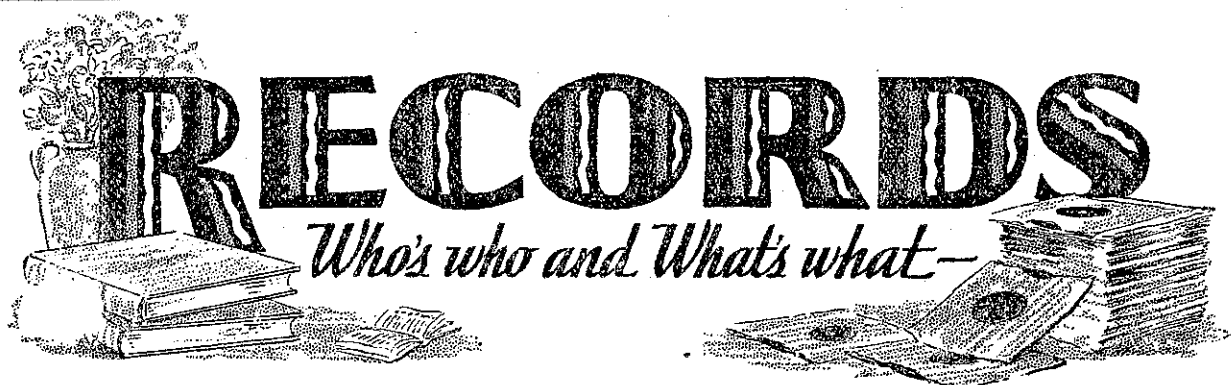


RECORDS

Who's who and What's what—



Records To Buy

(By Bolton Woods)

THIS WEEK'S SELECTION

"*Ave Maria*" (Schubert-Wilhelmj); "Rondo" (Mozart-Kreisler): violin solos by Tossy Spitzakovsky. Parlo. A4416.

"Vespers" (from "When We Were Very Young") (Milne-Fraser-Simpson); "When the House is Asleep" (Pagets-Haig): by John Morel, baritone. Parlo. A3625.

"Lovin' You." by Jack and Claude Hulbert. (H.M.V. B4355).

"Double Damask" and "I'll Give Her a Ring," by Cicely Courtneidge, assisted by Ivor McLaren and Lawrence Green. (H.M.V. B6314).

"Will o' the Wisp" (Cherry), and "The Wolf" (Shield), bass solos, by Norman Allin. (Col. DOX362).

A Failure at First

LIKE many other fine works it failed when at first produced in Moscow in 1870, but gained a footing in later years. The overture is a remarkable study in contrasts, the love songs of the two young characters softly vanish, giving place to the brutal forces of reality with the "fate motive," the motive that typifies the family vendetta, which is later more and more accentuated. The entire orchestra works up to a terrific climax, gradually descending to the depths—and then the stillness of death. An epilogue brings the work to an impressive close.

"Mandalay" Again

GRATEFUL thanks are due to a correspondent "M.L." of Remuera

ago. "Mandalay," along with others of the "Barrack Room Ballads," by Rudyard Kipling, was apparently set to music by Cobb as long ago as 1893. So now we have the names of all four musical composers of "Mandalay"—Gerard F. Cobb, Charles Willeby, Walter W. Hedgcock, and Oley Speaks.

A Double-Voiced Tauber

RATHER sensational is the newest recording of that prince of popular tenors, Richard Tauber. In the most finished style possible he accomplishes the far-from-easy task of singing a duet with himself. The way this is managed is something of a secret so far, but possibly by means of headphones and singing with a reproduction of a recording of one of the parts. This fine achievement has come about. The duets selected for this unusual experiment are Mendelssohn's "I Would That My Love Might Blossom," and Melchert's "Shimmering Silver, Whispering Wave." Listeners will have an opportunity of hearing this remarkable disc on Wednesday, August 9, from Station 2YA. Congratulations to Parlophone on a happy idea successfully consummated. (Parlo. AR222.)

A GIBBORNE correspondent,

"P.D.L.H." requests a brief annotation on Tchaikovsky's Overture *Fantasia*. "Romeo and Juliet," which I give with pleasure. This symphonic poem was first suggested to its composer by his older colleague, Balakirev, who thought Tchaikovsky the very man to make a success of such a work. His idea was to have an introduction something after the style of a chorale, which should present Friar Lawrence. Then a bustling section would tell of the feud between the two families of Montagus and Capulets, and a lyric melody would be the two young lovers. The whole thing was to be worked out in orthodox form and finished with a coda, to represent the death of the two young people.

What is a Dove-eyed Flea?

Madame Winnie Fraser, the brilliant New Zealand dramatic soprano, who made her debut to the Australian radio audiences in a national programme from 2FC (Sydney) last month, tells of an amusing incident which occurred during one of her concerts in the Dominion, says "Wireless Weekly." She was singing an old English song, "The Old COUNTRY," in which were the lines, "Had I the wings of a dove I'd flee." Afterwards she was told by a woman who had been in the audience that her little boy had asked "What is a dove-eyed flea?"

Another anecdote refers to an occasion when Madame was singing with a male choir. One of the latter had to sing "Hurrah for King Charles." With such force did he exclaim "King" that his false teeth shot out, and the result was a very gummy "Charles."



—S. P. Andrew photo.

who writes stating that the fourth musical setting of "Mandalay," that I am in search of, is by Gerard F. Cobb, and was very popular over 30 years

a grocer. "England no longer wants grand opera," Mr. Burke says. "Jazz and the talkies have killed it." So he is going in for business. He has been

Tenor Turns Grocer

ON 1YA'S programme on Saturday, August 12, at 8.12 p.m., Tom Burke is scheduled to sing Di Campa's "O Sole Mio," and the famous Irish folk song, "The Minstrel Boy." In this connection it is impossible to avoid quoting Tom Burke's latest decision to abandon his art and become