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# "THE HEAVENLY TWINS"

## Introducing Georgie Henschel and Marjorie Anderson



ANNOUNCERS IN THE BBC's EMPIRE SERVICE: Georgie Henschel and (in circle) Marjorie Anderson

in the highlands of Inverness, as well as in France and in Germany. One of her childhood memories was that of being taken to Doorn and allowed to peep through the fence at the ex-Kaiser chopping trees, remarking: "He doesn't look a bit like a bogey man." After a short time as a teacher at her old school, Georgie, who had been trained by her father, went on the concert stage as a

ward to the end of the war when she hopes to take advantage of all the invitations to visit them that she has received from listeners in the Empire and the United States. Indeed she has been bold enough to hope that some sort of exchange of announcers will be possible between broadcasting stations of English-speaking communities.

## Trained As Secretary

Marjorie Anderson is also tall. She is dark and has large watchful eyes—insects her company very carefully before she starts to talk. Her background is one of a quiet London upbringing, followed by a secretarial training, and then suddenly blossoming out into a stage career. Marjorie was born in 1913, the daughter of a Royal Naval Volunteer Reservist, who died when she was six. She is the grand-daughter of the man who helped to perfect the Braille system. School days were followed by a period at the Central School of Speech Training and Dramatic Art of the University of London, where she secured a diploma, and then went straight on to the stage. She played in T. S. Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral*, not only on tour in the English provinces and in London, but in America. That was in 1938 when she played in Boston and New York, and so enjoyed herself that her chief desire after the war is to return there.

**G**EORGIE HENSCHEL and Marjorie Anderson are inevitably known in the BBC as the Heavenly Twins. They are the two women who, together, broke precedent in the Empire Service by joining as announcers in June, 1940, and as such their voices are well known to New Zealand listeners. They both admit that they were terrified at first, having the feeling that they would be regarded as gate-crashers by the men announcers. Their relief was considerable when they found, on the contrary, that they were quite calmly accepted as friends and colleagues. Now each has her own fan-mail. Marjorie's followers are mainly backwoodsmen, Georgie's are Naval men. Georgie was immensely delighted at receiving a cable from the Sergeants' Mess aboard H.M.S. *Illustrious*, a short time ago, full of solicitous inquiries about her absence—caused, in fact, by a knee damaged in a cycle accident.

## Famous Conductor's Daughter

Georgie Henschel is proud of her connection with America. She is the daughter of Sir George Henschel, who founded the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 1880, and was, for four years, its first conductor. She accompanied him when he returned there for the fiftieth anniversary of the Orchestra, and had the time of her life. Sir George was twice married, first to Lilian Baillie and then to Amy Louis, the New York singer, and the mother of Georgie herself.

Georgie, therefore, is herself half American, though she was brought up

singer, giving her first concert at the age of twenty-one at the London Grottrian Hall. She has sung at the first headquarters of the BBC at Savoy Hill, run charity balls, appeared at the Open-air Theatre in Regent's Park, and been a land girl. At the beginning of the war she had charge of seventeen cows and the milk-round at her old home in the Highland village of Aviemore.

She is tall, very much alive and interested in life, and chiefly looking for-

## Witch And Second Boy

Miss Anderson has also given lessons in voice production in Italia Conti's famous school, been a pupil of Ernst Toller, and a witch in an Exeter (Devon) pantomime—an experience which she enjoyed so much that the following year, the first war Christmas, she played Second Boy in *Aladdin* in the same city.

Her present job, that of BBC announcer, she finds the most exciting and interesting of all.

## "Stars of To-Morrow" To-Day

**L**ISTENERS to 2ZB who remember the studio session Stars of To-morrow, will be interested to know that several of the artists who appeared in this session competed in the recent Wellington competitions. The most successful was Ethel Gibson of Hataitai who was second equal in the vocal championship, won the class for a song by a New Zealand composer, was second in the Scottish folk song, second in the sacred solo, and third in the operatic solo.

Miss Gibson's success is all the more noteworthy in view of the fact that she is blind.

Another Stars of To-morrow artist, Flo Sadler, also had success in the competitions, being runner-up in the radio vocal section. She was one of the finalists in the Deanna Durbin quest three years ago.



FLO SADLER