



PERSONALITIES ... ON THE AIR ...

The Week's RECORDS

MARGOT, 2ZB, November 21: "Are you going away for Christmas? Of course you are: a terrible lot of people are going away this Christmas."

WELL GONE.

UNCLE TOM, Wednesday, November 30, 10.27 a.m. (referring to an appeal): "The invalid chair is for a lady whose sight is going down Thames way."

GENEROUS.

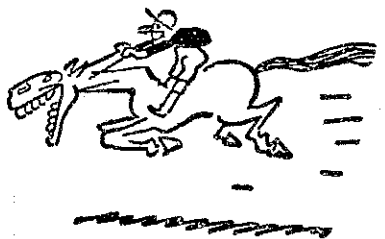
ANNOUNCER, 1ZB, 8 a.m., Tuesday, November 29 (giving mails and shipping): "We will now give you the sun and stars."

MATTER OF OPINION.

AUNT DAISY, 8.45 a.m., November 26: Good morning, everybody—a nice wet day."

HEAD BEHEADED.

LOU PAUL, 1ZB, 4.16 p.m., Tuesday, November 22: "This month's — contains a portrait of the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. M. J. Savage, executed by one of New Zealand's leading artists."



INVISIBLE.

MR. SHAW, 1ZM, Monday, November 28 (describing second last race at Ellerslie): "Lornacre was never seen throughout the race."

TROUBLE.

ANNOUNCER, 2ZB, 3.35 p.m., Sunday, November 27: "...After the Ball"; "Two lovely black eyes."

MEMORIAL.

ANNOUNCER, 3ZB, 9.30 a.m., Sunday, December 4: "We are in Hagley Park around the Memorial Bandstand erected to the memory of fallen bandstands."

TASTY.

GRAN, 1ZB, 2.50 p.m., December 5 (talking about a hair tonic): "...and you will have a healthy, palatable scalp."

IN his first appearance at 2YA some little time ago, Mr. Leslie Souness, pianist, made a very favourable impression with his playing of one of Alexander MacDowell's splendid sonatas. To adapt Kipling, "How little they know of MacDowell who only the 'Woodland Sketches' know!" Born in Dunedin, Mr. Souness was educated at the famous Otago High School, later graduating as B.A. He has also earned the musical distinctions of L.R.S.M. and L.T.C.L. He came to Wellington from Invercargill and is on the staff of Miramar South Public School. Young musicians like Leslie Souness are a definite asset to Wellington's artistic life. He has to his credit a few original compositions in MS.

Leslie Souness, pianist, will be heard from 2YA on Monday, December 19.

ORGANIST WHO GOES 'SWING' Sidney Torch's technique and the rapidity with which he "registers" (or changes his stop combinations) leave organ enthusiasts and organists bewildered but exhilarated. There can be no doubt that as a "swing" organist he has shown the way to new and unthought-of possibilities with the modern unit organ, and he is the pioneer of a revolutionary style of theatre organ-playing. His records and broadcasts have been widely discussed by organists all over the British Isles, and all are agreed that he is a sort of uncrowned "King of Organ Rhythm." Like Reginald Dixon, Sidney Torch owes much of his technique to the fact



Sidney Torch, uncrowned king of organ rhythm.

that he is a brilliant "straight" pianist.

Sidney Torch, organist, will be heard in 1YA's music, mirth and melody session on Friday, December 23.

SONG THAT CIRCLED THE WORLD

It marked the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Sir Joseph Barnby. In the days of his obscurity as a young man in London, Barnby devoted every spare moment to study and to composition, during which time he wrote a little song, setting a tune to the tender little verses of Tennyson, "Sweet and Low." The composer sent the song to Henry Leslie, of "Leslie's Choir," and immediately forgot it. Not so the public. The song became a "hit." It was sung every-

where. Men were heard amorously lisping it in dark places; street boys got part of the tune of it; young girls called it beautiful; and it sold,

Confessions Of People You Know

IRISH tenor Dan Foley, well-known to New Zealand listeners for his singing of ballads, is a New Zealander who has made his name on the concert platform and on the air in Australia. This week he gives his amusing confessions to "Record" readers:

My eyes are: Blue.
My hair is: Waving good-bye.
Favourite colour for clothes: Brown.
My lucky day is: The day I met my wife.
My favourite play is: No particular favourite.
In my friends I look for the quality of: Sincerity.
My favourite motto is: Nothing ventured — nothing gained.
My pet aversion is: Slow racehorses.
I could happily spend the rest of my life in: Travel.
My favourite screen star is: Deanna Durbin.
What has pleased me most about New Zealand: The warm hospitality of its people.
What has disappointed me most: Income Tax Department.

sold all over the world; and brought to its composer the appointment of musical director to the publishing firm of Novello's. From that day his path onward was almost clear of rocks.

4YA listeners will hear Barnby's "Sweet and Low" on Tuesday, December 20. Although it will be played by massed bands, it will still remain 'Sweet and Low.'

RITUAL DAYS OF THE JEWS

One of the most sacred festivals in the Jewish ritual takes place from December 17 to 24, "Chanukah" or "The Feast of Lights." Festival celebrates the solemn dedication of the Temple by Judas Maccabaeus and is a delightfully domestic ceremonial. A candle is lit on each of the eight days during which the celebration lasts — one candle on the first day, two on the second, and so on to the eighth day, when there is much rejoicing and feasting in every home. It is interesting to note that whenever a Jewish family takes over a new habitation, a little ceremony very reminiscent of the feast of lights takes place. This is called "Chanukat habayis."

