

Demand for Symphonies

Entire Works Broadcast

COMPLETE symphonies, played by first-class orchestras, are becoming deservedly popular with listeners in the Eastern United States. It was announced lately that six would be performed this winter by the General Electric Orchestra under the famous conductor Walter Damrosch. The first was to be Glazounow's Symphony No. 3, and the others by Beethoven, Tchaikowsky, Mozart, Brahms, and Haydn respectively. Works broadcast recently in New York on Sunday afternoons by the Roxy Symphony Orchestra included Beethoven's Third Symphony (the "Eroica") and Tchaikowsky's Fourth Symphony. The first-mentioned series is being relayed to stations from coast to coast.

Mr. Damrosch said that he received a large number of requests for complete symphonies and he had reached the conclusion that the musical intelligence of his radio audiences warrants their presentation.

"I have refrained from giving too large doses of any one work and included only portions of symphonies in my programmes," he said. "Now, however, I am convinced that the radio listener is as eager and capable of enjoying the same musical fare as a regular concert hall audience."

Broadcasting in Ireland

BROADCASTING service in the Irish Free State, owned and managed by the State, obtains its revenue from three sources—receiver tax, radio advertising, and import duties on radio equipment. In the State there are only 26,000 receiver licenses, which produce about £13,000 yearly, which pays but part of the upkeep of the two stations, one in Dublin and the other in Cork. From advertisements is derived nearly £2000. Most of the income is obtained from the import duty on sets and parts. Last year this amounted to more than £30,000, giving a surplus of £6000.

The Berlin Radio Exhibition

Differed from English and American

THIS exhibition, comprising the products of over 300 manufacturers, could be divided into three sections dealing with transmission, reception, and the work of the German Post Office in encouraging research.

The transmitting section included the whole of the apparatus used by the Witzleben station and the wonderful broadcasting tower, 420ft. high, with a splendid restaurant 170ft. from the ground and a cafe at the top.

Compactness of Receivers.

THE most striking point was the amazing compactness of receiver design and the ingenuity of designers in packing away components in the smallest possible cabinets.

Every maker of repute had at least one cheap three-valve set selling at £2 or less, complete with valves. These sets were all constructed in Trolite mouldings about 8in. square, with the valves and plug-in coils mounted on the top, and most of them had resistance-capacity couplings in a simple detector and two stages of audio.

Selectivity is evidently a very important characteristic of a set for Central European use, and even the simplest and cheapest sets had a loose-coupled aerial circuit.

Portable sets are still almost unknown in Germany, and the three or four exhibited attracted considerable attention. Most were three-valve local-station receivers, but one, the Lorenz, was a six-valve super-het, and picked up 2LO at excellent strength in daylight.

Many Self-Contained Sets.

THE self-contained receiver, as distinct from the portable, was represented in all the leading makes, and could be obtained in every case to work with the mains. Whereas most English sets of this type are primarily receivers, with the addition of a loud-speaker, all those on show were primarily speakers, with the set hidden away at the back, and in some cases the only external difference between a complete receiver and a simple loud-speaker was the addition of one small knob.

A year ago all-mains sets were practically unknown on the Continent, but now there is an enormous variety from which to choose, both for A.C. and D.C.

These sets are built on a metal chassis and enclosed in a metal cabinet which has a switch and fuse incorporated in the lid.

Prices range from £4/10/- for a two-valve set to £27 for a six-valve super-heterodyne, all including valves. Many sets use a screen grid valve, and some can be adapted for short-wave work.

Short waves are coming into favour very rapidly on the Continent, and among the stands of the component manufacturers there were many ingenious tuners which could be used on either short wave-lengths, or on the ordinary broadcast band.

Four-volt Valves Universal.

IN the valve exhibits there were not nearly so many types available as we have in this country and all valves designed for battery operation had 4-volt filaments, as the 2-volt and 6-volt ranges are now quite extinct in Germany. The only exception is the Telefunken RV218 and a valve of the LS5 type which works on 7.5 volts.

