

NEW QUARTETS

ARRANGED FOR 3YA

DISTINGUISHED NEW SINGERS
FOR RADIO.

Commencing with next week, there comes into force at 3YA the new system of programme making and organisation which was first introduced at 2YA. Next week there will appear sixteen artists who have been engaged to sing regularly at 3YA. These artists have been organised into quartets, each of which has its forte in a definite type of entertainment.

Following on a well-thought-out plan these quartets have a certain night devoted to each, and the particular types of entertainment on each night at 3YA are intended to dovetail in with the programmes at the other stations in such a way that no two stations will be broadcasting the same type of programme on the same night. In this way the owner of a valve set who desires an entertainment of only one type will be able to secure what he wants nearly every night of the week from one or other of the New Zealand stations. It will be remembered that this was one of the aspects of a proposal outlined by the general manager some time ago when discussing the difficult problem of attempting to broadcast programmes which will please everyone.

The crystal set user, like the valve set user, will know that a certain class of entertainment, and that his favourite singers, if he favours any more than others, are broadcasting on a particular night of the week. He will know, too, that these singers will be able to submit a great variety of entertainment while still keeping true to type. The artists who have been engaged and who will form the backbone of the programmes—though not the whole programme, for other artists will assist—are very versatile and will submit diversified programmes at each appearance.

The new quartets, to make their first bow next week, will include some new artists to radio, a fact which testifies to two things, namely, that the stated intention of the general manager of the Broadcasting Company to secure the best talent available, is being carried out, and that the high and rightful place of radio in the musical world is being rapidly recognised.

PERSONNEL OF ONE QUARTET.

Before coming to New Zealand, Mrs. Claris Shaw was a well-known contralto singer in the English Midlands. She took part in competitions in Christchurch in 1913, and was very successful. The musical judge at the competitions gave her very high praise. In one instance the judge said her singing was of "extraordinarily high merit. Her style was easy, and her articulation concise." Mrs. Shaw has been well known from her connection with the Christchurch Operatic Society as musical directress for its concert party during the past winter season.

Miss Mildred Russell, L.A.B., L.T.C.L., who will be associated with her brother, Mrs. Shaw, and Mr. Richards in the quartet, brings to radio a splendidly trained voice, which broadcasts well. She was a pupil of Madame Josephine Otllee, A.R.A.M., and studied music under Mr. W. J. Bellingham, F.S.M., and at Canterbury College. She has been a soloist with the Christchurch musical and other societies, and is, and has been for a number of years, a leading soloist of Holy Trinity Choir, Avonside. Miss Russell teaches singing at her own home in Avonside.

Mr. Gregory Russell is one of the most popular singers on the 3YA roll of artists. He is possessed of a very fine resonant tenor voice, and is always listened to with great pleasure by hosts of listeners-in. Mr. Russell, who trained with Madame Josephine Otllee, A.R.A.M., is a member of the Christchurch Savage Club's committee, and has sung at innumerable concerts and functions in and around Christchurch. Mr. Russell has for many years been a prominent soloist of Holy Trinity Choir, Avonside.

Mr. W. J. Richards has frequently been heard at 3YA. He is a fine bass singer and a winner at competitions. He sings for the Christchurch Male Voice Choir.

A New and Brilliant Quartet for 3YA

Lovers of opera will be delighted to learn that a quartet of exceptional talent in the persons of Madame Gower-Burns, Miss Jessie King, Mr. Harold Prescott, and Mr. Bernard Rennell, is specialising in opera from 3YA, and will be coming to the microphone shortly.

Described by several world-famous artists from overseas as the "Melba of New Zealand, Madame Gower-Burns occupies a unique and unchallenged position in the musical life of Christchurch, not only because of her wonderful vocal gift, but also because of the great extent to which she has devoted it to the advantage of the city. She has been unstinting in her efforts in any good cause. In return, Christchurch has honoured Madame Gower-Burns with all the means in its power. She has not been altogether like the proverbial prophet who is honoured save in his own country. She has sung by command before and been congratulated by Royalty—the King and Queen, the Prince of Wales, and the Duke of York. She is the only lady soloist to have sung in Christchurch Cathedral Choir. She was honoured by the Roman Catholic Church when she was asked to sing at the opening of the new Cathedral, a most important occasion. When the war broke out Madame was the first person in Christchurch to organise a patriotic concert, and was the first, and for several years the only, lady soloist at Anzac Day memorial services. Madame Gower-Burns also had the distinction of being the first in Christchurch to produce the song cycles, "Persian Garden," "The Daisy Chain," and "Flora's Holiday."

