

SINGER NATZKE WILL COME HOME

New Zealand Bass Booked For Radio Visit To The Antipodes

JUST a short time ago, young Auckland basso, Franz Oscar Natzke, made operatic history by going straight from Trinity College of Music, London, to a leading role at Covent Garden.

Now news comes to the "Record" that he is booked by the Australian Broadcasting Commission for a tour of their stations. It is almost certain that he will come over to New Zealand to sing—and what is more important to Franz—to see his mother who lives in Auckland.

Since the days four years ago, when he was a relief worker and blacksmith at Waiheke Island in the Hauraki Gulf, Natzke has made a dazzling ascent to fame.

Last week Mrs. Natzke showed the "Record" clippings from the principal London papers, whose critics hail the student singer as a "find." Without exception these papers refer to the young man as a sensation.

Besides being the first student ever to have gone from Trinity College into a leading role in Covent Garden Opera, Franz is the youngest basso—he is only 26—to sing in principal parts in grand opera in London.

On October 10 he appeared with the Covent Garden Opera Company in "Faust," and a fortnight later, in the first performance of the new opera "The Serf."

Writing to Mrs. Natzke, Signor Albert Garcia, Franz's teacher, expresses his delight with his pupil's performance.

Said Albert Garcia: Franz shows great promise and when he has more experience, and able to "throw his voice about" he will be a great man.

Indisposition prevented Franz from making his operatic debut as Mephistopheles in "Faust," so he sang the less exacting role of "Wagner" instead.

But 10 days later he was able to create the role of De Fulke, the blind old feudal lord of the manor

in "The Serf," a new full-length opera by the young Cornish composer, George Lloyd.

Writing in the "Evening Standard," Stephen Williams said: "The finest singing of the evening came from Mr. Oscar Natzke as De Fulke. Here at last is a genuine bass voice, rich in colouring, noble in enunciation."

In the "Morning Post," Richard Capell says: "A new singer, a bass from New Zealand, with a voice of beautiful quality in the part of a 'pere noble'."

Other critics, including the dean of English musical writers, Ernest Newman, wrote glowing notices.

Just at present Natzke is touring with the opera company in the North of England. This tour finishes about the end of this month.

He has just given an audition to the representative of the Australian Broadcasting Commission, who said Natzke was "the finest basso since the early days of Chaliapine."

As a result, Franz signed a contract for a broadcasting tour of Australia.

Tour will take place early in the new year, and is expected to lead to a similar tour of New Zealand.

Afterwards Franz goes to Italy to finish his studies.

Until he leaves for Australia, and after the opera season ends, Franz is returning to study at Trinity College.

Four New Features For ZB Stations

NEW features, new features, is ever the cry of a commercial radio service, and next month no fewer than four will be commencing over New Zealand's ZB stations.

First is "The Elusive Pimpernel," radio dramatisation of Baroness Orczy's famous novel, which will be heard three nights a week—Monday, Wednesday and Thursday—at 8 o'clock.

Second is "Imperial Intrigue," which was originally called, "Coronets of France," and was made by the same very competent cast of radio players which made "Coronets of England." It commences on January 31, and will be heard every Tuesday at 9 p.m.

"Imperial Intrigue" deals with the time of the Regency of Catherine de Medici, one of the most romantic and exciting eras of France's

Is There A Hoodoo On 3ZB'S Building?

ELECTRICIAN working the other night on the new State Theatre building, Christchurch, went along to the old burnt-out studios of 3ZE, in Colombo Street, to borrow a ladder. His nostrils twitched. He smelled burning. He was right. A piece of rag, oil and turpentine-soaked, had been left on the floor after the day's work. It smouldered. Half a draught of wind from an open door would have set the whole place ablaze again.

A day or two before, somebody rebuilding 3ZB had trouble with a water-pipe, which broke and annointed the floors and a shoe store down below. Everybody calmed down in the end only to remark, "This place is hoodoo."

