

WELLINGTON NOTES.

All Set For Third Charity Concert

Thursday, October 17, Will See Unique Parade of Radio Stars — Percy Grainger Passes Through Wellington This Week — Dan Foley Bound For Australia — Last Community Sing.

WELLINGTON will have its third and final celebrity concert for this year on Thursday, October 17. Arranged by the New Zealand Broadcasting Board, it will be held in the St. James Theatre, and a wonderful team of visiting and New Zealand artists will be seen in what is described as the biggest, brightest and best all-star non-stop variety show of the year. In addition to Gladys Moncrieff (this will be her final appearance under contract to the Board), there will be Fred Bluett, who for 30 years has been Australia's leading variety comedian; John Robertson, Frank Perrin, Heather Kinnaird, Raymond Beatty, Gil Dech conducting the Radio Rhythmic Symphonists in modern (not old-time) music. All these names are by now household words. These are only the leading artists, with whom some of the finest local talent will be associated.

AT the last celebrity concert (for the same object, that of the Mayor's Metropolitan Relief Fund) in Wellington, one enthusiast from Napier way, arriving rather late, offered a whole pound for one seat. It is a safe bet to venture that with the added attractions of this concert and the knowledge gained from all previous ones, the Broadcasting Board will considerably enhance its reputation as sponsors of first-class entertainment.

PERCY GRAINGER, brilliant Australian pianist, will arrive in Auckland on Wednesday this week and will proceed to Wellington the following day, going through to Dunedin, where he will begin his 'eight weeks' tour of the national stations, during which he will be associated in a charity concert in each centre. On December 10 he will leave for America.

APPEARING in public in Wellington for the first time next week, Raymond Beatty and Heather Kinnaird will be featured together in song scenes and also individually in the Celebrity Concert. Mr. Beatty has had much experience in flesh and blood grand opera in Australia, where his singing has always aroused enthusiasm. Fred Bluett has not yet appeared in a charity concert in Wellington. It is almost certain that this talented team will not be seen together at any one concert again; for that reason booking will be heavy, and although the box office will be opened a week before, if the Wellingtonians follow the example of all the other centres, notably Dunedin, there will not be any necessity to keep the booking open for more than a day or so.

DAN FOLEY, the noted New Zealand tenor, will give his last broadcast performance in Wellington on Wednesday, October 23, before leaving for Australia.

IN the same week, Barrend Harris, the well-known Hebrew baritone, will make his third New Zealand tour of the national stations, starting at Wellington. He will be heard in four numbers.

THE final community sing of the 1935 season will be held at the Town Hall, Wellington, at 8.0 in the evening of Saturday, October 26. Fred Bluett, comedian, will assist. The fact that it is to be held at night augurs well for its brightness and success.

A SPECIAL feature of the forthcoming concert will be the presentation of Rachmaninoff's prelude in C Sharp Minor. It will be played as a modern arrangement or "musical combat" by Paul Vinogradoff. Providing more variety will be "Rudolph" in a novelty music act with five different instruments; The Two Stewarts in ball-room and tap-dancing; Alexander Grant, the Juvenile Cossack, in a whirlwind dance; a mystery turn by Frankenstein and Co.; David Devitt in unusual ballets; revue chorus and Frank Crowther with the full theatre orchestra. Altogether as good a two and a half hour's entertainment as one could hope for.

THE performance last Wednesday of the absurdity, "Spending the Prize Money," was particularly well done by the "Higgins Family." Although Mr. Will Yates played all the characters himself (there must have been seven or eight), it came as a surprise to more than one listener that one man could be responsible for all those varied pitches. With one-man plays such as this it is usually possible to tell that there is only one player, but last Wednesday's effort confounded all critics.

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