Madame Gower-Burns's voice was really trained for opera, and had she devoted her life to that branch of art in the capitals of Europe instead of settling in New Zealand, she would have been world famous. Her training was in Italy. She lived for many years

there as a child, and acquired the accent perfectly. She studied for five years in Milan under a great operatic singer, and in England and New Zealand she studied oratorio under the best masters.

The quartet with which Madame Gower-Burns will be associated, and which will bear her name, will specialise in opera. Everyone who tunes in to 3YA on Thursday, December 15, will listen to a delightful entertainment. The next appearance of the quartet will be just before Christmas, when it is intended that the programme should be in keeping with the occasion.

Miss Jessie King, contralto, who holds the diploma of Associate of the Conservatorium of Music, Melbourne, has had the greater part of her musical training at that institution, covering a period of several years of close study of all the necessary departments of vocal equipment, including languages. Miss King studied with Miss Mary Campbell, to whom Dame Nellie Melba has referred as "one of my lieutenants," and to whom, in the forward of her recently-published work, "The Melba Method," she expresses her indebtedness for her share in compiling the book. Miss King herself has had the distinct advantage of having attended the Melba classes at the Conservatorium, and of having had personal instruction from the great diva. In this connection she was privileged to appear in scenes from opera, with Dame Melba as the principal figure. For some time before coming to New Zealand Miss King was an associate teacher on the staff of the Conservatorium in East

Melbourne, and has valuable credentials from the director of the Conservatorium, Mr. Fritz Hart, F.R.C.M.

Of Dominion-wide reputation, Mr. Harold Prescott, the well-known bel canto tenor, comes of a very old-established musical family of Manchester, England. Mr. Prescott has sung with a number of famous artists, and when Fraser Gange and Amy Evans were in New Zealand, in 1920, they spoke in the highest terms of his interpretative powers and his artistic and conscientious rendering of classical music. A few of Mr. Prescott's recent engagements include "Lucia de Lammermoor," "Carmen," "Faust," "Hiawatha," "Cavalleria Rusticana," "Judas Maccabaeus," "The Creation," "Elijah," "The Messiah," "Olivet to Calvary," Elgar's "King Olat," and "Caractacus," "The Rose Maiden," and "Merrie England," for which Mr. Prescott has been tenor soloist no less than eight times.

Another fine singer who has not been parsimonious in his efforts for charity and to the public generally is Mr. Bernard Rennell, a member of the Madame Burns Operatic Quartet.

Mr. Rennell, who is a pupil of Mr. Roland Foster, of the Conservatorium of Music, Sydney, performed with success in Sydney, and played the part of the Host in "May Queen" (opera) at the Conservatorium Hall. In Christchurch he has taken an active part in musical circles, principally with the Amateur Operatic Society and "Charities, Unlimited." During the visit of the Duke of York Mr. Rennell sang before him at a cabaret given by the Hon. Mr. Tahu Rhodes.



A Distinguished new Quartet for 3YA. From left: Mr. Bernard Rennell (baritone), Madame Gower-Burns (soprano, leader), and Miss Jessie King (contralto). —Sarony, photo.



—Steffano Webb, photo.

SPORTING

TROTTING NEXT WEEK

Thursday, December 15.—New Brighton Trots. 3YA.
Saturday, December 17.—New Brighton Trots. 3YA.

AUDIO HOWLING

In a cascade, three stage amplifier, using transformers as a means of coupling between the valves, trouble is often experienced due to howling between stages, although each stage may work satisfactorily by itself. In some cases if the connections to the primaries of each transformer are reversed, the howling will cease. Transformers should be placed as far as possible from one another, and care should be taken that their cores are always placed at right angles to one another, as, should they be close and in parallel, the fields of each would interact, thus causing distortion, howling, and bad amplification. It is advisable to earth the casing of each shielded low frequency transformer.

RECEPTION SPOILERS

HOME ELECTRIC DEVICES.

