

NEW BAND FOR 2YA

Conductor Started With The Fire-Screen



FREDDIE GORE

The phase was not a passing one



MARION WAITE

Girl from Detroit, who sings with the band

WHEN jazz music first became popular in New Zealand and the tap-drummer in the dance band was a spectacular and decorative as well as noisy figure, countless youths drove their parents to distraction by their imitative efforts. The favourite implement was a table knife on a tin tray. Some insisted on showing their virtuosity in restaurants, with rhythmic taps on the milk jug, the sauce bottle, cup, saucer, and plate, with visions, perhaps, of appearing eventually on the band dais at a cabaret.

This type of drummer, happily, was gradually subdued until he took his rightful place as an adjunct to the other instruments, with the exception, of course, of the solo drummer, whose juggling with the sticks is part of some bands' attraction.

When symptoms of the jazz fever first overtook Freddie Gore, conductor of a new dance band which will present the first of a series of weekly broadcasts from 2YA on July 12 at 8 p.m., they

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had more. In both Christchurch and Wellington there were only two complete misses in the 17 years—two years in which the week of the shortest day contained no fine days at all. And again, in both cities there were two out of 17 years in which the week contained six fine days. Of the years shown as blanks above, several in each case had single fine days in the week in question. With regard to the last five years in Christchurch note that this year's figures hadn't come to hand—also NB that 1944 was a "near miss"—it would have scraped in if one day had had a little more sun—this was probably the fault of the cloud seen in our illustration.

At any rate, it looks as if you have every chance of getting two fine days in 11 years out of 17 if you live in Wellington, or 8 years out of 16 if you live in Christchurch. If fine, as our theorist likes to say, the odds are with him.

were in the form, so he told *The Listener*, of fire-screen drumming at home.

With many this was a passing phase, but Mr. Gore took it seriously, becoming one of the original members of the band which played at the Centennial Exhibition in 1940. The new 2YA band is a standard 12-piece combination which will give, in its sessions of 20 minutes each, items from the American "Hit Parade," a weekly radio feature containing the ten best tunes of the day. Lawrence Tibbett has been heard in this American presentation.

From drums Mr. Gore took up the guitar, string bass, and piano. Believing in versatility, he then turned to the trombone, and eventually took up scoring. In his view a dance band can be "made" by acquiring an individual style in its arrangements. Just before the war he visited England and France to hear famous bands such as those led by Ambrose and Jack Hylton. On return to New Zealand he was in the Army for a period and later was engaged in Auckland, conducting.

Towards the Symphonic Stage

Jazz, he said, is now moving towards the symphonic stage and is being played overseas with 40-piece bands with as many as 10 to 18 violins. They are building up the string section with great effect. New Zealand has some fine jazz musicians, but there is no one here to bring them on and encourage them.

Jazz players will be interested to hear that Mr. Gore picks his band members from the ranks of comparatively unknown players, in order, he says, that he may mould them into an orchestra conforming to his own ideas, and cure them of the habit of being individualistic players. Players in a band, he considers, must work for the good of the whole.

The vocalist for the new band will be Marion Waite, formerly of Detroit, who was recently interviewed by *The Listener*.



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