

PERSONALITIES

ON THE AIR

THE guitar is coming into its own again. Even in Spain, the land of the guitar, it had been suffering an eclipse for some time past—the rest of the world regarded it as nothing more than a slightly superior type of banjo. As a matter of fact, however, the guitar is a true musical instrument, only survivor in style and manner of the lute family of the Middle Ages. It was played all over Europe from about 1600 to 1720, when it began to be superseded by the harpsichord and later by the piano. Even so, it maintained some hold in Spain and Italy. Now a revival has set in everywhere, the modern electric guitar coming to the aid of the older instrument.

2YA listeners will hear Mr. D. G. Paris perform on the electric guitar on Thursday, August 18.

LEADER OF POPULAR TRIO

Although born in Dunedin, Max Scherek spent many years abroad before returning to settle finally in his native city. At the age of five he went with his parents to Melbourne, and afterward came under the tuition of a number of musicians whose names are household words in European musical circles. Mr. Scherek gives not only Dunedin but 4YA listeners everywhere a taste of his quality. One of his favourite fields is chamber music.

4YA listeners hear the Max Scherek Trio frequently in the evening sessions.

FILM MIMIC AND ANTIQUES.

It was quite by accident that Florence Desmond discovered she had ability to sing as well as to act. Now she is justly famous for her imitations of well-known actresses. She began her stage career in pantomime, then became one of Mr. Cochran's celebrated young ladies. When success came her way she took it with a smile and made it an excuse to indulge some of her favourite interests. She is now often seen haunting antique shops, with eager eyes peering for Old Staffordshire figures. This attractive blonde-haired, hazel-eyed actress was born in London one-and-thirty years ago. Her real name is Florence Dawson.

4YA listeners will hear Florence Desmond, impersonator, in the music, mirth and melody session on Tuesday, August 16.

He Told Tales On Teachers



FRANZ LISZT

"... Don't bring dirty linen to my lesson."

IT was Bulow, the great pianist, who persuaded Liszt to teach the piano to the young Scotsman, Frederick Lamond. Now the pupil, an old man of 70, tells two stories about his benefactors. Nothing irritated Liszt more than to have a pupil make mistakes. He used to say, "Don't bring any dirty linen to be washed at the lesson." Or if a pupil made too many mistakes he was likely to say, "Young lady, you had better play Czerny," which was considered a terrible reproof.

Bulow, too, could be severe about errors. Lamond tells of a brilliant young Jewish pianist who, in the embarrassment of playing before Bulow, made some mistakes in a run in the left hand. "Young man," said Bulow, "your right hand is kosher (clean), but your left hand is trefer (unclean)." The damning remark referred, of course, to the rabbinical laws about food.

The 70-year-old pianist, Frederick Lamond, will be heard from 1YA on Sunday afternoon, August 14.

"ROTUNDITY AT THE ALBERT HALL."

When Ina Souez was televised recently in London, she wore a replica of the dress used by Christine Nilsson at her farewell concert in 1888. Nilsson, great singer of Victorian days, was once caricatured by "Punch" because of this frock. It had such a tremendous bustle that the "Punch" artist was tempted to portray it under the title of "Rotundity at the Albert Hall." Incidentally, Ina Souez, in her television

broadcast, sang the aria, "Angels, ever bright and fair," from Handel's oratorio, "Theodora," which was one of Christine Nilsson's most popular songs.

Ina Souez, soprano, will be heard from 2YA on Sunday, August 14, in the role of Donna Anna, in the complete recording of Mozart's opera, "Don Giovanni."

PUZZLING ODE TO HENRY PURCELL

Many people know of the famous epitaph to Henry Purcell in Westminster Abbey, which states flatly that he "is gone to that blessed place where only his harmony can be excelled." That Purcell was lamented by his brother musicians and poets is seen by the number of odes written to his memory, but perhaps the quaintest tribute was in the form of a Latin rebus, set as a catch by John Lenton, a singer and member of the royal band of William and Mary. The English version of this musical puzzle runs thus:—

*The Mate to a Cock, and Corn tall us Wheat,
Is his Christian Name, who is Musick's Compleat;
His surname begins with the Grace of a Cat
And concludes with the house of a Hermit, note that;
His skill and Performance each Auditor wins,
But the Poet deserves a good kick on the shins.
The solution is, of course, Hen-rye Purcell.*

Listeners to 3YA will hear a concert of Purcell's works on Sunday, August 14.

HER FLAIR FOR COMEDY.

Little wonder that Mrs. Guy Cotterill, with her flair for bright comedy and her radiant stage personality, is widely popular in Christchurch repertory circles. Successes to her credit include such productions as "Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary," "Her Shop," "The Late Christobean," "The Cat's Cradle," "Captain Banner," "The Young Idea" and "Lucky Dip." Before she went into repertory, Mrs. Cotterill scored in roles for the Christchurch Operatic Society. She has also done a little adjudicating, and is no stranger to the microphone.

—Photo by Spencer Digby.

3YA listeners will hear Mrs. Guy Cotterill in her first radio talk, "By Palm Green Shores—A Round Trip to the Islands," on Friday, August 19.

