



THE MEMBERS of the "Four Strings and a Piano" ensemble at rehearsal in the 1YA studios. They are, from left: J. N. Dimery, Felix Millar, Oswald Cheesman, G. A. Norris and Victor Mandel

## "POPULAR CHAMBER MUSIC"

*New 1YA Session for Moderates*

POPULAR music "with a difference" is being provided by a new session from 1YA, *Four Strings and a Piano*, with a singer as guest artist, which will be heard every Tuesday evening until the end of the year. The combination is led by Oswald Cheesman (piano), who also prepares the necessary special arrangements of all music played, and the members are Felix Millar (violin), Norman Dimery (violin), Victor Mandel (viola), and Gerald Norris (cello).

It is not an orchestral group, but on the other hand it is definitely not a

dance band or "jam session." Mr. Cheesman was emphatic about that. The object is to present a high standard of light music—"a sort of chamber music of popular entertainment," was his definition, "a serious effort to please those with moderate tastes." Accordingly each session is being carefully prepared and thoroughly rehearsed, and will include instrumental solos by the various members as well as music by the group as an ensemble and items by a guest artist.

On their opening night, Tuesday, October 11, the group chose selections from the music of Jerome Kern, while the soloist was Stewart Harvey (baritone). Valerie Isbister (soprano) will be the guest artist on Tuesday, October 18, and vocalists to be heard in later programmes will include Doreen Harvey (soprano), Maurice Tansley (baritone), and Eileen Quinn (soprano).

Not all the programmes have been fully planned as yet, but it is intended to keep each one homogeneous in atmosphere. Thus on different Tuesdays there will be sessions devoted to the compositions of Cole Porter, George Gershwin and others. Musical comedy, excerpts from opera and the ballet, folk music, and music with a definite national character will each form the subject of individual programmes.

Oswald Cheesman is already well known to listeners for both popular and serious music. He is a member of the National Orchestra and his present duties include the writing of special arrangements for local groups of the orchestra. At one time he was conductor of 1YA Studio Orchestra and has played piano concertos with both orchestras. During the war he was musical director of the Kiwi Concert Party in the Pacific, and he has toured New Zealand with prominent visiting artists, the most recent of whom was Stanley Holloway. Felix Millar, too, has been a member of the National Orchestra, and is now Leader of 1YA Studio Orchestra to which the remaining members of *Four Strings and a Piano* also belong.

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...dusky pink New Look dress with her black hair piled high. And there, equally striking and equally graceful, steps an Indian, her sari swathed about her. There is an old man sitting on the steps by the telephone boxes. He has no uppers to his shoes and not much coat and not much shirt and he is tattooed all over, on his forehead, cheeks, chest and arms. A pony trap, pony and all, is almost squashed between the red buses at the traffic lights. Round the sides of it is tied an enormous placard—"God is love." A hearse comes spanking up Bayswater Road, two fine black horses drawing it with great high plumes tossing. The hearse itself is a coach, all black and silver, with the coachman sitting stately in his high black hat. On the back, their legs dangling over the side, sit two attendants, smoking cigarettes. There are newspapers all along the pavement for us to choose—*Freedom*, *Action*, *Irish Independent*, *Socialist Standard*, *Daily Worker*, all shades of opinion from red to black, as well as the more traditional Sunday fare of the *News of the World* and *The People*. There are Cockneys eating whelks and the flat dwellers of Park Lane airing their dogs. There is a babble of many voices and a crush of many people. It is Sunday afternoon in Hyde Park.