But the rebuilding plans are proceeding rapidly and in a few weeks 3ZB's staff will be back in the lap of radio luxury.



KATY'S FOUND A JOHN!—The creator of the popular "Katy and John" radio serial from the Australian stations, Hilda Morse, was married in Sydney the other day to Gardner Hales, who comes from Adelaide. Hilda is a New Zealander—her parents live in Takanini, Auckland—and she has attained an important position both as a broadcaster and a radio executive. Mr. and Mrs. Hales are coming over here for Christmas.

She Had Six Interesting Pupils To Play

King's College To Give Historic Christmas Carols

PIANO teacher of the good old days, asked how he endured his job, said it had its compensations, because there was always "the interesting pupil."

Miss Valerie Corliss (well-known in Wellington musical circles) seems to attract numerous interesting pupils, and her presentation of half a dozen of these in the Town Hall Concert Chamber on Monday, December 5, introduced a group of musicians of singularly marked ability.

Those playing at this recital were Isa Anderson, Kate Jourdain, Dorothy La Roche, Lionel Harris, Arthur Fieldhouse, and Bryan McMillan, all of whom would have done credit to royal music schools of London.

Besides numerous brilliant solo items, a feature of the concert was the two-pianoforte work, six examples being given to a delighted audience.

It seems almost a pity that in a programme of about 40 numbers, the names of Beethoven, Mozart, Liszt and Grieg were missing, and that the majority of pieces played were short (though far from trivial or easy). Perhaps in these days of quick lunches we have grown used to going without a good slice off the joint.

It was, at any rate, a night out for the "moderns," much of whose delightful work was new to most of those present. And Bach and others among the "ancients" were by no means forgotten.

KING'S College Chapel, Otahuhu, presents "The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols" from 1YA on Sunday night next.

Service has its origin far back in English history and is famous through its association with the chapel of King's College, Cambridge, where it has been performed for many years. Lately it has been regularly broadcast from there by the BBC.

King's College Chapel at Otahuhu makes a worthy setting for this traditional service.

The service opens with a processional hymn. Then follows a series of nine carols, each of which is preceded by a Bible reading, unfolding first the Old Testament and an account of the birth of Christ. Each reading is given by a different person, following the custom whereby the readers represent a particular section of the institution performing the service.

In this particular service, readers will be representatives of the boys, dayboys, house prefects, school prefects, of the assistant masters, the house masters and the Board of Governors.

FOR 50 years librarians in this country have deliberately educated borrowers to be disappointed by not getting the books they want. —Mr. J. D. Stewart, chief librarian of Bermondsey, London.

IN no cynical way I advise boys not to let their schoolwork interfere with their education. —Professor George Gordon.



THE BOY WONDER.—Alan Loveday, violinist, as he engagingly looks today. Fund to send him overseas for study in the new year now stands at £660.

history, an era which has already been "glamorised" by Dumas. Charles IX of France, Catherine de Medici, Marguerite de Valois, the Duc de Guise, Henry of Navarre and many other historical figures play their part in "Imperial Intrigue."

Third feature to commence in January is "Howie Wing," an exciting serial dealing with the adventures of a flying cadet at the famous Randolph Field College. It was written by the author of "The Air Adventures of Jimmy Allen," a serial which has proved very popular overseas.

"Howie Wing" is not only concerned with the adventures of the young cadet; it gives frequent interesting glimpses of the life of a young pilot, and just how he is instructed in the various phases of aviation, navigation, meteorology, engineering and so on.

"Howie Wing" will be heard twice weekly—on Wednesdays and Thursdays—at 7 p.m.

Fourth feature for release during January is "Famous Escapes," which will commence on January 26, and will be heard every Thursday evening at 7.15.

FORMERLY Aunt Pat of 3YA, Miss Maynard Hall, who resigned some months ago for health reasons, is to leave Australia for America before the New Year. Aunt Pat is a personality who will not soon be forgotten by radio listeners in New Zealand.