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Broadcast Music of Coming Week

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

—Shelley.

By
Bolton
Woods

An Opera With a Goat.

MEYERBEER originally wrote "Dinorah" as a one-act opera, but Perrin, who was at that time director of the Opera Comique, considered that a work by the great Meyerbeer was too important not to occupy the whole evening, so the composer took the score away with him on a holiday and expanded the very weak plot into a full-sized three-act opera. Dinorah's cottage has been destroyed by a storm, and her lover, Hoel, goes away to look for material to rebuild it. Dinorah thinks he has deserted her and becomes insane, wandering about the countryside accompanied by her pet goat. In a dreadful storm Hoel sees her crossing a ravine by a fragile bridge which breaks, and she is thrown into the water below. He plunges in and saves her. They return to the village, and find that the cold douche has restored Dinorah's reason, and everybody (including the goat) lives happily ever after. The famous "Shadow Song" is sung when Dinorah, seeing her own shadow, thinks it is someone with whom to dance.

Miss Frances Hammerton will sing the famous "Shadow Song" at 8YA on Thursday, June 13.

Nevin's Nigger Mammy.

ETHELBERT Nevin's songs are nearly always based on some memory, and may be regarded as a record of his own emotions and experiences in his life. "Mighty Lak' a Rose" was composed in sight of his boyhood home, and it seems as if he had in mind happy recollections of the old coloured mammy who cared for him in his childhood. The melody

brings more than a hint of the tenderness and humour of the words.

"Mighty Lak' A Rose" will be played as an accordion solo by Johnny Sylvester at 2YA on Tuesday, June 11.

Gilbert's Happiest Lyric.

GUISEPPE'S song "Rising Early in the Morning," from the "Gondoliers" is one of the most popular numbers in all the Gilbert and Sullivan operas. It really is a patter-song, and as such it deserves to take precedence over most of them. As a descriptive song, crowded with incident and humour in every line, and with a happy moral at the end of it all, it holds a very high rank in the operas. In the humorous vein, it is probably Gilbert's best and most typical lyric.

2YA are using a record of "Rising Early in the Morning," sung by Robert Howe, on Friday, June 14.

"A Second Trombone."

THE entry of the hero is always an important thing in an opera. In the Gilbert and Sullivan Opera, "Mikado," the hero, "Nanki Poo," the eldest son of the Mikado of all Japan disguised as "a second trombone," enters all in a hurry to inquire the whereabouts of "a gentle maiden named Yum-Yum." He is solemnly asked who he is, and replies in an extended solo, "A Wandering Minstrel I," with its varied moods and phrases, each change emphasised by the music. He describes his "ballads, songs and snatches," a sentimental love song, a very English patriotic ditty, a typical English "song of the sea," and just when the

music has thoroughly roused up the hearers, it lapses into the opening serenade mood, and ends as it began.

Mr. Arthur Brady will sing "A Wandering Minstrel I," at 2YA on Friday, June 14.

A Tragic End.

STRADELLA was that seventeenth-century composer about whom there grew up a story (which may or may not be true) to the effect that he eloped with a lady and was followed by assassins, who were so moved by hearing some of his music that they repented of their evil intention and spared his life. However, so the story goes, Stradella was murdered later. Using this story as a foundation, Flotow wrote an opera when he was twenty-five (in 1837). It was first brought out as a lyric drama, and then adapted as a Grand Opera, and as such was produced at Hamburg and Drury Lane.

The Auckland Artillery Band, under the conductorship of Mr. Wynne J. Smith, will play selections from "Stradella" at 1YA on Wednesday, June 12.

Herr and Frau Wagner, and Dog.

IN July 1839, Wagner, with his wife (his first wife), and his huge Newfoundland dog, embarked at Paillau on a sailing vessel bound for London en route for Paris. He writes himself: "I shall never forget the voyage; it lasted three weeks and a half... The legend of the Flying Dutchman was confirmed by the sailors, and circumstances gave it a definite and characteristic colour in my

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