

3 Germans Moulded School Of Music

A strong German influence which moulded the first 50 years of the Nelson School of Music will still be present when the school celebrates its 75th anniversary and re-opening this month.

A "Grand March" composed by Mr Julius Lemmer, principal of the school from 1899 to 1944, has been discovered in the school's archives by the conductor of the School of Music Orchestra, F. Clayton Oxley, who has scored an incomplete piano part and finished several other parts for presentation.

The march, a stirring piece, will open the two public concerts given by the orchestra on July 11 and 16 as part of the festival.

"I hope I have kept it as Mr Lemmer intended it to be played," said Mr Oxley.

The school was founded in 1894 following the arrival in Nelson the previous year of Mr Michael Bailing who taught various branches of music and conducted the Nelson Harmonic Society.

He succeeded from the beginning in arousing a wide interest in music, and when he urged the establishment of a school of music in the town a few months after his arrival, his proposal was adopted with enthusiasm by a public meeting convened by the Mayor, Francis Trask on February 27, 1894.

With liberal subscriptions the school was opened in June in rooms behind the former Harmonic Hall in Trafalgar Square—now part of Nelson Breweries Ltd 1970.

The steady growth of the school, first under Mr Bailing (1893-95), then under Mr Handke (1896-98) and thereafter under Mr Julius Lemmer soon made demands for more adequate accommodation.

An appeal to the 7000 citizens of Nelson again met a liberal response and in 1900 the trustees of the school

in conjunction with the Harmonic Society, erected the present brick building with concert hall and a number of teaching rooms for a little more than 5000 pounds. The site was presented by Mr J. H. Cock.

HEATED MEETING

So strong was the anti-German feeling even in New Zealand following World War I that in 1918 more than 100 citizens of Nelson City attended the annual meeting of the Nelson School of Music to "oust" the German-born principal, Mr Julius Lemmer, from his post.

Mr Lemmer who had arrived in Nelson in the late 1890s had by then given 19 years of valuable service to the musical life of the city. His eldest son had been killed in action—fighting with the N.Z.E.F.

The strong feeling forced an election for trustees of the school—one of only two contested elections in its history.

Four new candidates were nominated, but after a heated meeting the old trustees were returned by a comfortable majority and Mr Lemmer was confirmed as principal—an office he continued to hold for a further 26 years till his honourable retirement in 1944.

In its early years, the school, as a teaching institution issued a diploma, conferring the right to use the letters L.N.S.M. (Licentiate

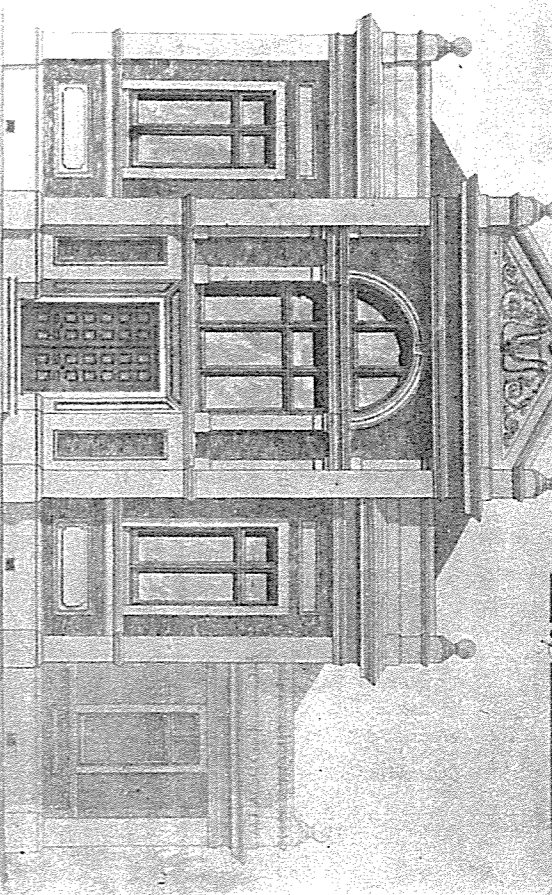
of the Nelson School of Music) for which a three-year course was prescribed.