Screen-grid valves were well represented, a good example having an amplification factor of 500 and an impedance of 700,000 ohms. Pentodes included the three types, the best having an amplification factor of 60, at 300 volts on the anode, the impedance being 33,000 ohms.

H.C. valves were of both types, the indirectly-heated cathode valves taking 1 ampere at 4 volts and the directly-heated variety taking from .25 to 1 ampere at 1 volt. Screen-grid valves were included in both groups, and there were also special double-grid general-purpose valves designed to function on low anode potentials, of the order of 20 volts.

Coming to loud-speakers, the moving-coil instrument had gained an enormous popularity during the past year. Nearly a hundred types were on exhibition and every manufacturer had a demonstration room attached to his stand so that one could compare the different kinds.

Lack of Brilliance.

ON the whole, the quality of reproduction was very good, although somewhat lacking in brilliance according to English standards. Prices ranged from 30/- for movements alone to £20 for large cabinet instruments.

The popularity of this type of speaker has made it necessary for owners of small sets to add power amplifiers, and many of these were on show, mostly mains driven and of the unenclosed chassis type. Push-pull circuits were not common, but most of the amplifiers had parallel output valves. Rectification of the anode supply was carried out by glow discharge valves, metal-oxide rectifiers with one or two exceptions being used only for the field coils of moving-coil speakers.

No horn speakers were exhibited, with the exception of one or two very cheap ones, but there were large numbers of the cabinet cone type, mostly costing about £2. Very large speakers of this type, capable of giving enormous volume, were available, and these were all driven by heavy four-pole movements.

A Complete Range.

AMONGST individual exhibits, that of Grawox was one of the most comprehensive, including every type of speaker from small cabinet models to large public-address instruments.

Every loud-speaker manufacturer also had a gramophone pick-up on view, and it is no exaggeration to say that there was not a single valve set in the exhibition which was not fitted with terminals or sockets for gramophone work.

Breaking the Barriers

(Continued from page 1.)

outside world, that can convey to them the atmosphere which is present therein.

Those who were unable to participate in the Christmas festivities will be indebted to radio for the very fine part it played in the season which has just gone by. The special concerts which were a feature of the programmes conveyed to even the most casual listener that this was Christmas.

The old tunes that they heard and sang when they were children and which, perhaps, they had not heard for many years, came floating over the air, and into every home where radio was established.

The Christmas Eve programmes could not fail to impress one that this was an unusual time. The daily sessions have been increased, and we find that some of the stations are on the air before midday and continue till midnight. All during this time good cheer is going over the air, and when the cheerful voices of the announcers closed the stations down with "A Merry Christmas to you All" one knew that Christmas Day was surely here. This was the grand climax of a remarkable introduction.

THE New Year is to be ushered in with the same pomp and ceremony and the bright scenes of the cities will be conveyed to those who cannot be there in person. In each of the four centres, New Year's Eve is a lively time, great crowds collect in the centres, and at the stroke of twelve the uproar which is temporarily lulled bursts forth, and brings in the New Year with a mighty cheer. From Auckland and Christchurch these scenes will be described and broadcast, but Wellington will strike a more sombre note. From this station will be relayed the watch-night service from the Taranaki Street Methodist Church. Dunedin will introduce the New Year in yet another way, which will gladden the hearts of all those who value Scottish traditions. After the New Year chimes the bagpipes will play "Auld Lang Syne."

Those who wish to make this a night of remembrance, and who have powerful receivers, can tune in the big Australian stations 2BL and 2FC. Both these are broadcasting special New Year programmes, and at twelve o'clock will relay descriptions of the scenes. 2BL will pass to Manly Beach, where huge crowds congregate. A band concert will be presented from the rotunda on the beach, and loud speakers are to be provided along the beach for the purpose of entertaining the crowd. Australian time is two hours behind New Zealand, so that this will mean waiting up till 2 a.m.

Thus from all angles radio has and is doing much to spread the good news that Christmas is again with us.

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