

Choral Work

STATION 1YA will relay from the Town Hall on May 5 a concert to be given by the Royal Auckland Choir, under the conductorship of Mr. Harry Woolley. This is the first public performance of the choir under the new conductor, and supporters of the choir are looking forward to a new era of activity in their ranks. Mr. Woolley is well known as the conductor of the Auckland Commercial Travellers' and Warehousemen's Choir.

Band

IN their next broadcast, on May 6, from 2YA, the Port Nicholson Silver Band introduce Mr. H. Hamilton, visitor from England with a baritone voice eminently suitable for the rollicking type of song he features. As interludes to the band's items, Mr. Hamilton will sing "The Wheel Tapper's Song," "When My Ships Come Sailing Home," "Ninetta" and "Where's the Sergeant."

Serenade

WITH personnel comprising J. Rodgers (flute), Olga Burton (violin), and Mrs. Chas. MacDonald (piano), a newly-formed trio makes its debut on the 2YA air. For their initial performance on Thursday, May 5, three popular serenades have been chosen, the respective composers being Titi, Dralla and Moszkowski.

To Australia

BEFORE moving on to Australia to further his musical studies and, possibly, to England and Europe later, Mr. Thomas E. West gave his final tenor recital from 3YA on Good Friday night. Christchurch listeners hope that this presentation was not "final" as far as the NBS is concerned.

Supernatural

WITH a high reputation for his radio talks on the sea from 2YA, Mr. F. M. Renner is booked to give two talks which will tell a supernatural



story of the sea, "The Flying Bosun," in two parts. It is not often that a story on the radio goes over the one talk, but this is a story that breaks naturally and lends itself to be "continued in our next."

On The Road

HABITS of the ubiquitous salesman will be the subject of a talk by Mr. G. T. P. Williams from 2YA on May 6. He will tell of quaint experiences on the road in both Australia and New Zealand.

"Golden" Sonata

FEATURE of the chamber music programme from 1YA on May 4 is the presentation of Purcell's "Golden" Sonata, played by Mrs. Bosworth, Isobel Langlands, Lalla Hemus and Sybil Stokes. This sonata, one of the best known and most popular works of Pur-

First Conductor To Use Baton

MET WITH FRIENDLY DUKE AND AN UNSCRUPULOUS PUBLISHER

AMONG musical composers, the name of Louis Spohr does not signify much to the present generation, but the story of his life is as romantic as any could wish. His works were notably fine and his standing in his day as a violinist second only to that of Paganini.

Born in Brunswick town, he learnt to sing in the choir as a boy, and in



LOUIS SPOHR

... Read orchestral scores like penny dreadfuls.

his fifth year he was presented with a diminutive violin on which he taught himself to play. When little Louis did arrive at the stage when he was taught music in a regular way, he seems to have had as tutors those who, for the most part (through jealousy of his amazing ability), did more to hinder than to help their pupil.

Spohr's early days were far from happy, but a boy who devoured classical orchestral scores like normal lads read penny dreadfuls, had to be reckoned with.

When he waylaid the Duke of Brunswick and personally presented a petition for assistance, His Grace displayed real graciousness, allowed him to play at one of the weekly concerts, and took him under the ducal wing. After Spohr played, the duke tapped him on the shoulder and said: "The talent is there; I will look after you. Come tomorrow morning to me."

Spohr was finding his feet, and composed his first concerto, which he dedicated to his patron. He bargained with a publisher for no pay, only a few free copies. The publisher demanded that the boy purchase a hundred copies at half-price.

Anxiety to see his work in print so that he could present a printed copy to the duke (himself also a violinist), determined him to accept this one-sided bargain. The concerto was handed to the publisher—but not a copy was given him until he cashed up the full amount for those he had agreed to buy. It was not the first time, nor the last, that a publisher took advantage of a musical genius.

He was the first conductor to ever use a baton, and Queen Victoria's favourite fiddler. This pioneer in opera, oratorio, symphony and concerto, was to compose fourteen more violin concertos after the first which he paid so dearly to have published.

The best of these, No. 8 in A Minor, Op. 47, is to occupy a place on 4YA's programme on Sunday, May 1. This splendid work will be played by Professor George Kulenkampf, violinist, and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra.

Before And After

SONOROUS voice of Dr. E. N. Merrington, principal of Knox College, Dunedin, will be heard from 4YA next Tuesday night at 7.30, when the "History of War and Peace" series of the "Whirligig of Time" talks will be carried a stage further. Dr. Merrington will discuss "The League of Nations Idea Before the Great War." The erudite doctor will not leave his subject there, but the following week at the same time will conclude by talking on "The League of Nations After the Great War."

First Nights

REMEMBERED for his talks on Henry Irving, Mr. L. B. Austin, Wellington, is to give three talks for 2YA on "Memorable First Nights in the Theatre," the first from 2YA on

May 2. In this talk he will tell of the first night of Tennyson's "Thomas A'Beckett," produced by Irving, and notable for the fact that it was the last production in which the great actor appeared before his death. Mr. Austin, as Irving's godson and the son of Irving's secretary and friend, saw a great deal of the London theatre in the nineties. Another of his talks will deal with the epoch-making first night of "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray."

Ex Cathedra

FROM the Christchurch Anglican Cathedral, per 3YA, on Good Friday, came a rendering of Bach's "Passion." The famous Cathedral Choir—it has earned that adjective through the comments of many overseas musicians—appears to be in excellent fettle, and is remaining very sound under its new master, Mr. Manghan Barnett. The boys' voices are as fresh as ever and in the tenor section there are some admirable voices. In fact, the choir is one of the greatest musical adjuncts the Dominion possesses for the present.