

OPERATIC GEMS

RECENT RECORDINGS

STILL they come! Here are a few of the latest gems among the H.M.V. releases. Two delightful recordings by Elisabeth Schumann, soprano, contain four Schubert songs, and to lovers of good singing and good songs they will be welcome.

The name of the first of these lovely items need not repel novices because "Des Fischers Liebesglück" is one of those light and graceful barcarolles which will be popular as soon as it is heard. The soprano sings "Der Musensohn" (The Poet) on the reverse side with much charm.

Miss Schumann's second bracket comprises "Fischerweise" (Fisherways) and "Gretchen Am Spinnrade" (Gretchen at the Spinning Wheel).

On the whole these four songs, so beautifully voiced, would be an acquisition to any collection.

Helen Jephson, soprano, sings an excerpt from the first act of Verdi's opera "La Traviata," and the lovely "Vissi d'Arte" (Love and Music) from Puccini's opera "Tosca." Good pitch is not Helen's long suit.

Two new records by Gigli, the greatest living Italian tenor, have made their appearance. These are the familiar "Vesti la Gubba" (On With the Motley), from "Pagliacci" (Leoncavallo), and from the same opera a duet, "Serenata d' Arlecchino" (My Husband, Punchinello), in which he is ably assisted by a soprano, Ica Pacetti.

On Gigli's second record we have "Quisiera Olvidar Tuo Ojos" (If I Could Forget Eyes), a tango by Albeniz, and a bolero by Sandoval, "Eres Tu." These two discs are most certainly worth hearing, and are sung with all the intensity which Gigli can command.

Once again the name of the artistic young Swedish tenor, Jussi Bjorling, appears among the releases.

There is no doubt that Bjorling should soon attain front rank and become a valued addition to the ranks of recording artists. There is little to cavil at in his present numbers, "Che gelida manina" (Your Tiny Hand is Frozen), from Puccini's "La Boheme," and the inspiring "Celeste Aida" (Heavenly Aida), from Verdi's "Aida." This record is strongly recommended.

Welcome to Alexander Kelberine, pianist, to the records. The supplement tells us this young man has appeared with world-famed orchestras, including the Philadelphia. His first record to be released is "Prelude and Fugue in G Minor," by Bach, from the "Eight Little Preludes and Fugues for the Organ." The transcription is Mr. Kelberine's own and the result is wholly pleasing, and unless we mistake not the first time it has been recorded.

The massed cavalry bands of the Aldershot and Eastern Commands, under the baton of Mr. S. Rhodes, record two stirring marches from the Coronation Tattoo, Aldershot, 1937. These are the conductor's slow march, "Golden Spurs," and a quick march, "Crown and Commonwealth," by Adams. The precision and fine expressive playing of this large body of instrumentalists is a notable achievement.

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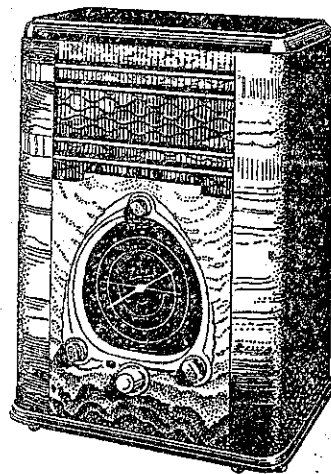
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