

the small number of works ever registered is that after four years only twenty items appear.

The music itself consists chiefly of popular songs varying in subject from the patriotic through romantic to sporting. There are also a number of piano solos but instrumental writing is limited to obligato accompaniments. On the whole the music is not technically of a very high level—it is however immensely illustrative in its portrayal of society of the time and at its best provides clear examples of the parlour-room entertainment that was so important. The period up to 1901 includes the Boer War and a number of fiercely patriotic songs are included stressing the link of New Zealand to Britain and the Empire. What may now make us intolerant of the colonial sentiment does not in any way detract from its relevance to those for whom it was written. Similarly the naiveté or effusive content which now easily attracts ridicule should be considered in context. There can be no denying that they are not great works but none-the-less they are some of the material from which New Zealand's musical identity is formed.

The titles of the works give a good indication of their styles. Thus we have *Our Bykes and We*, *Brave Old Pioneers*, the *Huia Waltz* and the *Maori Haka Rondoletto* to name but a few. *Our Bykes and We* (music by C. Algar, words by A. Booth) would appear to be a typical parlour song written by two middle-class women for their own enjoyment. The words now seem almost a caricature of Victoriana. The piano accompaniment is simple and predictable and the final verse leads into a four-part chorus—presumably so that all those gathered around the piano could join in.

Our little bykes are trim and neat;
Their tyres are firm and strong,
Their lamps send forth a brilliant light,
Their bells ring fast and long;
Then onward speed our tireless steed
(Nor rest nor feed takes he)
O'er hill and dale, o'er flat and plain;
A merry band are we.

CHORUS:

Are we not all fairies,
Speeding swift on wing
Through the air so gaily
Brightly thus we sing!

A second example, *Brave Old Pioneers* is quite a different work, being a serious tribute to the pioneers of New Zealand. The composer, George Garry of New Plymouth, seems to have been involved in music as a commercial enterprise as he sold the