

## EVAN SENIOR

The founder and editor of two British classical music magazines – *Music and Musicians*, and *Records and Recordings*, along with another monthly, *Music Magazine*, Evan Senior was born in Adelaide in 1907. His passion for music developed at an early age, and according to the Adelaide Jewish Museum "he produced operas on the stage of a nursery toy theatre." He studied music during his childhood and teens but was forced by his father to undertake a law degree at university. Two years later he returned to music, however, through broadcasting on the ABC. At 19 he was the youngest musical director in Australia.

Seniors name has first been connected to a children's party given by Mr and Mrs Alfred Scott at their Adelaide residence in 1921, and at which he is believed to have played the piano as part of the entertainment (MA: 16 Apr. 1921, 12). Some four years later he was a guest and possibly accompanist at another private event – an "At Home" put on by Miss Betty Saunders (AA: 20 Aug. 1924, 6).

Senior's early professional career saw him employed as a programme director and announcer by Adelaide radio station 5DN in 1926 (RA: 31 May 1927, 7). The following year he gave evidence at a Royal Commission of inquiry into problems faced by wireless broadcasters in relation to royalties. According to the Adelaide *Register* Senior "offered to procure written statements showing that the broadcasting of copyright music was an advertisement and assisted the composer" (28 June 1927, 10).

In December 1931 Senior's musical comedy, *On the Air* became the first Australia radio play to be written and produced for broadcast by the ABC. Its popularity in South Australia was such that it was re-broadcast two times by 5CL the following year (AA: 2 Apr. 1932, 11). Another of his comedies, *Appointment at Nine* (a one-act comedy) was also broadcast by the station in 1932 (AA: 14 May 1932, 11). In 1936 he wrote drama and music criticism for the *Adelaide News*, and in 1947 went to Britain as the representative of the *Australian Musical News*. He was later the music critic for the magazine *Dance and Dancers* before founding the two classical music monthlies with which his name is now largely linked.

In late 1969 Senior undertook the position of classical editor for *Music Business Weekly* and in 1971 was appointed to the same position with Record and Tape Retailer. Among his other publications as editor are *The Concert Goer's Annual* series.



Source: Adelaide Jewish Museum