

• Weekly
music notes —
by NADRA
PENALURICK.

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Love of music brings reward



Dr. Black

Dr. John Black, senior lecturer in agronomy at Waite Agricultural Research Institute, is also a musician.

He has an enthusiasm — and ability — for bringing out the very best in musical people, generally.

His belief that the more one puts into his subject, the more one reaps in the way of personal satisfaction is being proved in the results achieved by him in recent months.

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In addition, his players have formed the orchestra for productions of the SA National Opera Company, which will begin its four-night season of La Traviata in Norwood Town Hall on October 14.

John Black's musical career began when he was ten with the study of the flute. At school at Rugby he reaped the benefit of experience under a fine musical life.

Harmony, counterpoint, composition, orchestration — all were part of the musical background the young flautist was building for himself.

Then came the war. John Black entered the Air Force and musical studies were forgotten.

Six years away from the pursuits of ordinary life changed his young ambition for the life of a conductor of opera and his interest centred around the farm.

At Oxford, he gained first class honors in agriculture and for his doctorate of philosophy submitted a thesis on the growth of plant life.

Opera group

While at Oxford, he became president of the Oxford University Music Society and always played for the University Opera Group as principal flautist.

During these six years, he built up a wide musical knowledge. He played in over 100 amateur and professional concerts — chamber music, solo, and orchestral—but always with the strong desire to direct an orchestra himself, purely as an amateur.

Immediately following this period, he and his English wife came to Adelaide.

His unique knowledge of nineteenth century opera soon became apparent here. — Nadra