All this ceremonial, with glimpses of Jewish home life, manners and customs, will be described in detail in a talk, "The Feast of Lights—A Glimpse of the London Ghetto," to be given by Mrs. Lola Maries from 3YA on Tuesday, December 20.

EXIT LADY ON A HORSE

Yet another Australian soprano has scored a big success as Brunhilde. British and Continental opera houses have been the scenes of many successes in this role by Florence Austral, and now comes news from New York of the triumph of another Aus-

tralian singer in this role, Marjorie Lawrence, who reappeared at the Metropolitan recently. Born at Geelong, the home town of John Brownlee, Marjorie Lawrence has had experience at the Paris Opera House, and three years ago she made a sensational debut at the Metropolitan in the role. She is the only Brunhilde of the present day who carries out Wagner's instruction at the end of "Götterdämmerung" to make her exit on horseback. She was denied the more spectacular equestrian leap into the flames. As the Americans would say, "the Metropolitan wouldn't stand for it."

Marjorie Lawrence, soprano, will be heard from 2YA on Sunday, December 18.

ORIGINS OF A JAZZ PIANIST

Dark, quiet and anything but temperamental, Mary Lou Williams, is one of the outstanding women instrumentalists of jazz today. She began the piano when she was five and after two years of scales and exercises was considered a prodigy. Always a symphonic music enthusiast, much of her fine musicianly feeling springs from these classical beginnings. After leaving high school she toured on vaudeville circuits with an act known as Seymour and Jeanette. One of the musicians with this act was Johnny Williams, the saxophonist, whom Mary Lou married in 1926. After twelve happy years they are still together in Andy Kirk's Orchestra. She is a clever musical arranger and a brilliant pianist.

1YA listeners will hear Mary Lou Williams, pianist, on Saturday, December 24.

HE FEELS ALL THE BETTER Although Sir Seymour Hicks has played the part of Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol" over 2000 times, he has felt



Seymour Hicks, keen-faced actor of the English stage.

better every time for the tears he has shed when listening to the words of Scrooge's clerk, who, smiling through sorrow, speaks of that "green place" where Tiny Tim was resting. How thankful, says Sir Seymour, should we be to Dickens, who taught us that at Christmas time no man, who is a man, could think anything but well of all his fellows. The world is full of Cratchits. The universe is peopled by a thousand Tiny Tims and also, alas! by many, many a Scrooge. Charles Dickens let loose floodgates of pity for the weary and oppressed, and gave also to the rich a glorious Christmas gift—a golden key with which to unlock gateways and enter kingdoms where real happiness may be bought by giving.

"A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens, will be read by Professor T. D. Adams on Friday, December 23.

ASSISTING Gigli in one of the items on his new record is a soprano, Maria Coniglia, whom many would like to hear in solo numbers some time in the future. The new record (HMV DB 3225) lets us hear the duet from "La Bohème" in which Rudolfo and Mimi declare their love for the first time. Puccini's fine music comes



GIGLI

... He does not study the microphone enough.

off well enough, but Gigli should restrain himself somewhat, save his volume for the opera house, and adapt himself more to the limitations of the microphone. Much the same comment applies to his rendering of "Celeste Aida," which Verdi himself directed should be ended softly.

Songs of Schubert

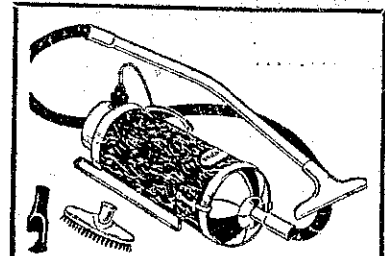
Franz Schubert (composer), Elisabeth Schumann (soprano) and Gerald Moore (accompanist) make an irresistible team, and their two records (HMV DB 3184-85) of Schubert songs recently issued are not likely to be ignored by lovers of lieder well sung.

In the first record we have four short but lovely songs with these English titles: "Near the Beloved," "Laughing and Weeping," "Night and Dreams" and "Happiness." There is a feeling abroad in musical circles that Schubert wrote too many songs, but if we had to do without any of them, we would not willingly forgo these on the present records.

"Laughing and Weeping" (love brings both; bliss at dawn, tears at evening—who knows why?), and "Night and Dreams" with its lines in praise of the sacred peace of night, and the quiet dreams it brings with it, are particularly good.

The second record contains "Dream of Spring" and "The Solitary One." The first-named comes from the famous "Winter Journey," reminding us that this cycle was written in the last months of Schubert's life, and the final proofs of some of the songs were corrected while he was on his deathbed. The other song, "The Solitary One," tells of one alone by his rustic fireside, happy with memories of work and play, and with only the chirping crickets for company.

It does seem a pity that notable recordings of Schubert songs are not furnished with a slip containing the English words. Excellent as Elisabeth Schumann is, the enjoyment of the records would be enhanced if this little improvement had been effected. But let not this omission be any deterrent to purchasers. The records are practically flawless in singing, accompanying and technical departments.



SOLVED!

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