

# TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF IT

## Radio Anniversary for Dorothy Davies

BROADCASTING is such a recent development all over the world that it is a surprise to find its artists "coming of age" as well as radio itself. But it is happening—even here in New Zealand. Dorothy Davies, who will begin a series of six Schubert sonatas from 2YA at 8.25 p.m. on January 27, celebrates this month the twenty-first anniversary of her first New Zealand broadcast as a pianist.

"It seems only yesterday," she told us, "that I sat down in Christchurch to broadcast Bach under the A. R. Harris regime, but so much has happened since, to myself and everyone I know, that I hardly dare to look back."

She was however persuaded to give some musical history. She would not talk about the war or the changed and still changing world, but she said that it might be worth recalling what great changes she had seen in the reaction of the public to good music.

"When I played for A. R. Harris I was neither permitted, nor would I have dared, to give the public classical music

all the time. I was associated with the two Becks in a trio which broadcast four nights a week, but we had orders not to play 'highbrow stuff' oftener than once a week. Even then we were criticised for uppishness and I am afraid caused the station a good deal of embarrassment. To-day I play the music that I like best, and never think of 'playing down' to listeners."

"And listeners don't write suggesting that you should?"

"Neither listeners nor the broadcasting authorities. Artists are given a free hand, and they can take it because the public are now so used to good music that a big percentage don't want bad music. Even when they are not conscious of it—when they're peeling potatoes or reading the newspapers—they are absorbing good music to some extent, and for that we must thank broadcasting. Personally, I can't thank it enough."

"BROADCASTING in New Zealand has passed through three stages—the private enterprise stage in which you began,

the Board control stage, and the stage of direct control by the Government. Have you had experience of all three?"

"No, not of the second. I was in Europe during that period. But I was librarian as well as pianist for A. R. Harris, and it is an interesting experience now to find my own writing on some of the index cards. I have broadcast regularly for the National Service since I returned to New Zealand in 1939."

"You studied under Schnabel when you were overseas?"

"I was luckier than that. I was asked to go to Italy, where he was then living, and stay in his home to study. I played accompaniments for Mrs. Schnabel, who sang lieder, and I had all

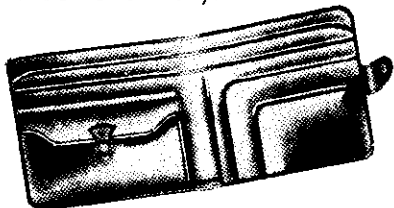


DOROTHY DAVIES

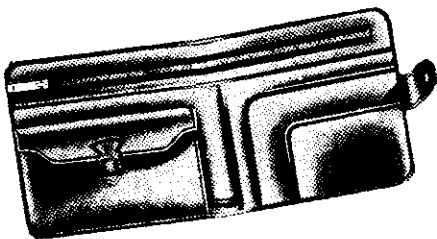
"To-day I play the music I like best"

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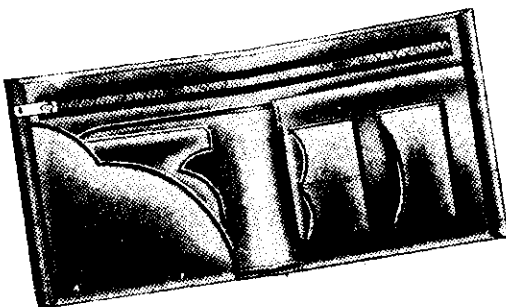
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