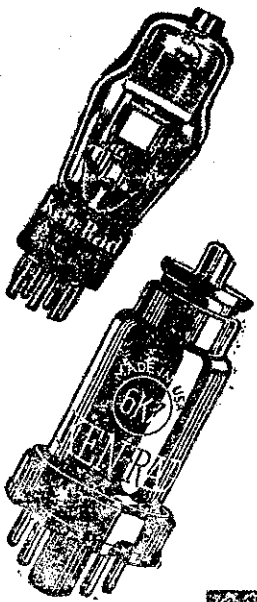


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NBS WORLD PREMIERE

English Composer Gives His Masterpiece From Station 2YA

NEW ZEALAND had the honour of presenting through 2YA the first broadcast to the world of the complete musical dramatic work "Dr. Faustus," composed by visiting English musician Andersen Tyrer.

Andersen Tyrer's dramatic musical excerpt from Marlowe's "Dr. Faustus," now takes its place with William Walton's First Symphony, and other important modern works, whose world premieres were made through radio.

Production of the completed work on Thursday, December 22, was a red-letter night in 2YA's history.

Marlowe's play is based on the familiar folk tale. The hero studies necromancy, and makes a solemn disposal of his soul to Lucifer, on condition of having a familiar spirit at his command and unlimited enjoyment for 24 years; during which period Faustus visits different countries, "calls up spirits from the vasty deep," and revels in luxury and splendour.

At length the time expires, the bond becomes due, and evil spirits enter, amidst thunder and lightning, to claim his forfeit life.

Passages of terrific grandeur and thrilling agony were selected by the composer, and the two scenes which go to make up his remarkable work prove the acuteness of his spiritual insight.

Andersen Tyrer never allowed listeners to forget that the ambition of Faustus is a sensual, not a lofty ambition. A feeling of curiosity and wonder is excited by his compact with Lucifer; but there is no real sympathy for Faustus till all his disguises are stripped off and his meretricious splendour is succeeded by horror and despair.

Then, when he stands on the brink of everlasting ruin waiting for the fatal moment, imploring, yet distrusting repentance, a scene of entrancing interest, fervid passion and overwhelming pathos carries captive the sternest heart and proclaims the triumph of the tragic poet.

Such is the stuff of this 1604 play by Marlowe which Mr. Tyrer set about depicting in music which ranges many deeply conflicting emotions and taxes the technical resources of orchestra, choir and narrator.

That the composer has scored a triumph is the barest statement of the position.

More competent narrator for the work than Professor James Shelley, or one with a finer intellectual background through which to approach an exacting task, could not have been found.

The narrator made every word, every mood, every emotion, tell, and at the last presented to his listeners a deeply moving picture of that terrible struggle which wages in the breast of a philosopher torn between cynicism and superstition.

Mr. Tyrer was fortunate in having the services of Mr. Stanley Oliver's choir, the Schola Cantorum, who tackled the choral sections in a capable manner and creditably surmounted most of the difficulties.

Through a set of circumstances over which there was no control, the time for adequate rehearsals



ANDERSEN TYRER
Scored a triumph.

was woefully short, but even so, the choir emerged with flying colours, and apparently revelled in their work.

With the augmented 2YA orchestra, Mr. Tyrer was not so fortunate. This is not to say that the composer was in any sense "let down," but in a work of the grandeur and scope of "Dr. Faustus" a much higher level of technical efficiency is essential.

Station 2YA has now enjoyed the unusual distinction of presenting the first performance of a work that pulses with human interest.

Hogmanay Supper In 2ZB's Studio

IT is not generally known that 25 per cent. of the population of New Zealand are either Scots or of Scottish descent, and it is safe to say that 99 per cent. of that 25 per cent. saw the Old Year out with traditional Hogmanay ceremony.

For Scots throughout the world the passing of the Old Year has an especial significance. In New Zealand Scottish communities such as Dunedin, and Waipu in North Auckland, observe Hogmanay scrupulously.

True, there's seldom a genuine haggis to decorate the board, but there's usually some traditional dish, and plenty to drink and plenty of good Scottish entertainment.

Station 2ZB made it a real Hogmanay on New Year's Eve, a feature of the night's programme being a broadcast of a Hogmanay supper held in the main studio.

It was a gathering which must have gladdened the heart of every Scottish listener. Songs (some in Gaelic), stories, stirring music from several Wellington pipe bands, and the clinking of bottles all added to the atmosphere.

The well-flavoured dialogue was the work of O. N. Gillespie.

Carols At Wellington Hospital

SICK people in hospitals always receive something in the way of extra comforts and entertainment at Christmas time, and at the Wellington Public Hospital one of the most interesting Yuletide ceremonies is a procession through the hospital of nurses singing carols.

The wards are darkened, and in their white uniforms and red capes,

SHOW THEM UP!

Suggestion For Mr. Semple

HERE'S another suggestion for the Hon. R. Semple to incorporate in his campaign against the drunken driver. Four-inch red stripes are now painted on the cars of motor-ing offenders at Santa Ana, California. This form of punishment is the idea of Superior Judge James L. Allen, who has ordered the lines to be painted on the cars of many drivers accused of drunkenness, recklessness, or hit-and-run driving. These drivers, after the cars have been "striped," are forbidden to park within 300 feet of any place where liquor is sold. Expressing his satisfaction at the success of his plan, Judge Allen said, "If they are ashamed to drive their conspicuous machines, they can stay at home."

and holding lighted candles, the nurses form a slow procession through the hospital, singing as they go.

This Christmas, for the first time, the ceremony was broadcast by 2ZB, and an effective broadcast it made, the soft voices of the nurses and the reverent atmosphere being most impressive.

The broadcast is sure to become an annual Christmas feature.

I AM always mild and guarded.—
Sir Thomas Beecham.

Aviation To Music

"Record's" London Reporter

WHAT would Beethoven have said had he known that music, no longer exclusively a joy for the spirit and the ear, is being put to practical use as a technical improvement to make air travel safe?

It is used to excellent effect in a new device, invented by two French engineers, to improve the security standard of flying.

A great number of the accidents of air travel are caused by the difficulty of judging the plane's distance from the ground when atmospheric conditions are unfavourable, for instance when there is a fog.

It will be remembered that the catastrophe of the British airship R 101 some years ago came about by a sudden collision with the ground in a fog when it was thought that the airship was flying at several hundred feet above the surface.

The instruments used up till now for the measuring of the distance of flying craft from the ground were

all based on the same principle as the barometer, namely, air pressure. Such instruments indicate not the airplane's actual distance from the ground, but the height at which it flies above sea level.

It makes no difference whether the plane is flying over low ground or over a hill; the instrument only shows its height above the sea, and if the pilot loses sight of the ground over which he is flying, or for any reason cannot judge its distance, he has no mechanical control by means of which he can avert an accident in good time.

Music, or to be more correct, "musical sound" is now employed in conjunction with a new instrument which indicates the airplane's actual distance from the ground below. It will be an invaluable improvement to the security of flying, since it registers every change in the distance between the earth and the plane, every rise in the ground, regardless of atmospheric conditions.