

# New Programme Policy Inaugurated at 2YA

## Nucleus of Permanent Professional Talent

### THE ORPHEUS QUARTET

The Orpheus Quartet, which will be heard from 2YA on Tuesday evenings, from November 1, consists of Mrs. Alice Harris (soprano), Miss Lily Mackie (contralto), Mr. Arthur Coe (tenor), and Mr. Len Barnes (baritone). This combination has been together for nearly three years, and their appearances have always been most successful, alike in solos, duets, and quartets. Mr. Len Barnes is responsible for the training of the other three members, and he will arrange the items the quartet are to perform. With his extensive experience as a singer in San Francisco, London and New Zealand, which included appearances in grand and comic opera, oratoria, recital and concert parties, listeners-in are assured of hearing splendid programmes of good variety. Mr. Barnes has sung all over New Zealand, and his singing has always been highly praised.

Mrs. Alice Harris has appeared as soloist with the Royal Wellington Choral Union, the Orpheus Musical Society, and the Commercial Travellers' Club Choir. The "Dominion," writing of her performances in "Faust," said:—"Mrs. Alice Harris is an example of most tasteful singing. Her delivery is good, and she has obviously been extremely well trained and knows how to apply her knowledge." Miss

Next week's programmes from 2YA will mark the inauguration of the new programme policy. In brief this is the engagement of a nucleus of permanent professional talent representing the best available in each field. Arrangements have been made for a number of high class quartets to be available. The already extensive repertoires possessed by these artists will be added to by new numbers and every encouragement given to that end. Four of these new quartets make their initial appearance next week. In addition the brilliant Symons, Ellwood and Short instrumental trio will make its initial permanent appearance.

Apart from these permanent stars the week will be made memorable by the performance of Madame Winnie Fraser, New Zealand's outstanding dramatic soprano, who will sing not only on Friday evening but also on the following Sunday, November 6.

Lily Mackie has appeared as soloist with the Orpheus Musical Society, the Hutt Valley Choral Society, and the Wellington Commercial Travellers' Choir. She has a sweet true toned contralto. Of her singing in "Merrie England," the local Press said that Miss Mackie achieved a triumph in her solos. The tenor of the party is Mr. Arthur Coe, who is very well known to Wellington audiences, both as soloist and as a member of the Aeolian Male Quartet. He has sung the tenor solos in the "Messiah," "Merrie England," and other works, and has appeared as soloist with the Harmonic Society and the Commercial Travellers' Choir. The Orpheus quartet has never failed to please the Press and public. These four singers have been heard several times on the air, both from the studio and the Terrace Congregational Church.

### COMING STAR ITEM

#### MADAME WINNIE FRASER AT 2YA

In the musical world in New Zealand the name of Madame Winnie Fraser as a dramatic soprano is something to conjure with. Blessed with a wonderful stage presence, perfect enunciation, and a glorious, rich, mezzo-soprano voice of extraordinary range, she is particularly well known throughout New Zealand, having sung on all the leading concert platforms under engagement to all the principal musical organisations.

Madame Fraser has had a brilliant career as a vocalist abroad as well as in New Zealand. A native of Dunedin, she began her musical training under Mr. Laud, of Christchurch, and then



went home to pursue her studies. Under Sir Henry Wood her voice developed magnificently. She also studied extensively on the Continent, with striking success. In Vienna and in other cities she gave recitals, and caused quite a furore in musical circles. Her advent to radio will be looked forward to with the keenest anticipation. Madame Fraser will sing at 2YA on Friday, November 4, and everyone with a receiving set will tune in to hear some items from her long and varied repertoire. The items on Friday will be "Undying Love" (Brahms), "At the Mid Hour of Night" (Cowan), "The Vesper Hymn," as arranged by Flora Woodman, and "Laurietta's Aria" from Puccini. Madame Fraser will also be heard on the following Sunday evening in conjunction with the special Sunday evening concert by the Municipal Tramways Band, which will be broadcast by 2YA.

### THE LYRIC QUARTET

The Lyric Quartet will be heard on Thursday evenings (November 3 and 10), and later dates to be arranged.

The Lyric Quartet was formed in 1920 and has since performed continuously before the public.

The quartet has fulfilled engagements in all the principal picture theatres of Wellington in performing prologues to important pictures, and is regularly engaged at concerts given by the bands and by the Commercial Travellers' Male Voice Choir.

The quartet has been specially engaged by Messrs. Allen Wilkie and Dion Boucicault to supply the musical portion of their theatrical productions. They have also performed at concerts arranged by the Society of Musicians, and fulfilled engagements in provincial towns.

The individual members are well known soloists in Wellington.

Mr. Harry Phipps (tenor) has had experience both in England and in New Zealand. On one occasion he was champion vocalist at the Chester Eisteddfod and has won championships at Wellington, Wanganui, Napier and Christchurch. He has appeared as soloist for the Choral Union, and is one of the best known and most popular tenors in Wellington.

Mr. George Howe (tenor) is also well known, having had experience in both Auckland and Wellington. He, too, has carried off prizes at the Wellington competitions, and has appeared as soloist for the Harmonic Society and the Commercial Travellers' Male Voice Choir.

Mr. Will Goudie (baritone) is perhaps the best known of this talented combination. He is a product of the studio of Mrs. Ernest Queree. His engagements in Wellington and many provincial towns are too numerous to mention. Perhaps he is best known as the organiser of the excellent concerts held in Trentham and Featherston camps during the great war, when he arranged something like 400 concerts. He is always a very popular artist at all concerts at which he appears.

Mr. W. Binet Brown (bass) is also a product of the studio of Mrs. Ernest Queree. He has a good bass voice and has appeared as soloist on most of the concert platforms of Wellington.

