

AROUND THE STUDIOS.

MADAME ZELANDA TO TOUR

*Coloratura Soprano Born In New Zealand—Visit Of
American Accordeon Expert—Dunedin Community Sings
—Cricket Test Reminder—News From The Commercials*

COLORATURA soprano, born in New Zealand and trained in Australia and Italy, Madame Margherita Zelanda has been engaged by the NBS for a six weeks' tour of the national stations, beginning from 2YA on August 9. During the season she will sing songs ranging in scale from ballad to operatic.

Carefully trained from childhood, Madame Zelanda first studied at St. Philomena's College Convent of Mercy, Dunedin. She later attended the New South Wales Conservatorium of Music and from Sydney journeyed to Italy.

FOR two years her vocal progress was guided by the famous Professor Benedetto Morasca, of Palermo Conservatorium in Sicily, where she graduated as a Prima Donna. Later she went to Milan and became a pupil of the late Maestro Manlio Bavagnoli, who, it will be remembered, visited Australia some years ago for the Imperial grand opera season, and has brought before the operatic public of Italy a number of famous prima donnas.

Besides gaining honours in her prima donna course, Zelanda was acclaimed by professors of music throughout Italy to be the possessor of the finest English voice that had ever visited that country.

Sweet, clear, and strong, with brilliant technique, her singing should give pleasure to all New Zealand music-lovers, for it is said that coloratura voices of the quality of Zelanda's only happen once in a generation.

RECOGNISED as one of the greatest piano-accordionists, Arnie Hartmen, recently under engagement to Frank Neil, of vaudeville fame, will give a series of broadcasts from the YA stations before going on to America. His amazing technique and complete command of this difficult instrument leave his hearers spellbound. Mr. Hartmen will be heard simultaneously from 2YA and 2YD on June 8, 9, and 11, and from 1YA on June 13.

DUNEDIN'S community sing season has been ushered in with a swing and for the next few months 4YA listeners will hear "Alfie," "Demmy," and "Himmy" lead the audience through old and new favourites in the Strand Theatre. The radio performs a great service for the Sing Committee, and for those deserving persons to whom



MARGHERITA ZELANDA.

... First studied in Dunedin.

contributions are passed on. Southern listeners are at present wondering whether that friendly rivalry that existed last season between Christchurch and Dunedin will be revived. If the Cathedral City does come to light, 4YA listeners are assured of apt retorts from Dunedin each Friday midday.

FEATURE of 2YA'S evening programme on June 16 will be the studio appearance of the Wellington Returned Soldiers' Male Voice Choir. The choir came into existence in 1933, and made its initial appearance at the "Digger" concert given on Armistice night in the same year. The success attained on that occasion led to its permanent establishment, and in 1935 Mr. Frank Oakes accepted the position as conductor to the choir. Mr. Oakes has had extensive musical experience during his lifetime, and the high standard achieved by the organisation is largely due to his painstaking efforts.

LOVERS of grand opera are to hear a complete presentation of Giuseppe Verdi's "Il Trovatore" from 2YA at 8.45 p.m. on Sunday, June 12.

HAILED by film reviewers as one of the most delightful pictures of all time, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," contains much in the way of novel music. On June 10, at 8.31, two recordings of these interesting songs will be heard from 2YA: the first, "Some Day the Prince Will Come," is featured by the Seven Dwarfs. Both recordings are complete with dialogue and sound effects.

Tests Reminder

CRICKET enthusiasts—and who isn't enthusiastic about the Tests between England and Australia?—will be well catered for by the NBS on the occasion of the first Test match between the Mother Country and the Commonwealth, played at Trent Bridge. Stations 1YA, 2YC, 3YA and 4YA will be on the air with a rebroadcast of the actual play from 10 to 11 p.m.

TAILOR-MADE

MUSIC IN AMERICAN RADIO

MUSIC tailoring—the picking, cutting and piecing together of music to set the mood for radio dramatic productions—is a fine art which Josef Honti, NBS staff conductor, probably knows more about than any musician in radio.

In the seven years, he has been associated with the American National Broadcasting Company, Honti supervised the background music for many important dramatic productions.

The business of selecting music to establish the mood that any given drama is to express is a task which may take Mr. Honti anywhere from a day to a week. He goes about it with methodical precision and patience. First, he reads the script carefully, making notations as he goes along. Second, he confers with the director of the production to determine the nature of the musical cues and their proper spacing. Third, he selects the music.

The last step is easier noted than achieved. When music appropriate for the drama is not to be found, Mr. Honti writes it himself. Sometimes he spends an entire week poring over scores in painstaking research.

Piecing together the music to play behind the dialogue is the most interesting step of all, says Honti. And once a show is thus pieced together and rehearsed, there is no further recourse to the score. Honti memorises it in order to keep one eye on his orchestra and the other on the actors and the production man.