

FASHIONS IN MELODY

LISTENERS who follow modern music will be interested in the new session *Fashions in Melody*, a studio presentation, featuring Ossie Cheesman, his Piano and his Orchestra, which is now being heard on Tuesday evenings from 1YA. For some time, this combination had been heard fortnightly from the Auckland station, but it is now a regular weekly feature, and the first of its kind from 1YA.

While the new session was in process of organisation, A. R. G. Bothamley, of the NBS, paid a visit to Auckland to

sure the proper balance of brass, saxophone and rhythm sections, and so on.

Personnel

The personnel of the new show is as follows:

Leader: Ossie Cheesman. As leader of Ossie Cheesman's Dance Orchestra, he has already been introduced to readers of *The Listener*. Associated at one time with Craig Crawford (who broadcasts from Sydney to the CBS network), he plays the piano and the piano-accordion, and also does most of the arranging for the combination.

Saxophones: J. ("Tiny") McMahon, Jimmy and Pat Watters and Bert Peterson. McMahon was for years associated with leading bands in Australia, and was at one time a member of Maurie Gilman's Sydney group, specialising in cabaret and broadcasting work. Jimmy and Pat Watters on tenor sax. specialise in ad lib work. Peterson will be known to many listeners, as he has himself led bands in New Zealand.

Brass: Stan. Hills, Phil. Campbell, Vern. Wilson and Des. Blundell. Hills (trumpet), has played in most centres in New Zealand, and he also arranges. Phil. Campbell is the hot trumpet in the outfit, and also plays the mellophone; he leads one of Auckland's best-known cabaret bands. Wilson (trumpet, mellophone and violin), is well-known in New Zealand, and has also played extensively in Australia, having spent a year in Brisbane under Bill O'Smith. Blundell (trombone), is an 18-year-old and the junior in the combination.

Percussion and Strings: Johnny Madden and Ian ("Nin") Pitcaithley. Madden (drums and vocal), is well-known to many listeners already, and has a band of his own in Auckland. Pitcaithley, equally well-known in Wellington and Auckland, is responsible for bass and guitar.

The girl vocalist associated with the orchestra is Betty Spiro, who this year won the Walter Impett Vocal Scholarship.



Alan Blakey photograph

OSSIE CHEESMAN

... both swing and sweet music

assist in "balancing" the new combination for radio work. This work of "balancing," i.e., the disposal of microphones so as to ensure the proper blending of the various sections, entails more precision in respect to dance combinations than other broadcasting combinations, and to this work Mr. Bothamley brings expert knowledge. Generally four microphones are used to broadcast a modern dance orchestra, thereby en-

IN THE BOSTON MANNER

IT is a common saying in America that the most correct English is spoken "down Boston way," which may help to explain the success of John Holbrook, master of ceremonies for Pageant of Music, heard from the ZB stations every Sunday night. He was born at Cape Cod, Massachusetts, though early in life his parents took him to Canada and he studied medicine for two years at McGill University.

About this time Boston traditions began to assert themselves, and young Holbrook conceived an enthusiasm for racing automobiles, motor boats and aeroplanes and exhibiting show horses. He also found time to win an impressive display of medals for pistol shooting, and for three years ran a school for fancy skiing, being runner-up himself for the title of world's champion ski-jumper in 1926.

Back in the United States, he first managed a motor distributing firm, then a stock company. Then he was offered a job on the staff of a Boston radio station, and he has been in radio ever



JOHN HOLBROOK

since. He went to New York to do a guest performance and the NBC listened to him and immediately acquired his services. After three months with the NBC, the American Academy of Arts and Letters presented him with the Diction Medal.

John Holbrook will be heard from Station 3ZB on Sunday, August 24, at 9.15 p.m., compère a programme contributed by Anna Fiora (soprano), Willard Amison (tenor), Gloria La Vey (soprano) and Frederico Russell (tenor).

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