

ANZAC SONGSTERS WILL GRACE MUSIC FESTIVAL

Florence Austral and Horace Stevens Secured for Important Roles Next Month

Two of England's greatest singers, both of whom are in reality Australians, are to take leading parts in the North Shore Music Festival, May 23 to 28. These are Horace Stevens, baritone, and Florence Austral, soprano, both of whom have won international fame on the concert stage.

The career of Mr. Stevens contains much of the spectacular and the unexpected, for he did not originally intend to devote himself to music. Fate, in the form of the fortunes of war, played a part in landing him on the concert stage. Mr. Stevens was a soldier and was invalided to England from France where he had taken active part in the fighting. When he had regained his health he began casting about for something to do and it was during this period that Sir Henry Wood heard him sing. The noted conductor showed immediate interest and urged Mr. Stevens to study seriously and to prepare himself for concert appearances. A period of careful preparation followed and then came phenomenal successes, such as have seldom been accomplished by any singer on the English stage.

Best Elijah

Mr. Stevens has been acclaimed as the greatest interpreter of "Elijah" who has appeared in England. He has also won similar success in Vaughan Williams' "Sea Symphony," in which much prominence is given to the baritone part. He will be heard in "Elijah," May 23 at the North Shore Festival; and in the "Sea Symphony" May 26, when that much-talked-of work will be heard for the first time in the United States.

The unexpected also plays a part in the career of Miss Austral who lived in a part of Australia where she could not hear high class music, in fact, she never heard an opera until 1918. She had sung some songs and ballads at charity and church affairs and, just for the fun of it, entered the Ballarat competition music festival held at Victoria, New South Wales, where she was then living. The adjudicator was Fritz Hart, director of the Melba conservatory. When he heard Miss Austral sing he said: "You are a Brunnhilde." "What's that?" was her reply, for she had never heard of Wagner.

Best Brunnhilde

Miss Austral then studied at the conservatory, in Melbourne, for eighteen months, following this with courses in London. The forecast of the director who called her a Brunnhilde came true for she made her debut in the part in 1922 and has sung it many times since, in addition to appearing in other great operatic roles. On the concert stage she has appeared in every town of any size in England.

Miss Austral is a favorite with Evanston music lovers. She will be heard in the "Sea Sypmhony," together with Mr. Stevens and the chorus when this notable novelty is presented.

Dr. and Mrs. Herbert L. Willett, 319 Richmond road, are returning to Kenilworth today after spending the winter in Tucson, Arizona and California. Dr. Willett expects to deliver a sermon on Sunday at the Kenilworth Union church.

Mrs. Grant Ridgway, 207 Cumberland avenue, Kenilworth entertained her bridge club at luncheon on Tuesday.

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