

St. Matthew Passion Music

Broadcast from 2YA

ON the evening of Sunday, March 22, Passion Sunday, music-lovers will be afforded the opportunity of hearing what is accounted the most beautiful Lenten music ever written.

This is "The Passion according to St. Matthew," set to music by John Sebastian Bach. A selection from this work will be broadcast from St. Paul's Pro-Cathedral. Mr. Robert Parker, C.M.G., whose work for music in New Zealand for many years past needs no comment here, is the organist and choirmaster; Miss Ava Symons and Mrs. Furner Steers will play the violin and piano parts respectively, and the soloists will be Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Wilfred Andrews, Mr. Chas. Williams and Mr. Binet Brown.

The St. Matthew Passion Music was first sung at the Church of St. Thomas, Leipzig, on Good Friday, 1729, and was revived by Mendelssohn in Berlin in 1829, exactly 100 years after its first performance. In England it was first given by the Bach Society under Sterndale Bennett in 1854. Bennett's productions of the work were conspicuous for the excellence with which he brought out the loving piety of the work; later conductors have laid more stress on its dramatic character. Performances of the St. Matthew Passion Music were given by Sir Joseph Barnby in Exeter Hall, Westminster Abbey, and the Royal Albert Hall, and it is performed annually at St. Paul's Cathedral, London, in Holy Week.

2YA Church Committee

A MEETING of the 2YA Church Committee was held on Tuesday, March 3, the Rev. C. V. Rooke (representing the Anglican denomination) presiding. There were also present: Revs. R. J. Howie (Presbyterian), H. W. Newell (Congregational), T. R. Richards (Methodist), Pastor W. G. Carpenter (Church of Christ), Mrs. Daisy Basham, Mr. J. Ball.

An apology for absence was received from the Rev. E. N. Goring (Baptist). A resolution expressing sympathy with all who were bereaved or suffered loss in the Hawke's Bay earthquake was passed. Arrangements in connection with the Easter broadcasts were outlined and approved.

No Depression Here

Radio Licenses Increase 500 in January

A RETURN showing the number of radio licenses as at January 31, 1931, indicates that in radio at least business is prosperous. Not only has the grand total increased five hundred since December, but there are twelve more dealers:—

	Receiving.	Transmitting and receiving.	Dealers.	Experimental and special.	Free.
Auckland	18,339	89	309	2	98
Canterbury ..	10,098	55	261	2	56
Otago	6,817	42	186	2	35
Wellington ..	25,371	121	504	6	54
	60,625	307	1,260	12	243
Total: 62,447.					

From League of Nations Secretariat

A New Zealander on Furlough

MAJOR E. S. HARSTON, who is the Chief of the Documents and Distribution Service at the League of Nations Secretariat at Geneva, is at present in New Zealand on furlough, and is to talk from 2YA on Friday, March 20.

In this talk he will give a description of the interesting personalities who are always in Geneva, the cosmopolitan life of the city, and the work of the League.

Major Harston was educated at Napier High School and St. John's College and University College, Auckland. He went to the front with the Main Body, and was invalided home in 1917, and after working on General Headquarters practised as a solicitor in Taumarunui. After some time spent in Switzerland for health reasons, he has been a member of the League of Nations' Secretariat for the past four years.

"My Irish Rose"

APPROPRIATE to St. Patrick's Day 4YA will relay from Gore on Tuesday, March 17, Walter Ben Hare's comedy-drama, "My Irish Rose," which is to be played there by a strong cast, under the direction of Mrs. Molly O'Sullivan, F.T.C.I.

It is a play in three acts, and the scene is laid in Ireland. Listeners will be introduced to several interesting characters, and the dialogue will prove most entertaining. The leading role, that of Rose Creigan, a little Irish country lass, will be taken by Mrs. O'Sullivan. The course of true love is said never to run smoothly, and Rose found this out.

In the first two acts there is much conspiring and misunderstanding, and the plot thickens in the third act, resulting, however, in a happy denouement.

Maurice Fitzgerald, a wealthy Dublin artist, falls in love with Rose while painting her picture. He proposes marriage, and is accepted. Shortly after he learns from his family lawyer, Mr. Pepperdine, that his cousin has been killed, and that he is a baronet, heir to the estate. Mr. Pepperdine suggests that he break off his matrimonial entanglement, but Maurice spurns the suggestion with contempt. Lady Agnes Barricklow has long been in love with Maurice, and now that he is a wealthy baronet, decides to marry him.

She arrives at the farm with Eileen, Maurice's sister, and tries to break off the match between Rose and Sir Maurice by suggesting to Rose that her lover is already engaged to marry Eileen (who is really his step-sister). Rose sees Maurice embrace his sister, and thinking she is his betrothed, agrees to break the match. But Archibald Pennywitt, a blundering English tourist, explains that Eileen is Maurice's sister, and Maurice introduces Rose to all as his affianced wife.

In Act 3, the return of Rose's brother, who has been cashiered from the army and gone to America increases the complications, but listeners must tune in to 4YA and hear for themselves.



MISS MAISIE OTTEY,

who will make her next appearance at 3YA on March 20 as a novelty pianist. Prior to coming to New Zealand she was frequently engaged at 2FC and 2BL, and her orchestra gave regular afternoon performances. For the past thirteen months she has been in Dunedin, supplying the music for the most popular tearoom there. She is now resident in Christchurch, and 3YA listeners will welcome her as an acquisition to the ranks of radio artists.

Federal Radio Commission

Annual Report Criticised

STRONG criticism is descending on the annual report recently submitted to the U.S. Congress by the Federal Radio Commission.

The critics draw attention to the fact that the report contains not a word about the pressing problem of high power, nor a syllable in recognition of the broadcasters' demand for yearly instead of three-monthly licenses. The report is also silent upon what is described as the fundamentally unsound zone system of administering radio by segments of States, regardless of the fact that radio knows no artificial geographical boundaries.

The commission includes among its recommendations a plea for power to penalise offending stations by ordering them "off the air" for 30 days. It refuses to "recognise visual broadcasting as having developed to the point where it has real entertainment value."

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