

Humour In Walton's Music

"Facade" Suite an Interesting Contribution to H.M.V.'s Latest Record List

THE "Facade" Suite, the work of William Walton when he was 21, is now, in an extended orchestral form, available on two new records. This music was first presented in a very new and striking way. The performers were shut off from the audience by a curtain which represented an enormous mask, with open mouth; it was the large end of a megaphone, through the other end of which an unseen reciter spoke Edith Sitwell's satirical poems. The first speaker was the poet herself. The speaking was accompanied by Walton's music for a small team, which was also out of sight behind the curtain, and the effect was a very striking one.

That was in 1923, the same year in which Walton had the distinction of having a string quartet chosen for performance at the International Festival at Salzburg. Since its first performance, the music of "Facade" has been considerably revised, and the present "Suite" is of quite sufficient interest to stand on its own feet without the poems. In this form it has often been played as an interlude by the Diaghileff Ballet.

Humour in music is not so common that one can afford to undervalue it. And in this case, it goes hand-in-hand with a gift for tone, colour and line, that cannot fail in attraction for the discriminating musician. The suite is played with obvious gusto and appreciation by the London Philharmonic Orchestra, under the composer's crisp beat. For any intelligent gramophile

to deny himself the pleasure of the possession of these two unique discs is just one of those rare phenomena that defy explanation.

TWO more Dvorak Slavonic Dances come from the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, and they are beautifully played. They are No. 3 in A Flat Major and No. 6 in D Major, and will be found to be less fiery than those issued by H.M.V. last month. There is almost a wistful quality about one of them, while its fellow pulsates with that rhythm that animates much of the folk music of Slav origin. The new recording is a very suitable addition to all collections, be the brows of their owners high or middle.

ON the vocal side, quite an important event is the debut on the New Zealand list of Margherita Perras, a young Greek soprano, still in her early twenties, whose rise to fame dates from her appearance at last year's Salzburg festival, and later at Covent Garden. From Verdi's "Requiem Mass," Margherita Perras sings "Requiem," and on the reverse side an "Ave Maria" by the same composer. These, with devotionally-sung chorus and superb orchestral accompaniment, make her first record quite noteworthy. The "Requiem" was written at the time of the death of the Italian poet Manzoni.

SEVERAL other vocal discs have an interest for a wider musical public. There is John McCormack's record of

"THE WEEK'S LAUGH"

12B Competition Results

FOLLOWING are the results of the latest "Laugh of the Week" competition held by station 12B, Auckland:—

First Price, £25: Miss I. Hoffee, 9 Oxford Terrace, Devonport.

Second Price, £7/10/-: Mrs. R. Caughley, 20 Corbett Scott Avenue, Epsom.

Third Prize, £3: Mrs. Knock, 7 Rewa Road, Mount Eden.

Seven consolation prizes of £1 each: Mrs. L. Marshall, Box 27, Paeroa; Mrs. Profner, 94 Great North Road, Grey Lynn; Mrs. M. B. Williams, 33 The Parade, St. Helier's Bay; Mr. J. Shore, 89 Alberton Avenue, Mount Albert; Mr. Malcolm Smith, 29 Ranfurly Road West, Epsom; Mrs. R. S. Boden, Pollen Street, Thames; Mr. R. K. Keymer, 4 Sproston Avenue, Ellerslie.

A charity donation of £14/3/- was given to the St. Mary's Home, Otahuhu, from the competition, for which more than 2500 entered. This week the ten best received each day will be read over the air at 9.15, and the winning entries will be dramatised and broadcast at 8 p.m. on Saturday.

"Candle Light" (Cadman, Shippey), which, we are informed, is a song dedicated to "Everybody's Mother," and Liddle's arrangement of Corners' "An Old Sacred Lullaby." Peter Dawson, fresh and vigorous as of yore, sings two of his own songs (McCall the composer, and Dawson, the bass-baritone, being one and the same person). The two songs are "McPherson's Farewell" and "Deep Sea Mariner."

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