

he gave promise of genius and was sent, at the age of sixteen, to Leipzig to study music. He did, but not in the fashion we expected, for he devoted his attention to composition and had several pieces published before he returned to New Zealand.

On his return he became interested in the music of the Maori. More than that, he was interested in the history of that race, and it is probable that this, as well as his aptitude for setting snatches of song to music, that has enabled him to produce the undeniably Maori music he has done. He went back beyond the European sphere and became acquainted intimately with the Maori himself. He made friends with him and talked to him in his own tongue of his glorious past. He learned his song. And then having the atmosphere he used his expert knowledge to write music and song that the Maori is proud to call his own. That really is a great achievement.

His first outstanding success was the cantata "Hinemoa," wherein he set to music the story written by Arthur Adams of Hinemoa. This was performed at the Wellington Industrial Exhibition on November 18, 1896. You will see what I mean when I say Alfred studied the Maori by this excerpt from a letter written by Mr. Tregear, F.R.G.S., the eminent authority on the Maori, on the occasion of the production of "Hinemoa":—

"... I could not have believed that any European music could have so well interpreted the genius of the Maori feeling. The 'Ra-Ha' chorus had all the fire and martial rousing that I have felt stir the blood and light the eye in the Native war dance, while the instrumental effects and love songs were very fine and pathetic—sympatica, ... The man who can make such music as 'Hinemoa' must walk in front of us all."

Alfred went abroad again, and this time spent some time in America—particularly in Minnesota, where his music became famous. He conducted orchestras and led choirs. He was even invited to become the permanent conductor of one of the great philharmonic societies in that State, but he refused. Back in New Zealand there was much to be done—there was more glorious music of the Maori race to be written. And so Alfred returned to write his famous "Waiatas." I might add here that he never, never wrote music without first having the verse. Often he would write this himself, but sometimes it would be done for him. The "Waiatas" and indeed many others of his melodies became widely known. "Waiata Poi," perhaps his best known short work, was introduced into the States some three years ago

in a rather novel fashion. At the "Bowl" in Los Angeles, great conductors of the world were assembled to conduct the symphony orchestra in some work chosen by themselves. Among them was a well-known Australian who chose for his selection "Waiata Poi." The music was broadcast.

The dancing, unquestionably native music became instantly popular, and when it came to a finish the applause was so tremendous that, contrary to



"TEDDY" HILL

is a brother of Alfred Hill. He will sing two new Maori numbers from 2YA shortly.

—S. P. Andrew, photo.

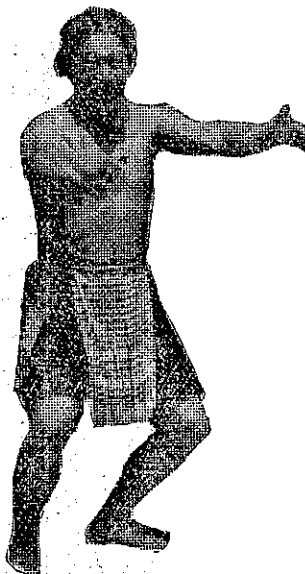
the accepted practice, the orchestra responded to an encore. The announcer, commenting on the fact that the selection had been one of the most popular ones heard in the "Bowl," remarked that America would like to meet the man who could write such music. Surely a tribute to a New Zealander.

Alfred is now resident in Sydney and was last over here some six months

ago preparing the music for a film with a Maori setting. It was while in Tokaanu, on the fringe of Lake Taupo, that he wrote the music and words of the two songs that are to be broadcast for the first time next week.

In these melodies, as in the words, Alfred has again set down the beauties that are to be discovered only in our country and the people that we found here. In "Her Little Flaxen Skirt" he pictures the typical beauty and grace of the Maori maiden. Listen to what he says:—

She's the sweetest and best of Maori girls,  
Full of grace as the poi balls she twirls.  
With her dark raven hair,  
There's none to compare  
With this dear Maori maiden of mine.  
... On the lake where she dwells what beauties rare,  
Wondrous too, are the pools nestling there.  
... But all is naught to me, maiden mine—  
Your eyes are twin lakes whereon I rest.  
... Ane, ane, Maori maid of mine.



And what a word picture of native beauty there is in these few lines from "Sweet Maori Maid":

"... Thy lustrous eyes, that rob the night of splendour,  
They'd blind my gaze if thou wouldst look on me."

... Oh do not fear,  
To have me near,  
God's child, I love but thee.  
And when at eve I ponder oft upon thee,  
And think of all thy pretty little ways.

I thank heaven that sent such beauty to me.

My lovely child, I'll love thee all my days.

E Hine E Kei Wehi Koe—  
Let me kneel before thee,  
Oh do not fear to have me near  
E Hine Te Aroha E!

## Children's Sessions

### AT 2YA.

**Monday, November 9:** Uncle Jeff will have with him to-night the Kindergarten. Children from the Kilbirnie Convent, and they are going to do some of their delightful singing games.

**Tuesday:** Here come the jolly Rongotai College Boys with Uncle Noel in charge. Jumbo will be in the Studio to meet them.

**Wednesday:** Aunt Daisy has a nice story to tell, and some especially small cheerful chirpers who will chirp quite merrily.

**Thursday:** The Technical College pupils to-night will sing choruses. Uncle George and Big Brother Jack will be present.

**Friday:** Listen to-night to Mrs. Mildred Kenny's Juvenile Band. They play on ukuleles, banjos and steel guitars. Uncle Jim will ask some riddles.

**Saturday:** Tweedledum and Tweedledee will conduct the session to-night and will have the pleasure of visiting the Bottom of the Sea with Mrs. Victor Lloyd and her little party. The mermaids will sing, and the lobsters have posted an invitation inviting everyone to afternoon tea.

**Sunday:** The Song Service will be conducted as usual by Uncle George, and the choir work will be done by St. Andrew's Presbyterian Children's Choir, under the leadership of Miss Rodger.

**Mullard**  
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