

Evening Despatch 9th May 1934

THE MUSIC THE KING LIKED

Ketelbey's "Cockney Suite"

REPEATED OVERTURE

Birmingham-Born Composer

One of the happiest men in England today is Albert W Ketelbey, the Birmingham-born composer, whose work earned the praise of the King at last night's Royal command variety performance.

The "State procession" overture from Mr Ketelbey's "Cockney Suite" was played before the King's arrival at the London Palladium, and His Majesty asked specially that it should be repeated at the interval. The King and Queen remained in the Royal box and listened to the work with great pleasure.

Mr Ketelbey, who was not at the theatre last night, said today "It was very gracious indeed of the King, and I am naturally delighted.

Aspects of London

Though born in Birmingham I have lived in London for about 30 years. I have soaked myself in the atmosphere of London life, and I thought it a good idea to compose a suite of various aspects of London.

It is not new work but was composed some years ago. The choice of the first cameo was not difficult. The "State Procession" depicts the progress of their Majesties from Buckingham Palace to open Parliament and I have tried to convey the various scenes and sounds on the route.

Only the Procession was played last night.

The next cameo I call "Cockney Lover" in which I have elaborated upon the whistling of "half a pint of mild and bitter" then comes an impression of a "Palais de Danse."

Passing the Cenotaph

The next is a very solemn elegy expressing thoughts on passing the Cenotaph. I consider this one of my best pieces. The last is Bank Holiday at "Appy 'Ampstead". I have lived at Hampstead and I have keenly observed the holiday scenes there. The piece mingles the sound of fair organs and roundabouts and introduces such tunes as "Do not trust him, gentle maiden" as they might be played by a cornet player standing at the street corner.

They are all typical Cockney scenes as I have observed them and it is very gratifying to know that one of them has pleased their Majesties."