

Broadcast Music for Coming Week

"'Tis the deep music of the rolling world,
Kindling within the strings of the waved air—
Aeolian modulations."

—Shelley.

By
**Bolton
Woods**

"They Married and Lived—"

FRANCOIS ADRIEN BOIELDIEU was the son of the secretary of the Archbishop of Rouen and a milliner. During the Revolution his parents were divorced, and he took up his residence with his music master, Broche, organist of the cathedral, who was a drunkard, and abused him so that the lad ran away to Paris. His family brought him back, and he stayed with Broche until he produced his first opera, for which his father wrote the libretto. He went to Paris and produced several operas and wrote numerous songs. In 1800 he was successful in winning a professorship of the piano at the Conservatoire, and in that year his greatest success, "Caliph of Bagdad," was performed. Owing to domestic trouble he accepted the post of conductor of the St. Petersburg Opera, which he held for eight years. He returned to Paris

and wrote several more operas, and married the singer, Phillips, with whom he was very happy.

The station orchestra at 1YA will play the overture to the "Caliph of Bagdad" on Thursday, May 30.

"Dear Old Swanee."

THE "Plantation Songs" of Stephen Collins Foster are among the masterpieces of music. There is an appeal in every cadence of their melodies, a touching beauty in every line of their lyrics. Nothing quite like them had existed in music before Foster gave them to the world, and whatever of his character has been written since has borrowed something of the sweetness and soft loveliness of Foster's immortal songs.

A record of Sophie Braslau and a male quartet singing Foster's "Old

Folks at Home" will be used at 1YA on Wednesday, May 29.

A Great Modern Goes East.

CYRIL SCOTT has written numbers of songs and piano pieces, and quantities of chamber music which are too seldom heard. Of his piano pieces one of the best known is the very atmospheric "Lotus Land." The soft languor of Egypt, the tinkling sounds, the long reaches of sky and river, scented gardens, the sound of falling water, all the mystery of the land where the lotus blooms is re-created in the fascinating cadences of this singularly successful piece of descriptive music.

Mr. Cyril Towsey will play Scott's "Lotus Land" at 1YA on Friday, May 31.

"East is East, and West is West."

"LAKME" is Delibes's most successful opera, and is very popular in France. The story deals with Lakme, who is the daughter of a Brahmin priest. A party of English tourists accidentally enter a sacred grove and Gerald, one of the party, has not time to leave before the priestess enters, and he is forced to hide. Lakme sings, and Gerald makes himself known, and declares his love. The priest enters as Gerald leaves, and vows vengeance. They again meet in the native bazaar, and when Gerald presses forward to see Lakme, he is stabbed in the back. Lakme has him taken to a secret bower in the woods, and nurses him back to health. One of his friends finds him and persuades him to return. Lakme realises that life will be nothing without Gerald, and eats a leaf of a poisonous plant, and expires in her father's arms.

The Studio Trio at 1YA will play selections from Delibes's "Lakme" on Tuesday, May 28.

Butterfly Anticipates.

WHEN first produced in Milan, Puccini's opera, "Madame Butterfly," was a failure. It was revised and again presented some months later, when it was most successful. This same fate befell "Faust" and "The Barber of Seville," both of which are among the greatest favourites to-day.

In "Madame Butterfly" there appears for once a hero whom all can cordially dislike. To pass away the time while his ship is stationed in Nagasaki, he contracts a marriage with a Japanese girl, despite the fact that he is already married. She has long admired him from afar, and is only too willing to enter into the contract. When he sails away he promises to return to her, but three years elapse and he has not come. Butterfly's maid tries to persuade her that he is false, but in the beautiful aria, "One Fine Day," Butterfly insists that he will return. He does, and accompanied by his wife. Butterfly realising all, commits harakiri, and Pinkerton, her lover, finds her dead.

Miss Gretta Stark will sing "One Fine Day" at 2YA on Friday, May 31.

Weber's Revival.

UNDOUBTEDLY one of the most distinguished composers England ever produced was Sir Henry Bishop. He wrote eighty-two operas and vaudevilles, ballets, songs, and revisions of old operas. He was born in London in 1786, and at an early age began to study music with Blanchi. In 1810 he was made conductor and composer at Covent Garden. In 1825, he was engaged to compose for Drury Lane, in rivalry to Weber, and produced "Aladdin," in opposition to Weber's "Oberon." His last dramatic work was "The Fortunate Isles," produced at Covent Garden to celebrate the queen's wedding. His wife was a highly esteemed concert singer, who toured America and Australia with the harpist, Bochsa, who died in the latter country. Bishop died in 1855, and was buried at Finchley.

The band of the First Battalion Wellington Regiment, conducted by Lieut. B. J. Shardlow, will play a selection introducing several of Bishop's best-known songs, at 2YA on Thursday, May 30.

The Most Popular Air.

"OMBRA MAI FU" is the beautiful air for alto voices known the world over as Handel's "Largo." It was written originally as an aria in the opera "Xerxes." The style in which



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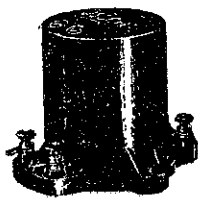
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