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The Story of "Il Trovatore"

Broadcast from 4YA Next Week

"Il Trovatore" or "The Troubadour,"

concerns the love of Manrico, a troubadour, for Leonora, who is also loved by the Count di Luna. There is additional dramatic interest in the fact that these two are brothers, though neither knows this, for Manrico was stolen when a child by a gipsy woman Azucena, who brought him up as her son.

Manrico and Leonora are about to be married, when they hear that Azucena has been captured by the Count, who, on discovering that she is (as he believes) Manrico's mother, has ordered her to be tortured. Manrico goes to her rescue, and in Act IV we find him defeated by the Count, and captured and condemned to death. He sings the famous "Miserere" from his prison cell. Leonora, who stands outside, joining sadly in the refrain.

She goes to the Count and promises to give herself to him if he will set her lover free. He agrees, but she poisons herself, and dies in the arms of her lover. The furious Count kills Manrico and compels Azucena to see him die, learning from her, too late, that he has murdered his brother.

The famous "Anvil Chorus" is raised at the opening of the Second Act, in

Philharmonic Concert

A MOST successful relay from the Wellington Town Hall was carried out by 2YA on Saturday last, when the Philharmonic concert was broadcast. In these days music-lovers welcome these interludes of classic music, and the Wellington orchestra under Mr. Bishop are to be congratulated on the fine performance. Although the broadcast was good the performance cannot be compared with actual presence at the concert. This no doubt accounted for the good crowd who were present in the Town Hall. Movements to retain classical music are to be encouraged, and the orchestra deserve every patronage.

But delightful as was the relay many listeners found cause for complaint in the suppression of their dance programme through the lateness of the relay and the frequency test. Music such as this is rare, frequency tests much more rare, and it seems a pity that those who are entertained to their liking so regularly should complain on account of occasionally not getting just what they want. The results of giving people what they should want has had effect in England, where the standard of music appreciation is rapidly improving.

There is no doubt, but that these relays are widely appreciated and very many are anticipating the next concert in a month's time.

Radio Listeners' Guide, 1930 Edition.
Dealers and Booksellers 2/6, posted 2/6.
P.O. Box 1032, Wellington.

Now Available.

A New Task for the Robot

THE robot has a new job in the Holland tunnel, in New York. His sensitive electric eye is now applied to the task of detecting the clearness of the atmosphere and furnishing an instantaneous and accurate record of hazy or foggy conditions in the great inter-State traffic artery under the Hudson River.

In applying the light-sensitive photo-electric tube to a task of this kind, the chief engineer and superintendent of the Holland tunnel, which connects New York and Jersey City, hopes to effect important operating economies and to provide an additional safeguard in controlling the air conditions in the tunnel.

As now experimentally used, the "electric eye" is directly connected to a recording device a quarter of a mile from the mouth of the tunnel. Impulses from the photo-electric tube guide a pencil point over a sheet of paper graduated in time and in volume. At any instant the supervisor knows how much haze is in the tunnel, and if the visibility decreases from any cause whatsoever he can relieve the situation by speeding up the fans or by putting additional fans into service.

The detector is under development by engineers of the General Electric Company, along lines suggested by the engineering department of the tunnel, and it must undergo a lengthy test before it is pronounced adequate for the job.

Short-circuited!

SHE: "When a man who bores me asks me where I work, I always say 'In a television laboratory.'"

He: "Aha, That shuts him up, I expect. But where do you work?"

She: "In a television laboratory!"

Telephone to Sea

THE charge for a three-minute telephone call to the Leviathan for the first day of sailing from England is £4/10/-, and each additional minute £1/10/-, the rate rising as the distance from the shore increases.

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