

Radio, Recordings Held Aid In Study of New Music

Composer Explains Problems Facing Audiences In Understanding Contemporary Pieces

By HENRY BUTLER

It takes a modern composer to discuss modern music. Roy Harris, eminent American composer now in town for the Indianapolis Symphony's Pension Fund concert tomorrow night, convincingly explains the difficulty audiences have in understanding contemporary compositions.

"Concert audiences are conditioned to 19th-Century romantic music with all its repetition of themes and its easily understood harmonic structure. It's just as if the reading public were conditioned only to mid-Victorian novels and had trouble understanding anything written more recently," Mr. Harris observed.

Conducts Rehearsal

He talked to me yesterday at the Murat after conducting a strenuous rehearsal of his new work, "The Quest," especially commissioned by Fabien Sevitzky last year and composed last September, which will have a world premier under Mr. Harris' direction at tomorrow's concert.

"Music lags behind the other arts in popular appreciation because it is instantaneous. You hear it, and it's gone. You can't contemplate it," Mr. Harris said.

Radio and, still better, recordings help people to study new music until they like it. Unfortunately, both radio and recordings have tended to repeat endlessly the familiar concert-hall repertoire. "Mechanical devices of musical distribution have gone far ahead of our understanding of music," Mr. Harris observed.

Cites Radio Listeners

The American symphony audience is still only about 10 per cent of the population. Mr. Harris believes, citing the estimated 13 million listeners to New York Philharmonic broadcasts.

What about the great majority whose only music comes from radio, juke-box, movies and dance bands? Mr. Harris thinks they could and should be reached by serious music. "After all, our national experience is not just 57 varieties of 'I Love You'—sometimes not, sometimes blue," he says. "Like other nations, we too have destiny, sorrow and suffering."

Mr. Harris' "The Quest" will be one of the more serious items on tomorrow's program, which also will feature the Dorsey Brothers as soloists and guest conductors and the Tommy Dorsey band.

A Restless Quest

What I heard of it in rehearsal yesterday confirmed Mr. Harris' own description of it. He calls it a musical expression of the endless seeking and never finding, the restless quest most human beings now experience, which he terms "one of the great characteristics of modern life."

It's not dissonant in the wild and wilful manner of early modern music. It illustrates some new theories of harmony Mr. Harris is incorporating into a book on harmony which will be published late next fall or winter.

Among other things, Mr. Harris now is working on a violin concerto, commissioned by the Cleveland Orchestra, and a Seventh Symphony, commissioned by the Boston Symphony.



Arrested by FBI In 'Hot Car' Ring

Kentuckian Caught In Six-State Roundup

A Kentucky man arrested by FBI agents at Noblesville yesterday as part of a six-state stolen car ring was to be returned to Louisville today.

The prisoner, Edward Thompson, 25, of Golden Pond, Ky., was charged with violation of the National Motor Vehicle Act, which makes it unlawful to transport stolen cars across a state line.

The ring, which operated in southern Indiana and five other states, is said to have sold more than 40 cars with illegal Tennessee license plates.

Twelve other members of the gang have been picked up in Kentucky and other states. The ring is said to have netted \$70,000 from car sales in eight months.

A warrant for Thompson's arrest was sent here by the FBI office in Louisville.

Snoring Betrays YWCA Prowler

TERRE HAUTE, Jan. 28 (UPI)—Police today hunted a young prowler whose loud snores gave him away last night when he fell asleep under a girl's bed at the YWCA.

The prowler's intended victim, Mary Snodgrass, 22, heard the snoring as she was climbing into bed in her second-story room.

The girl's screams for help woke up the sleepy prowler and he fled down the fire escape.

Authorities found seven pieces of rope which police said the man probably had planned to use to tie up the girl. The snoozer also left behind a pair of heavy black overshoes.

Shutoff Shuts Up

OLEAN, N. Y., Jan. 28 (UPI)—K. C. Wilson said today he thought he was the only person in town who did not complain to the gas company about a two-hour gas shutoff in near zero weather. Mr. Wilson is the company's district manager.

AYRES' DOWNSTAIRS STORE

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Half-Size Dress of Spun Rayon

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Half Sizes 16 1/2 to 24 1/2



Here's an old favorite with new interpretations . . . the popular coat dress in practical spun rayon. This season it features a longer, slightly flared skirt with front pleats, a tucked yoke back for easy action, a convertible neckline that's easy to accessorize, and pretty metal buttons. You'll want it in your wardrobe!

FASHION DRESSES—Downstairs at AYRES



Woman's Tailored Blouse

by "Fruit-of-the-Loom"

\$3.00

Sizes 40 to 46

If you're a woman who is hard to fit . . . here's the ever-popular classic blouse in sizes you will wear with ease. Of soft rayon crepe, in white, pink, blue and maize.

