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Electric Home Journal

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WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, JULY 4, 1930.

THE INVASION OF MECHANISED ART.

RADIO has loosened an avalanche. It has made possible the spread of entertainment, it has improved almost beyond recognition recorded music, it has made the moving picture a good substitute for the stage, and we are looking for the time when pictures will come to us over the air. These mechanical processes are reacting on "legitimate" art; they are changing it, but how, we are not yet in the position to judge. Only a few years ago one of the essentials of the aspirant to social success was the ability to entertain, musically or otherwise. Now the stage has changed and radio or its derivatives do all the entertaining. The reflection of this transition is not very difficult to imagine, and even now it is being made evident. There is a falling-off in the number of young ones who learn music. Few want to hear a very amateurish rendition of, say, "Minuet in G" when they can hear Kreisler or Heifetz play it with life-like realism. And who wants dance music from an accordion or from an untuned piano when Paul Whiteman or Jack Hylton can be persuaded to entertain? What must be the ultimate outcome of this? Surely music will become the practice of only the really talented, who will find scope in the broadcasting or recording studio. The amateur dramatist will no doubt move toward the broadcasting or talkie studio.

Then there is the invasion of the sound film, the talkie. It is bringing popular music so quickly that one no sooner gets used to one theme than another is upon him. The desire for change is characteristic of modern youth, and it seems that classical music will get less support than it deserves. One appreciates classical music either because he learns to or because it is inherent in him to do so. Radio and the electric gramophone give him the chance of hearing this traditional music well presented. But the popular outcry is for more popular, less highbrow fare. Inquire at a broadcasting studio, or better still, try and connect with it by telephone after an unusually prolonged classical programme that has meant the curtailment of the popular and see the trend of opinion. There is still an outcry for classical music; that is natural. Societies of musicians, disbanded by the talkies, are still fairly well treated. But what of the younger

generation brought up to the fare of screen vaudeville and their theme songs? Even the traditional stage is being swept away or popularised. Even the works of the immortal Shakespeare are being modernised. Radio and its attendant sciences is bringing into being new arts, it is altering the old ones; it is a process of evolution of which we are at an interesting and decisive era.

"HAWAIKI CALLING"

Maori Entertainment from 2YA

THE Wanganui Maori party who have, during the last two years, been welcome entertainers at 2YA, when they have featured the historical Radio Pageant of the Maori race, are at present rehearsing for another appearance at 2YA. On this occasion the entertainment will be entitled "Hawaiki Calling," or "A Dream of Maoriland." It is based on the famous legend of Hawaiki, the original home of the Maori.

The description and presentation of the long canoe voyage across the Pacific, one of the most wonderful feats of navigation ever attempted and accomplished by the aid of only the sun and stars will be particularly graphic. Without a magnetic compass, these old navigators steered by means of a calabash of water which reflected the stars of the heavens and enabled the crew to keep on their course.

Other sections of the entertainment will be descriptive of the landing in New Zealand and of the life and customs of the native pas. A Maori concert, which will introduce a number of songs not previously broadcast, will be a feature of the evening.

The programme will be rebroadcast by 3YA and 4YA, and the Australian stations have also been invited to carry out rebroadcasts.

There will be two presentations by 2YA, one on Tuesday, July 15, at 8 o'clock, and the second on Wednesday, July 16, at 11 o'clock for the express benefit of overseas listeners.

Wellington Chamber Music Players

To Broadcast From 2YA

LOVERS of good music, interpreted by first-class artists, are advised to listen-in to 2YA on July 8, when a relay of selections rendered by the Wellington Chamber Music Players will be carried out. Chamber music, which is probably the highest form of the art, is immensely popular in England, especially with radio listeners.

Unfortunately, it has been presented in New Zealand to a limited extent only, and consequently the musical public has been unable to conceive for this type of music the appreciation it deserves. However, several bands of talented artists have been formed in New Zealand for the express purpose of interpreting chamber music, and it should be a matter of time only before it becomes as popular in this country as it is in England to-day.

The Wellington Chamber Music Players comprise a number of musicians having in their ranks many of Wellington's leading artists, and their impending concert should be much appreciated.

Something of a novelty in the items presented will be a duet between Claude Tanner, 'cello, and Leon de Mauny, violin, which will be unaccompanied by the piano. They will render "Passacaglia" (Handel Halvorsen), a composition which has never been broadcast in New Zealand before.

A quartet, "The First Movement of the Piano Quartet in C Minor" (Strauss), will be presented by Evelyn de Mauny (piano), Leon de Mauny (violin), Frank Crowther (viola), and Claude Tanner ('cello).

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