

Only Siamese Musician

Intermezzo, the second work on the radio program, was composed by Prasidh Silapabanlong, who is the only Siamese musician who received a thorough musical education in Japan.

Mr. Silapabanlong was graduated from the courses of composition and orchestra direction of The Tokyo Academy of Music in 1937, and upon his return to Bangkok he was engaged as composer and conductor in the services of the Royal Fine Arts Department.

His Intermezzo is a short and intimate piece of music, strongly expressive of delicate romantic feelings, and is extremely well composed and effectively set for a small orchestra, showing the composer's high standard of musical ability and skill.

The Siamese Royal March was written by Klaus Pringsheim on the occasion of the recent visit to his country by the young King Ananda Mahidol of Siam, when His Majesty returned to interrupt his studies in Switzerland. His Majesty graciously accepted Prof. Pringsheim's dedication of the composition of this march, which has since become the Siamese Royal March.

The piece is composed in the manner of a festive march, opening with a solemn introductory part, similar to a hymn, and it could be imagined that Siamese words be written to the melody of this introduction to form a "Siamese Royal Hymn" similar to the Imperial Hymn in Richard Wagner's Imperial March (Kaiser marsch). Also the melodic material used in the Siamese March is based on the pentatonic scale.

The Main section of the march is of militant, transporting marching rhythm, and this rhythm is kept up even where complicated musical forms, such as fugue parts, are introduced. In spite of such compositoric feats, the march is of outwardly simple form, of broad popular effect, and its colorful instrumentation makes it a brilliant work for festive occasions.

Tokyo Unde was added to this program, because the present arrangement for Western orchestra was especially made for a Siam-Japanese program given in Bangkok in the presence of His Majesty the King.