

PEOPLE IN THE PROGRAMMES



Alan Blakey photograph

LOVERS of songs by Schubert and Brahms and Schumann should tune in to 1YA Auckland at 8.30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 4, when Gwenda Weir, seen above, will present songs by these composers

musical since the age of four, when he began to appreciate various tunes and melodies and rudimentary harmonies at his father's knee. By the time he was nine he had completed his harmony; student's counterpoint he finished at 12; and composer's counterpoint (which he studied under Dr. W. Townsend) when he was 17.

Mr. Gray is the composer of 24 songs, several suites and overtures; he is at present working on a cello concerto and a viola sonata, and he has completed two movements of a symphony, which he hopes to have presented in Wellington when it has been scored.

His official capacity is that of arranger and orchestrator with Maurice Clare and the NBS String Orchestra, and many of the pieces presented by the orchestra are arranged by him.



TE MAURI MEIHANA, the Rotorua Maori singer (shown above), is one of the most able exponents of the songs of her people. Originally "discovered" by Gil Dech, she has been featured on a number of recordings which she made in Australia. Many listeners will probably recall that she made a tour of the main stations early in 1937. She will be heard in a bracket of songs on Thursday, August 29, from 2YA Wellington



Spencer Digby photograph

Here are Ross, Carrie, 'Arry and Art, who broadcast regularly in the "Every Friday Night at Eight" session from 2YA Wellington

Behind the Scenes

THE studio broadcasts of the NBS String Orchestra have found many listeners since they began some time ago. Have you ever thought, however, while you are enjoying a suite for strings, an overture or something like that, what a tremendous amount of work is involved behind the scenes? The other day *The Listener* interviewed a musician whose main work is done in just that way—behind the scenes and out of the limelight. It is, nevertheless, highly important work. The gentleman's name is Thomas Gray, and he is shown at work below.

"You mustn't expect anything too highly-coloured from me, you know," began Mr. Gray. "I haven't left a wife and five starving children behind in England, or anything spectacular like that."

Thomas Gray comes from England—Newcastle way—and has been interested in and intimately connected with matters

N.Z. Actor

A FEW years ago, Warren Toogood, here pictured with his wife, set out for Australia to find a job for himself in radio. Two hours after landing, he "landed" a job with George Edwards. Since then, he has never looked back. Before leaving New Zealand, he was well known on the amateur stage in Wellington, and since arriving in Australia he has appeared in numerous radio shows, played small parts in a film or two, and got married.

You can hear his voice almost any night in the week from the NBS. He is Piccadilly in the feature of that name, Archie Taylor in "Martin's Corner," Alex Smith in "Dad and Dave," and Alfred Hardie in "Hard Cash."



Spencer Digby photograph

THOMAS GRAY at work on his symphony

Auckland Tenor

LISTENERS to 1YA will hear a tenor voice of fine quality when John O'Malley comes to the microphone on Saturday evening, September 7. Born in Inverness, he spent part of his childhood in Edinburgh before coming to New Zealand with his family. In Auckland he studied singing under Frank Wilson, who also taught his brother, Birrell O'Malley. Incidentally, the latter left Auckland for London ten years ago and is now singing professionally there—so successfully that he has broadcast for the BBC. John O'Malley has not made singing his life's work, but he has found time to take part in choral as well as solo work and is one of the first tenors of the Royal Auckland Choir. Both brothers have confined themselves principally to ballad-singing, and John O'Malley's recital from 1YA next Saturday will be a ballad one.



Alan Blakey photograph

JOHN O'MALLEY