BLOUSES—Downstairs at AYRES

Irregulars "Real Silk" Outsize Silk Stockings

\$1.00

Full-Fashioned

A new shipment from our own Indianapolis "Real Silk" Hosiery Mills . . . full outsize stockings of pure silk with cotton hem and cotton reinforced feet. Choose from smart colors for Spring . . . sizes 9 1/2 to 11.

HOSIERY—Downstairs at AYRES



Medium heel pump with dainty punched trim. Black only. AA-A-B widths. \$3.95

Gypsey tie with perforated trim. Black only. A-B-C widths. \$3.95

Low heel oxford with stitched trim. Black only. A-B-C widths. \$3.95

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28, 1948
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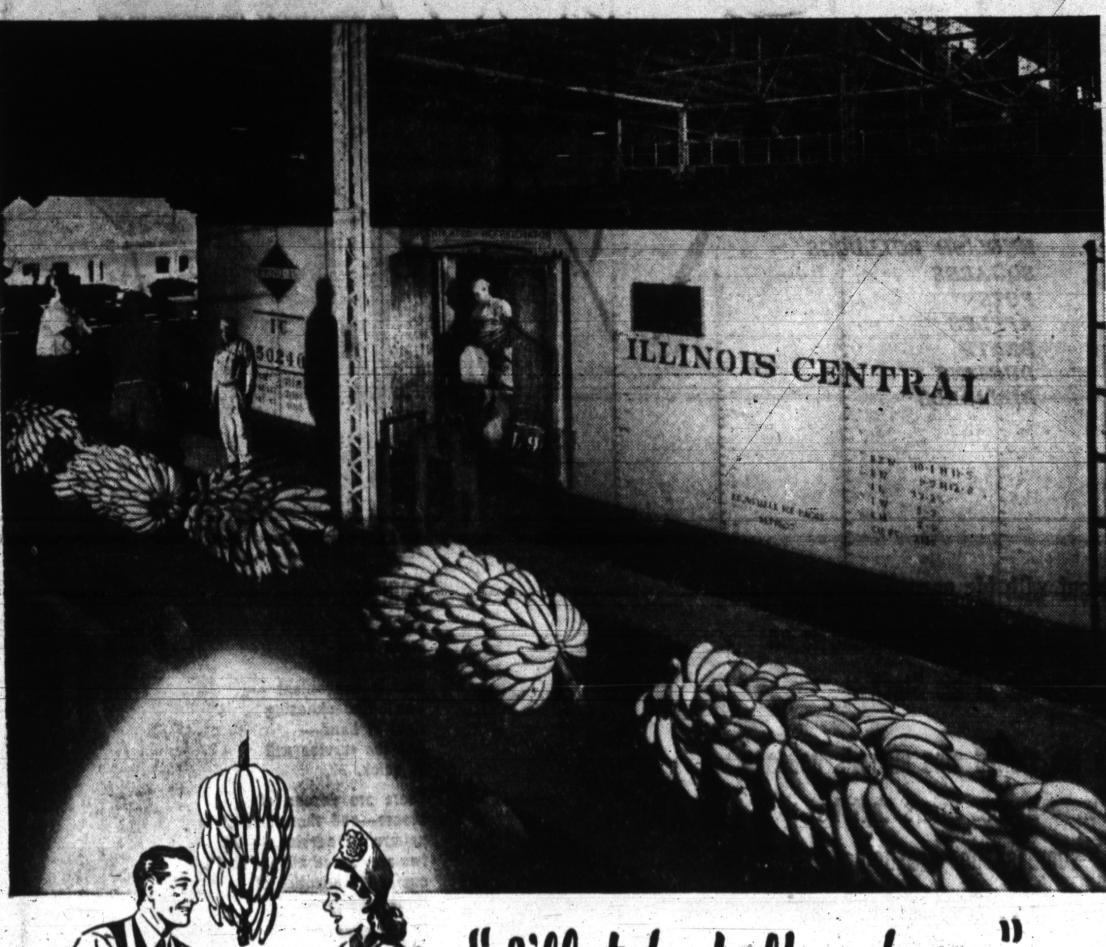
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"I'll take half a dozen"

Aladdin's fastest lamp-rubbing never matched the swift magic of these five homely words. Quick as your pointing finger, they conjure bananas from tropical plantations, breakfast cereals from the prairies, meats from the plains, shrimp from the Gulf. Your grocer performs this daily miracle of varied plenty, not with mirrors, but with a deft assist from another local citizen—the Illinois Central. Last year the Illinois Central delivered a billion and a quarter pounds of bananas so that you and millions of other neighborhood shoppers could point a finger and say, "I'll take half a dozen!"

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W. A. JOHNSTON, President