The Nelson shipping agent and benefactor Thomas Cawthron donated 2500 pounds to the school's building fund and in 1913 presented the school with its three-

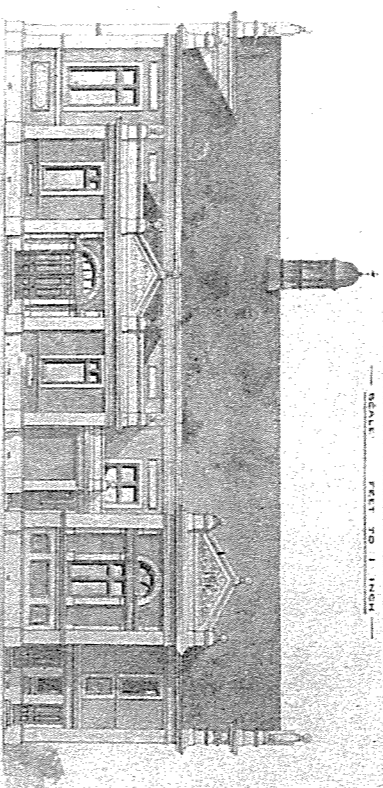
born in Altona, Germany, where he received his musical education. He left his country for Australia and eventually settled in Nelson when he was 21.

He made a long and outstanding contribution to the life of Nelson and is still remembered by many.

School of Music Nelson N.Z.



COLLINGWOOD STREET ELEVATION



NILE STREET ELEVATION

Early drawings of the Nile Street and Collingwood fronts of the School of Music.

manual organ costing 1800 pounds. For many years the Nelson Cathedral organist, Mr H. S. Claughton, taught on this organ.

During all these years Julius Lemmer was principal of the school until his retirement in 1944. He was

Mr F. G. Gibbs also gave long service to the school. From the inaugural meeting in 1895 until 1951 he served as a trustee and for almost all that time was the board's honorary secretary.

Until 1950 the School of Music teaching staff provided most of the teaching services since developed by the Nelson colleges themselves.

Julius Lemmer was succeeded by Mr T. J. Kirk-Burnand from 1944 to 1946 and Mr Alfred Dixon from 1947 to 1953.

Mr H. Colombatti was appointed principal in 1953 and has extended and re-organised the teaching side of the school since then.

In 1955 an agreement was made between the Nelson City Council and the School of Music whereby the trustees gave the organ and the hall to the city, which undertook to maintain the building. The trustees retained the right to use the building for teaching music.

STRENGTHENING

In 1968 the auditorium built to the building code of 1900 was closed while the walls were strengthened, copings removed and gables replaced by hip roofs at either end to meet the more demanding and earthquake-conscious code of the 1970s.

The grand festival concert on July 11 will mark not only the 75th year of the school's

service but also the re-opening following the alterations.

The building will be officially re-opened by the Mayor, Mr T. F. Horne. The chairman of trustees, Mr R. B. Raine, will speak during the formal part of the

ceremony which will also be attended by the chairman of the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council, Mr W. N. Sheat, of Wellington, and the Arts Council's director, Mr David Peters.

The School of Music Orchestra will be conducted by Mr Oxley with leader Richard Harris. Besides Julius Lemmer's "Grand March", the programme will include Symphonic Variations for piano and orchestra by Cesar Franck with Nelson soloist Theina Robinson.

This programme will be repeated on Thursday, July 16. A young people's concert by students of the school will also be presented on Sunday, July 12.

The festival in the school will conclude on July 18 with a recital by the overseas artists Maureen Jones (piano) and Ladislav Jasek (violin) under the auspices of the Nelson Chamber Music Society.

