

WITH RADIO FROM THE START

Agnes Shearsby's Long Experience

AN artist whose broadcasting experience dates almost as far back as broadcasting experience could be obtained in New Zealand is Agnes Shearsby, who will be giving a piano recital from 1YA on September 27. She was one of the first pianists to broadcast in the days of headphones and crystal sets and she has been closely associated with radio in various capacities ever since.

A Wellingtonian by birth, Miss Shearsby started early on a musical career. She composed her first song at



Alan Blakey photograph
AGNES SHEARSBY
Silent films were not so silent

the age of 11 and when she grew up she won several competitions for composition, one including a movement in sonata form. Her work in this department includes pieces for violin, piano, trio, and trumpet, and she has also several songs to her credit.

In the days of the silent films she was engaged for some years as a conductress of theatre orchestras and she has acted in the same capacity for visiting theatrical companies.

Her first broadcast was made in 1923 from the old 3AC station, in the Robert Francis building in Christchurch, and between 1932 and 1940 she was regularly on the air in jazz and novelty, as well


STATION T.O.T. paid a visit to Christchurch the other week-end, and in between studio appearances at 3ZB and a sightseeing tour of points of interest, managed to raise £200 for the Christchurch Union Jack Club at two packed concerts on Sunday afternoon and Sunday night.

The plan for the Sunday night concert, at which **Station T.O.T.** was to be the star turn, was completely booked out three days in advance. Special permission was then sought from the Christchurch City Council to hold an overflow concert on the Sunday afternoon—and the plans for it were completely booked out within two hours.

as in classical piano items. With the 3YA Studio Orchestra she has presented compositions as diverse as Mendelssohn's *G Minor Concerto* and Billy Mayerl's "Four Aces Suite," and as pianist of the 3YA Chamber Music Players she has assisted in the broadcasting of many quintets and quartets by Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, Cesar Franck, Schubert and Fauré.

Before she went to Christchurch (in 1932), Miss Shearsby was in Auckland and became well known to children there as "Cousin Nessie" in the 1YA children's hour. In Christchurch she continued this branch of her activities and was at one time deputy organiser for the children's hour. Now that she is back in Auckland she is once more giving welcome assistance to "Cinderella."

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