

Pages for

Letters from Listeners



Wanted—Unity & Harmony Among Musical People

To the Editor.

Sir,—It was interesting to me to read your report in the "Radio Record" of August 25 of the concert of operatic excerpts given on Wednesday, August 16, from station 4YA. As one of the "women" performers you refer to who were "not entirely at home with a foreign language," I would like to tell you that I feel "entirely at home" in the French language, which I have learned from the time I began to lisp my English, and which I have continued to learn up to the present, and you will pardon



me, sir, for telling you that I also feel "entirely at home" when singing in either German, Italian, or Latin.

In conclusion, let me say if a true unity and harmony could be established among musical people there is nothing in the way of musical progress we could not hope for and accomplish, and with the spirit of good-fellowship, overcome opposition and set up an atmosphere wherein dwells welfare and happiness. In this way the principles of truth and justice will be ever operative, and we shall have found the golden thread which, if followed, will bring us to the goal we desire to reach.—I am, etc.,

Dunedin.

ZEALAND.

Listener Wants to Hear from B Stations

To the Editor.

Sir,—The "Radio Record" is invaluable to all listeners, as a guide to what is best in the programmes of, at any rate, the YA stations. But is it not possible to extend its usefulness by giving also the main features of the B stations? Some of these, when one chances upon them, are quite as interesting as those of the stations under the management of the Broadcasting Board, but one never knows when they will come on the air. Might I suggest that an effort should be made to get these stations to forward to you the dates, hours, and titles of the principal lectures and other specialities which they have arranged, for publication weekly. I am sure that such a system would be welcomed by every reader of your most interesting and useful magazine.—I am, etc.,

Auckland.

PUPUKE.

[We have written repeatedly to the B stations in New Zealand asking them to forward us details of their activities for publication in the "Radio Record." For perhaps a week or two the notes will come

to hand, and then the stations fall back again into their stony silence.—Ed.]

Alfred Graves—Clergyman or School Inspector?

To the Editor.

Sir,—In your issue dated September 1, a correspondent signing himself "Hope I'm Right," is quite right, as Alfred Percival Graves, the author of "Father O'Flynn," was never a clergyman. He was inspector of schools, his father being Bishop of Limerick; probably that explains how A. P. Graves got his ecclesiastical title. He married my first cousin, Janet Cooper, about 1875. I knew him very well when I was a boy about that period.—I am, etc.,

ROBERT HEARD.

Auckland.

A Middle Course Between "Highbrow" and Jazz

To the Editor.

Sir,—Isn't there a middle course between the broadcasting of "high-brow" music and the treatment of jazz, ukulele items, and steel guitar strumming that would meet the interests of the lovers of each? For my own part, jazz and these stringed instruments are a torture to me, and in the interests of my nerves I always have to switch them off, but I am bound to recognise that to some people they are the acme of enjoyable music. Could it not be arranged, then, as regards the YA stations, that one in each island should, on certain evenings, give itself up wholly to jazz and the metal strings, while the other two should give nothing but serious music of one kind and another? In such case the "jazz-ites" could have a thorough blow-out of the stuff they prefer, while the lovers of classical music could enjoy standard symphonies, sonatas, operas, and the better class of compositions. Everybody could tune in to the class of items that suit him, and everybody should be satisfied. It seems to me that that would be an excellent compromise.—I am, etc.,

MUSIC-LOVER.

Takapuna, Auckland.

No Programme Invented Can Please Everyone

To the Editor.

Sir,—To an observant reader there is something of the ludicrous in many of the letters printed each week in your journal. I refer more especially to those letters written by listeners who spend the first half of their space in scolding most severely those people who dare to criticise the programmes provided by the stations, and who spend the rest of their time in little grumbles of their own.

Nothing can be more certain than that no programme ever invented by man can please everybody in its entirety. Human tastes must differ, and all human preferences must be, to a certain extent, mutually antagonistic. This is, I imagine, largely due to the differences in all listeners'

musical education.

There will always be the classic v. jazz argument until such time as all people possess good musical education.

Those who vilify the classics as dull, monotonous and boring simply do not understand them. They are not educated up to them. Jazz, of course, has its uses, as does light fiction. Both provide relaxation. It is quite possible to enjoy both jazz and classical music, but each has a separate purpose.

In this respect I have a suggestion to offer. In my opinion it is an aesthetic crime to have classical items and jazz in close juxtaposition. One destroys the atmosphere of the other; both are necessary, but should not clash. I suggest that the Australian scheme be followed, and when classical items are given to have this class of music for 20 minutes or so, and then an equal period of some other music in contrast. If all programmes were like this and not just a mixture of warring items, I think the result would be found to please everybody.—I am, etc.,

FIAT LUX.

Thames.

Jesse Crawford Looks Like a Woman on the Screen!

Sir,—In reply to "Interested" (Gisborne), "Peter the Hermit" (Auckland), "S.H.P." (Gore), and "Wurlitzer Wizard" (Wellington), on the subject wheth-



er or not Jesse (Jessie) Crawford is a male—I have seen Jesse Crawford (female) playing in the pictures, and I am perfectly sure that "he" is a woman.

"Interested" (Gisborne) must have mistaken someone else for Jessie Crawford.—I am, etc.,

SUPPORTER OF JESSIE.

A Correspondent Has Found the "Perfect Announcer"

To the Editor.

Sir,—Judging from the letter of a previous correspondent, "Antonio," it appears that in searching for the "perfect announcer" he has apparently failed to "tune in" to station 3YA. He said that he would back Clive Drummond against anyone, but surely anybody who has ever had the pleasure of listening to Mr. Cur-