

Classical Music

By Peter Shaw

If you want to know what's happening in New Zealand music right now you couldn't do better than investigate the two latest discs from Trust CDs.

★ *Warriors From Pluto*, (MMT2036) features Gareth Farr, probably this country's most well known classical composer, the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra Chamber Orchestra conducted by Marc Decio Taddei and percussion group Strike. Farr's percussionist background and interest in indigenous musical material gives his work (two of the five pieces) a particularly strong New Zealand flavour. *Te Parenga* is the highly evocative incidental music he composed for performances of Bruce Mason's *End of the Golden Weather* given in 2000.

Nga Tai Hurihuri (The Changing Tides) features the voices of Deborah Wai Kapohe and Aroha Priest and an orchestra of marimba, maracas, bongos, cymbals and two stations of tam-tams. Its rhythmical energy is typical of Farr's music.



★ Also new is *Landscapes*, (MMT 2037) which would make an ideal gift for anyone wanting to hear contemporary New Zealand orchestral music in first class up to date performances. Played by the NZSO under Kenneth Young, it begins with Douglas Lilburn's familiar Drysdale Overture and includes compositions associated with the New Zealand landscape by Lyell Cresswell, Maria Grenfell, David Hamilton, Martin Lodge, Ross Harris and Anthony Ritchie.

The accompanying booklet features landscape paintings from Leo Bensemann, Bill Hammond, Dick Frizzell, Toss Woollaston and, on the cover, Michael Illingworth. ■