



VALDA JOHNSTONE made her first public appearance at five and a half in the Wellington competitions, and she has been busily involved in music ever since. For a number of years now she has been living in Australia, but listeners have been able to hear broadcasts by her for the last three Christmases, when she returned home on brief visits. Next week she will be back again for 12 studio recitals and one concerto performance with the National Orchestra during December and January. In her broadcast with the National Orchestra on December 14 (a studio concert), she will play the Concerto for Piano and Strings by Frank Hutchens, another New Zealander who has gone to Australia to live. Miss Johnstone believes this will be the first performance of the concerto in this country, although the work has been played and recorded by the composer in Australia.

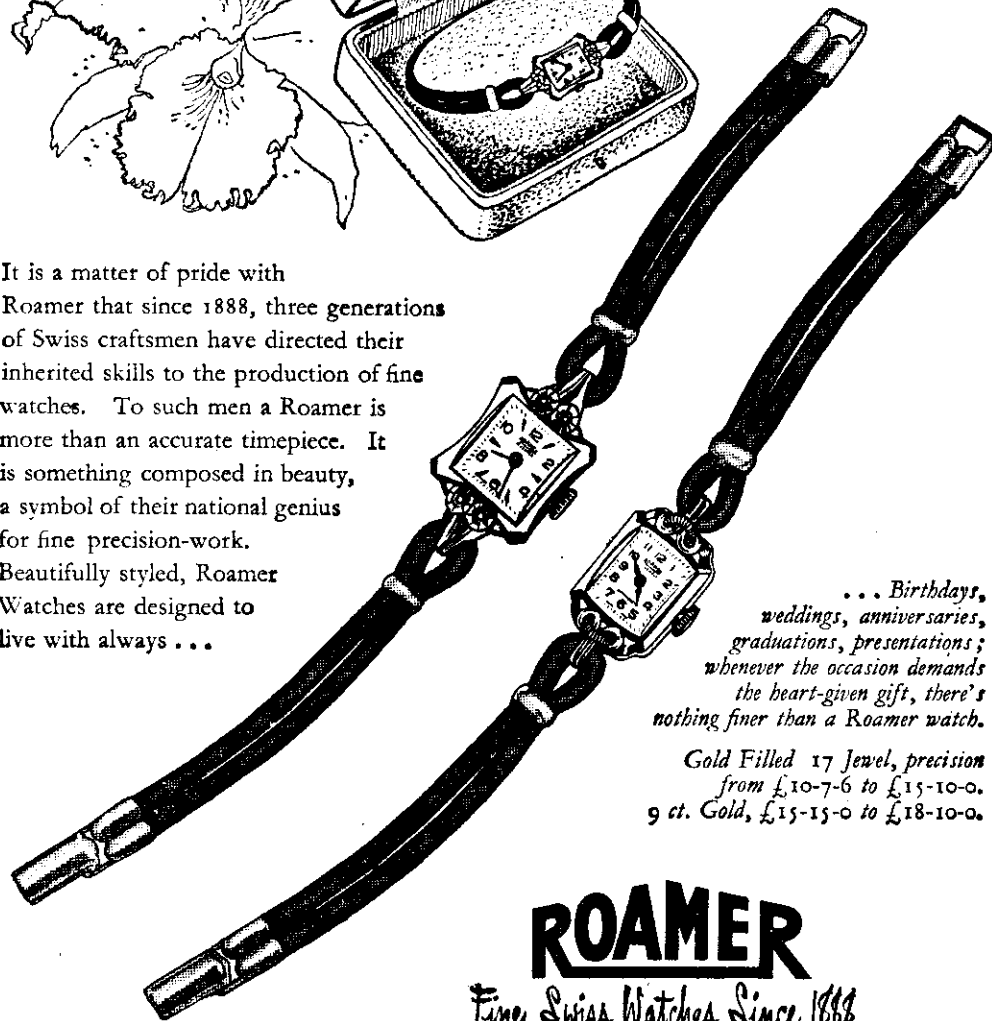
Valda Johnstone won scholarships which enabled her to study under Waldemar Seidel and later to complete a three-year diploma course at the Melbourne University Conservatorium. For a number of years she has been appearing as a soloist for the ABC and as accompanist to leading Australian artists. Her first studio performance will be from 2YC at 7.23 p.m. on Friday, December 10.

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