There are many devices in the average home that may ruin the reception of the finest set on the market. A vacuum cleaner, an electric refrigeration plant, or any other general utility device within the house may not only ruin the reception in the home where they are being used, but they may disturb the reception in the entire neighbourhood. The interference may be louder at some house in the next block than it is at the place where the interference is being propagated.

The making and breaking of a circuit in a motor, or moving parts in other devices cause small sparks which generate radio waves. This spark trans-

mission, which has no definite wavelength, will use distant wiring as a form of antenna, and is very hard to tune out of any set.

Several manufacturers have put out appliances to eliminate the disturbance, or interference.

The real solution, however, is to correct the trouble at its source. This may be done by using high voltage condensers, shunted across the line and grounded at their midpoint.

Xmas Gifts

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CHRISTMAS SESSIONS

SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

There have been busy times in all the broadcasting studios lately making preparations for the Christmas season. Special attractions have been secured, and programmes befitting the occasion have been arranged.

The young folks will not be forgotten. On Christmas Eve there will be a glorious celebration during the children's hour, for all the Uncles and Aunts of 3YA are going to get together for a good old rousing time for the children (and there's not a few adults who will listen-in, too!).

SHORT-WAVE RECEPTION

NOTES BY MR. SELLENS.

The past week has not been as good as usual for short-wave telephony reception, but I have added to my list, which is now 51 stations, all except two, below 50 metres.

On Saturday KDKA was very faint, while 2XAD was not heard; 2 A(U), Wanganni, 2HFM, New South Wales, were heard testing, and RFN, Russia, was up to its usual good form. Again on Sunday KDKA was weak, and closed down earlier than usual. 2XAF was only just audible. 2AY, Wellington, 3AQ, Westport, 3AU and 3AJ, Rangiora (both these amateurs are "on the air" almost every evening), 7CW, Hobart, working 2YG, and 2AT, Wellington, were also heard.

I tried for 2NM, Marcuse, and heard a voice very faintly on his wave-length, but too weak to understand what was said. ANE, Java, was heard on Monday morning till 7.30 a.m., playing gramophone records at good strength and modulation. Not any announcement heard.

During the evening 4NW, Queensland, 2—, Goulburn, N.S.W., and a station on about 80 metres either signing or calling 4AQ, Dunedin, were heard.

Reception was very unsteady during the evening on account of the strong wind swinging the "lead in."

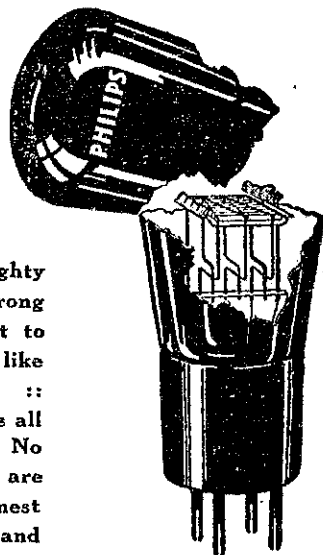
3AU and 3AJ, Rangiora, 4AR, Gore, 4NW, Brisbane, 2MG, New South Wales, and RFN, Russia, were heard on Tuesday evening. On Wednesday morning from 6.10 till 7.30 a.m. ANE, Java, was heard at good speaker strength giving vocal and orchestral items, with several announcements in Dutch, calling Africa, India, and Holland.

On account of being out till late, I was only listening for a few minutes after 11 p.m., and heard 3BG, Victoria and 6AG, Perth; the latter station put on several records, which came through well. He announced that he is testing almost every evening at 6 o'clock (10.30 p.m., New Zealand summer time). On Thursday evening 3BL, calling 3BQ, 2ME testing on about 32 metres, RFN, 6AG, and a station on about 81 metres calling 2WC, New South Wales, were heard.

On Friday morning ANE, Java, was heard at good strength for a few minutes giving an orchestral item. Early in the evening 2XAF, New York, was still on the air. I tuned them in at about 5.50 p.m., and heard some organ music and soprano solos. A friend who gets home earlier than myself told me that this station is often on the air till 6 p.m. our time on Friday evenings; this is 12.30 a.m., Eastern Standard Time. The volume was not so loud as I expected, as it usually increases to fair speaker strength before 5.30 p.m. on Sundays when on the air, but this time was only just audible on the speaker.

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