

'The wild zeal of youth' and fidelity to the classical traditions he had imbibed at Leipzig, had set Alfred Hill on the path of an itinerant musician. The Musin tour unexpectedly came to an end in Sydney when audiences fell away to nothing and Musin disbanded the Company. Thereafter Alfred moved backwards and forwards across the Tasman, until in 1915 he became first Professor of Composition at the newly-formed Conservatorium of Music in Sydney.

A provincial microcosm? Perhaps, but these patterns of musical activity, emulation of and concern for the standards of Europe, of laconic quarrelsome Minute Books, of the worship of overseas artists of doubtful provenance, of struggling for artistic principles, are both major and minor themes in a still evolving music history.

REFERENCES

- 1 Wellington Orchestral Society, *Minute Book*, 1890-95. ATL MS WEL 1890-95.
- 2 In conversation with J. M. Thomson, Sydney, 1960.
- 3 Meeting of 16 January 1891.
- 4 *Evening Post*, 18 January 1892, p. 2.
- 5 *New Zealand Times*, 6 February 1892, p. 2.
- 6 *New Zealand Times*, 24 March 1892, p. 2.
- 7 *New Zealand Times*, 15 March 1892, p. 3.
- 8 Meeting of 1 July 1892.
- 9 Meeting of 29 July 1892.
- 10 *Evening Post*, 12 April 1893.
- 11 *Triad*, v. 2 no. 9, 15 December 1894, p. 14.
- 12 De Kontski, whose real name was Katski, came from a Polish family of musicians. He was born in Cracow on 27 October 1817 and died in Novgorod, Lithuania, on 7 December 1899.
- 13 Report in the *New Zealand Times*, 24 October 1896. (p. 2) quoting from an interview with de Kontski 'in a southern paper'. On these slender foundations de Kontski's manager created a myth: 'When he is gone there will probably be no Living man capable of showing the world how Beethoven played his music'.
- 14 Sir G. Grove, *Grove's Dictionary of Music*, 5th ed., edited by Eric Blom (London, 1954) v. 4 p. 820-21; entry also in 4th ed.
- 15 T. Baker, *Baker's Biographical Dictionary of Musicians*, 6th ed., revised by Nicolas Slonimsky (New York, 1978) p. 912.
- 16 Report from Wellington dated 25 October 1896, published in the *Triad* v. 4 no. 8, 2 November 1896, p. 23.
- 17 *New Zealand Times*, 9 October 1896, p. 3.
- 18 *Ibid.*
- 19 *Evening Post*, 10 October 1896, p. 5.
- 20 *New Zealand Times*, 10 October 1896, p. 2.
- 21 *Ibid.*
- 22 *New Zealand Times*, 12 October 1896, p. 2.
- 23 *Triad*, 2 November 1896, p. 23.