

Voices for Export

"NO, I'm not really excited now, because I have waited so long. Ever since I left school in 1939, I have wanted to go to England, but the war prevented that. Still, I am looking forward to the voyage, by Suez, and the life in London."

Rosaleen Hickmott, a young Wellington soprano, who has been awarded a scholarship at Trinity College, and who will leave this month to study singing with Albert Garcia, is quite calm about it all. "You see," she said, when a *Listener* representative interviewed her the other day, "the element of surprise is no longer there—but it will be a thrill when I start my lessons in London." She is young and attractive and already her singing has greatly pleased critics in New Zealand.

We asked her if, when she felt herself sufficiently experienced to tour, she proposed to revisit New Zealand. "Yes," she said. "I hope to do well enough to come back, for I would like to be able to show the people here how much they have helped me and how grateful I am."



Spencer Digby photograph
ROSALEEN HICKMOTT
Quite calm about it

"My particular ambition is to study Italian Grand Opera. I have always been interested in music, but at first I intended to become a pianist. At 14, however, I realised that I was lucky enough to have a voice, so I left off piano study and concentrated on vocal work."

"Are you going to England by yourself?"

"No, my sister Claire, who is a little older than I am, is coming with me. She,

too, is a student and will take singing lessons at Trinity College."

"Did you have any bother over passports and permits to leave New Zealand?"

"None at all. Since we were students there was very little formality to go through. There will be quite a number of friends in London to meet us and I would like you to say that people have been very good in giving us every possible help. We appreciate it."

Miss Hickmott made her first broadcast—it was from 2YA—on her 18th birthday. In 1942 she sang the soprano lead in *Maritana* for the Wellington Royal Choral Union; in 1943 she sang in *Il Trovatore* for the society and later sang twice in Handel's *Messiah*, in Wellington and Dunedin. When the Wellington Musical Comedy Company produced *A Country Girl* she took the lead and was highly commended for her singing and acting. Her teacher is Sister Winifred, of St. Mary's College, Wellington.

ONE evening in 1921 George Bernard Shaw was present at a production of *Man and Superman*. When the curtain came down, the audience began to shout: "We want Shaw! We want Shaw." "You've been listening to Shaw for the last three hours," G.B.S. told them, "and if that's not enough, I can't hope to satisfy you."

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