollard, A.T.C.L., L.T.C.L. (piano-forte), and Mr. Frank Morrison (tenor).

An Irish concert by the Madame Gower-Burns Grand Opera Quartet will be an entertainment worth tuning-in for. The programme shows that a fine selection has been made from the many charming melodies composed in and about Erin.

Madame Gower Burns's solo items will include "The Last Rose of Summer," "Killarney," "A Little Bit of Heaven," and "Come Back to Erin," songs which she can be relied upon to render with all the artistic treatment and expression for which she is noted. Mrs. Ann Harper, who is taking the place of Miss Jessie King, who is about to leave for England, will sing the fascinating "Kerry Dance," "Husheen" and "The Four-Leafed Clover." Both Mr. Rennell and Mr. Prescott have songs to suit their voices. The quartets for the evening will be particularly good.

Irish airs will be played by the Broadcasting Trio and by Miss Aileen Warren, while Irish recitations will be given by Mr. H. Instone.

4YA's IRISH CONCERT

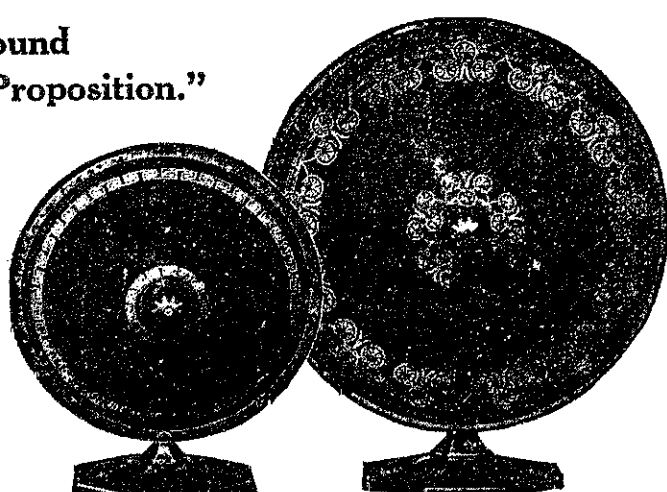
The programme shows that the Scottish entertainers of Dunedin have responded well for St. Patrick's Day, for a concert of much variety as well as of a high musical standard has been arranged. Many of the old favourites will be sung, the vocalists being Miss Florence Sumner (soprano), Miss Irene Hornblow, R.A.M. (contralto), Mr. A. Lungley (baritone) and Mr. R. A. Mitchell (tenor). Instrumental items of an Irish character will be contributed by Mr. Stewart (flute), Mr. A. R. Watson (violin), and Mr. Geo. Christie (cornet).

An address on the "Music of Ireland" will be given by Mr. J. P. Ward.

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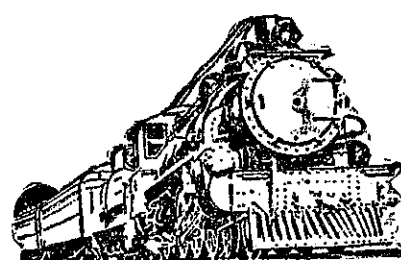
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"GOOD" MUSIC

SYDNEY PIANIST'S COMMENT.

"The term 'good' music is often abused," says Mr. Chapple, a prominent Sydney pianist. "Much agitated argument has centred on the desirability of excluding jazz from broadcasting programmes, on the ground that it is a low order of harmony. Yet, Gershwin's 'Rhapsody in Blue' is just as much a classic of its kind as the Unfinished Symphony."

"The trouble of it is," he continued, "so many people emphasise their preference for the masters because it is considered the correct thing to do. They have probably listened to compositions which bored them unutterably, but because of their alleged classic origin, so far from voicing a protest, they express hypocritical appreciation. With unsympathetic treatment, good music can degenerate into very bad music. Through interpretation, the artist creates an honest response in his audience, despite the formidable obstacles of catholic taste and limited musical education."



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