### THE WILLIAM RENSHAW QUARTET

In the William Renshaw quartet 2YA presents a combination of artists requiring neither commendation nor introduction. Miss Nora Greene (contralto) and Mr. William Renshaw (tenor) are established favourites, whose artistic capabilities are widely known and appreciated. Their delightful voices have been heard "over the air" in a wide range of always pleasing numbers, while their fine record as concert performers is as widely known as their talent is appreciated. If there is anything new to be said concerning them it is that these two popular and cultured singers have entered the ranks of

voice sounds to those who listen-in in New Zealand and Australia. Mr. Renshaw studied for many years with Mr. Herbert Oliver, the eminent composer, in London. Associated with Mr. Oliver in a tutorial capacity was the great English soprano Miss Carrie Tubb and Miss Edith Turmudge (contralto).

Mr. Thomas C. Wood, the bass baritone of the quartet, is a singer whose voice is familiar to concert patrons in many parts of New Zealand. In Wellington Mr. Wood is a soloist for various musical societies. Just now he is under engagement to sing "The King of Egypt" in Verdi's opera "Aida," which is to be produced by the Wellington Choral Union on November 5. Mr.



—S. P. Andrew, photo.

the teaching profession in Wellington. Miss Nora Greene has had considerable experience in England in broadcasting work, having been a favourite artiste at Bournemouth, Daventry, 2LO, etc. She has also sung with great success at Queen's Hall, Palladium, and various concert halls in London and the provinces, where her beautiful contralto voice never failed to delight, and where she was famed equally for her splendid diction as for her renditions. Miss Greene studied under Madame Agnes Lecom (at the Royal Academy), than whom there is no greater teacher of voice production.

Mr. William Renshaw also has had considerable experience in England before coming to New Zealand. His appealing tenor voice was there heard to great advantage on the concert platform and in Oratorio music in London and the provinces. He, too, has made a special study of diction, and no further proof of that is needed when it is remembered how beautifully clear his

Wood, who is the fortunate possessor of a brilliant baritone voice of outstanding range and quality, has been the subject of many laudatory Press criticisms.

Mrs. Amy Dunn is a singer who has won popularity with a wide audience. Her fine dramatic soprano voice has delighted patrons of our largest theatres. She has been heard at Fullers (His Majesty's Theatre) and the De Luxe, and by the patrons of the Hutt Choral Society. Her solo work has invariably pleased the critics. Listeners to 2YA who have heard Mrs. Amy Dunn before will be pleased to learn that she is to sing to them again.

The William Renshaw quartet will offer musical entertainment from a copious repertoire. They will be heard in operatic works, in the sparkling gems of Sullivan, in old English folk songs, and popular melodies, thus presenting a variety which should make the most passionate appeal.



MISS MAIONA JURISS.

A popular 2YA elocutionist, also a prize-winner at the recent Christchurch and Ashburton competitions, and a runner-up for the Senior Elocution Scholarship at Christchurch.

### THE CELESTE QUARTET

The Celeste Quartet, of which Miss Mabel Dyer, Mr. Edgar Swain, Mr. William Boardman, and Miss Myra Sawyer are the greatly appreciated members, has been engaged by 2YA to give performances at frequent intervals.

Miss Dyer has been well-known for a number of years in the southern cities on concert platforms, at sanatoria, in hospitals, and churches, as a contralto to whom no appeal for help at various functions was made in vain. Miss Dyer studied under the well-known maestro, Roland Boot, of Christchurch, and in 1923 decided to go to America to further her studies under Andrew Begart, after which

Edgar Swain has a robust tenor voice of considerable range and power, and is at present studying under Caerylon Bennett, of Wellington.

Mr. William Boardman is a powerful basso, well-known in musical circles in Wellington. He has a voice of exceptional range and good quality, and has been studying with H. Temple White for a number of years past. Mr. Boardman was a favourite artist on station 2YK, a feature of his performance being his duets with Miss Myra Sawyer.

Miss Myra Sawyer is a coloratura soprano of great purity of tone, and excels in her artistic interpretation. This singer comes from a musical fam-



—S. P. Andrew, photo.

ily, and received her early training under the guidance of her father, and, at the age of fourteen, continued serious study under the capable tuition of Sister Ligouri, of the Hill Street Convent. Two years later Miss Sawyer made her debut before a Wellington audience at a notable concert held for the reception of overseas visitors. At this function the young singer had the honour of being presented with a bouquet by Lady Liverpool. From that occasion Miss Sawyer rose to prominence with unprecedented rapidity, and to-day is one of the most popular artists appearing before the public. For several years past Miss Sawyer has been receiving musical training and interpretation from H. Temple White, whose training and influence has been largely responsible for this singer's success in recent years. Miss Sawyer was a popular artist on 2YK, and has been heard at frequent intervals on station 2YA.

She took engagements throughout California. She appeared at San Francisco's greatest theatre, seating some 6000 people. Miss Dyer was also one of the soloists at the recital given for Senorita Emilia de Prato, acclaimed as one of America's coming sopranos. Returning to New Zealand, Miss Dyer sang at the Theatre Moderne, Tahiti, and, with her husband, Mr. Edgar Swain, is now studying under Caerylon Bennett, late of Milan, Italy.

Mr. Edgar Swain first became known to the public of Wellington at the annual festival of the Wellington Competitions Society. At this gathering the young singer won section after section, finally securing the championship medal for the year in competition with some of the best voices at the largest gathering the society has ever had. After this Mr. Swain began to come into the light as a concert singer, and soon was well-known in Wellington as a tenor soloist. Mr.

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