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Spencer Digby photograph

### NEWS OF BROADCASTERS ON AND OFF THE RECORD

parent desire of listeners for music with a story and music which they love. I was quite surprised at the tremendous variety of descriptive piano music I'd collected over the years. All the songs have a story, so it's quite natural to use them as a contrast. I wanted to arrange a series of familiar and beautiful music."

So last year, before Christmas, Mrs Dickson asked the performers to select music which they would like to have in such a programme. Later she collected their suggestions and began to choose items, arranging them into interesting and varied groups, with a defined yet changing mood. She then gave the outline of the session to Linda Hastings, who worked on the linking script and will be commere for the show. Previous shows have been rehearsed as a whole, but with this larger group of artists rehearsals have had to be in various places at their convenience, and this has meant a good deal of work for Mrs Dickson—to be fitted in with her work as an accompanist at 2YA and 2YC, as well as her duties as a housewife.

Mrs Dickson is the wife of Hamilton Dickson, well known in the light opera world. He has just finished his second opera, which will be produced later this in the 2YA *Children's Session*. Mrs Dickson finds that their common interest in music is wonderful. "We're a very happy household," she says, "because we're all in it together. We've so far managed to arrange our activities so they don't clash and we're not doing too much at the same time. I have my programme now, and Hamilton's opera is later, and we have time to help each other."

Mrs Dickson's final thought was for the new programme. "We all hope that between us we've prepared a half-hour of music that listeners can enjoy. It's an informal programme, and we hope that these songs and melodies, our favourites, will give as much pleasure to our listeners as they have given to us."

WHEN Decima Dickson (above) called the other day to talk to us about her new programme, *Your Favourites and Mine*, now being heard from 2YA on Thursday evenings, she mentioned that she had arranged seven such series in the last nine years, and that last

### FAVOURITES

year the programmes were broadcast from Radio New Zealand. "The artists heard last time weren't available this year," she said, "so I suggested we have a more varied programme." There will be a different singer each week. Corinne Bridge, Clifford Dowling, Peggy Roberts, Louis Doyle and Thomas Hanna will appear in that order, and Sandra Gunn and Ngaire Stead, of the National Orchestra, will play solos, while Mrs. Dickson will accompany them and also play piano solos. For works for two pianos, Cherry Dunn will join her.

"These programmes are descriptive music—favourite pieces which tell a story and set a mood," Mrs Dickson year. Their daughter Loretta, who is still at college, is an accomplished singer who has lately been heard once a month said. "They're planned to meet an ap-



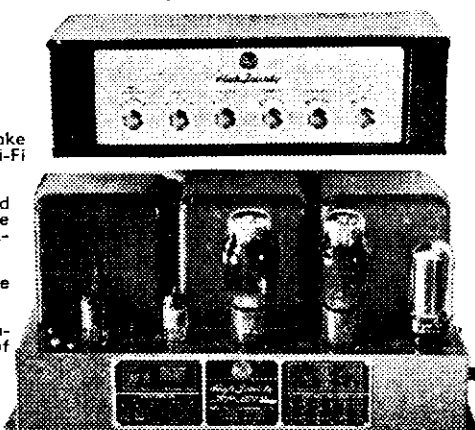
THE Francis Rosner String Quartet has established itself as one of the leading string groups in this country, and they can be heard from 2YC on Wednesday, April 3, at 8.0 p.m. Its members (above, from left) are Francis Rosner and Malcolm Latchem (violins), Ralph Aldrich (viola) and Marie Vandewart (cello)



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