\$10,000

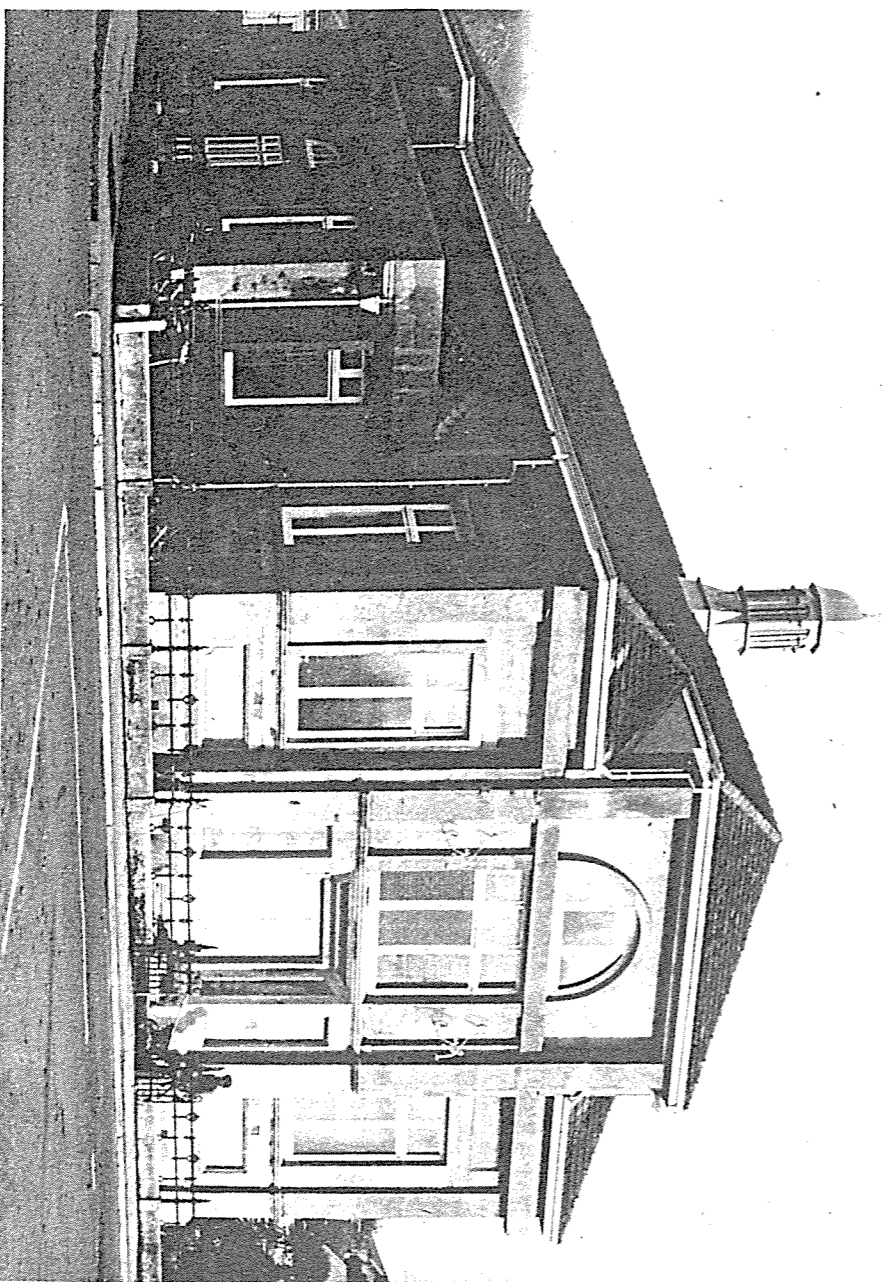
A Year

WELLINGTON, July 4 — A total of 6695 persons in the year ended March 31, 1969 earned more than \$10,000 a year the Minister of Finance, Mr Muldoon, told Parliament yesterday.

Their total gross earnings were \$100.1 million.

Mr Muldoon was replying to a question from Mr R. O. Douglas (Lab., Manukau).

The New Look



This picture was taken recently on completion of the renovations.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY
Nelson Public Library

V.F

Historic Buildings,
Nelson