

# "E Hine te Aroha E"

*Alfred Hill's two new songs, "Sweet Maori Maid" and "Her Little Flaxen Skirt," will be broadcast from 2YA as tenor solos by "Teddy" Hill, the composer's brother, on Monday, November 16. Both words and music were written by Mr. Hill when in Tokaanu some six months ago, but the music has recently been arranged by the author specially for the 2YA Orchestra, which will accompany Mr. "Teddy" Hill. In this article—in the main an interview with Mr. E. J. ("Teddy") Hill—is set out some of the incidents in the celebrated composer's life. They are related from an angle that only an intimate acquaintance can take.*



Alfred Hill.

—S. P. Andrew photo.

**A**LTHOUGH very young, New Zealand has contributed largely to the geni of the world. Our countrymen can be numbered among the writers, poets, scientists, statesmen and musicians who have left the world richer than they found it—men who have helped in no small measure in the evolution of the race. But New Zealanders know little of their great men, and in their ignorance fail to share in the reflected glory that is theirs.

Broadcasting helps considerably. It brings into the home the achievements of these men; it entertains or enlightens us as we sit over our fireside; it compels us to cease even if for a short time the talk about mundane things of life and transports us to the world of these men. It elevates. Broadcasting also brings genius to the fore and gives it the impetus necessary to start it in the right direction.

We knew of Alfred Hill before broadcasting was; but we knew only little of him. That he was a writer of Maori songs we had read in the papers, and some of us were fortunate enough to hear an occasional song, perhaps at the local concert when a party of Maoris were entertaining. We commented on the singular beauty of the melodies and of the words we were able to catch. We knew little more. But broadcasting has changed all that. We hear his famous songs often, and his cantatas have even been broadcast and recorded for us. Who has not heard many of the haunting "Waiatas" of which "Waiata Poi" has become world famous?

But what of the man Alfred Hill himself? Who is he? What is he like? We shall let Mr. E. J. ("Teddy") Hill, his brother, recount a few incidents in the life of his illustrious brother. Mr. E. J. Hill, it may be added, is a well-known Wellington tenor and he will be singing two of his brother's new compositions from 2YA next week.

**M**Y brother is not a New Zealander by birth, but coming to the country at a very early age naturally recognises it as his homeland. He certainly knows no other mother country, and although not now resident here, he frequently returns and disappears into the backblocks to discover some new charm that can be found in New Zealand and in New Zealand alone.

It would not be easy in a small space to set down the story of Alfred's life, but I shall endeavour to recount a few disjointed incidents as they come to mind.

At the age of six Alfred first showed that he was musically precocious. It happened like this. A friend of the family came to the house, bringing with him an instrument he played in the band. You probably have heard it going "um-pah, um-pah," and filling in a sort of background for the other instruments. Our friend had been "um-pahing" for many years, but this is as far as his exposition of the instrument went. Alfred picked it up and in a short time was producing melody—improvising in his own fashion on an instrument that had for many years uttered no sound but "um-pah."

Father decided that the child must learn an instrument, and forthwith he commenced his studies on the cornet. So rapid was the progress he made that in a very short time he was playing glorious full-toned music, and so he graduated to a small orchestra that father led with the violin. He was only about twelve at this stage. Changing a little later to the violin. (Concluded on page 2.)

