

# THE RADIO RECORD

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## Brilliant Orchestra Engaged for 2YA

"All-Star" Combination to Take the Air on May 1

**W**E venture to predict that listeners will be delighted with the orchestral combination engaged for 2YA to commence on May 1. Every member is an outstanding artist and soloist, and there is unquestionably no similar combination of musicians anywhere in the Dominion, for each one is a leader in his or her particular department.

The personnel is as follows:—

AVA SYMONS, leader, violin.	SIDNEY BARRETT, clarinet.
W. E. McLEAN, obligato violin.	LESLIE PROBERT, drummer.
FRANK HUGGINS, bass.	HARRY BERRY, trumpet.
CLARENCE TUCKER, flute.	F. C. J. FORREST, trombone.
M. T. DIXON, pianist.	GEO. ELLWOOD, 'cellist and conductor.

FOR the first month, so that this fine combination will be under immediate control for broadcasting purposes, the baton will be taken by the Radio Broadcasting Coy's. musical director, Mr. W. J. Bellingham, this by arrangement with the permanent conductor of the combination, Mr. Geo. Ellwood, who thereafter will have charge. From May 1, listeners, in line with the details given in the article below, may look for a series of musical treats.

**G**RATIFICATION will be felt on all sides that it is now possible for the Radio Broadcasting Company to engage for 2YA quite the most outstanding collection of musical talent in New Zealand as a permanent orchestra. This progressive move will certainly be welcomed by listeners, and unquestionably will strengthen the general programme service. The personnel of the orchestra is outlined above and is in itself impressive. Details of the careers of each performer are appended to the respective photographs and will substantiate and endorse the claims made on behalf of the combination.

**H**OW will the orchestra be used? Some original plans are in contemplation for getting the best out of the orchestra and, what will, we think, appeal particularly to listeners, the public is to be asked to co-operate in the nomination of the numbers to be played. This is an innovation which will be watched with interest in its outcome, as it constitutes a direct invitation to the public to declare what its taste in orchestral music is. The method of nominating the music chosen is outlined later.

### FOUR NIGHTS A WEEK.

**T**HE programme devised is as follows:—The orchestra will be on the air four nights a week

—Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday. The fields to be covered each evening are allocated thus:—

<b>MONDAY:</b>	<b>CLASSICAL.</b>
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	<b>OPERATIC.</b>
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	<b>POPULAR:</b>
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	<b>VAUDEVILLE.</b>

The orchestra on Monday night will always play a certain number of classical or standard works. On Tuesday there will be a proportion of operatic selections, but on both these nights there will also be specially chosen orchestral numbers of general interest, in addition to the featured

music. Friday will be devoted to a general popular orchestral programme chosen from the whole gamut of orchestral works, including a proportion of the most popular musical comedy selections, and the latest fox trots and jazz waltzes, and novelties. On Saturday, the programme will consist of light music of a vaudeville character, and will finish with three-quarters of an hour of jazz.

### THE PUBLIC'S CHOICE DESIRED.

**I**N outlining the capacity of the orchestra to us and stressing the high quality of the professional artists engaged, Mr. W. J. Bellingham, musical director, stated that they would have at command a complete range of orchestral music, and would be able to give a finished interpretation of any conceivable orchestral composition from symphony to jazz.

We immediately saw in this claim an opportunity for satisfying the demand of the public for variety, and testing out the capacity of the orchestra, which Mr. Bellingham had stressed, desired to make its services of the most popular character. We therefore suggested that the public be given the opportunity, regularly, of selecting two of the items to be played each evening—one item to be a free request for any musical item of the same type as the evening's programme, and the other to be a request for a repetition of the most popular



—S. P. Andrew, photo.

### MISS AVA SYMONS.

**M**ISS AVA SYMONS, the unusually gifted violinist, who will lead the orchestra, is a New Zealander. She showed exceptional talent during her early studies with Max Hoppe, when she won first prize at the Napier Competitions, and also attained a similar distinction at the Auckland Competitions in the open class in the same year (1911). Her first orchestral experience was obtained at the age of 15, when, as a member of the Sheffield Orchestra she toured New Zealand. Miss Ava Symons was the only non-professional member of the orchestra. Whilst in Italy, where she received special tuition from Maestro Poltronieri, principal violin master of the Milan Conservatoire of Music, a great privilege was extended to this gifted violinist in that she was permitted to attend all rehearsals of the Poltronieri Quartet (string). In England she entered the Royal Academy, and studied there under the well-known violinist and exponent of the Auer School, Mr. Spencer Dyke. In 1919 Miss Symons in London was fortunate enough to receive tuition from the famous French violinist, Mdlle. Rene Chemet. It was this great artist who was responsible for Miss Symons securing the beautiful "Grand Nicola Amati" violin which she now possesses. Since her return to the Dominion, Miss Symons has been heard at many concerts, and has given recitals with Mr. Frank Hutchens, Miss Constance Leatham, and, in Wellington, a series of most successful sonata recitals. Her fame and ability are beyond question.



MR. W. J. BELLINGHAM, musical director of the Radio Broadcasting Company, who will control and conduct the 2YA Orchestra for the first month of operation. —Photo. by Capitol Studio, Auckland.



MR. GEO. ELLWOOD, 'cellist and permanent conductor of 2YA Orchestra.

—S. P. Andrew, photo.