

# Enthusiastic Praise for 2YA Orchestra

## General Appreciation of Players and Selections

**APPRECIATIVE** comment has been evoked on all sides by the first week's performances of the 2YA orchestra, and it is already plain that the engagement of such a talented group of performers will be not only an outstanding event in broadcasting but an event of first-class importance in influencing musical taste throughout the country. It is a definite policy that the orchestra shall cater for the popular taste, and the steps being taken through our columns to secure public judgment will afford a very reliable index to that taste, provided adequate use is made of the opportunity, as we believe will be the case. The initial concert from 2YA was re-broadcast by 3YA very successfully. This is likely to be done frequently so that 2YA's orchestra will mean almost as much to the other centres as to Wellington itself.

**T**HE 2YA orchestra sprang into popular favour with its initial concert of Tuesday, May 1. Opinions heard on all sides indicate that expectations were exceeded by the very finished performances given by all performers of the popularly selected music calculated to make an appeal to every possible taste. The evening's performance served to demonstrate conclusively that with an orchestra of this calibre the whole gamut of orchestral composition was available, thus assuring a variety not otherwise possible.

The initial number of the orchestra was "Poet and Peasant." This is always a popular number and was undoubtedly brilliantly played. The mastery of instruments and precision of attack on the part of the orchestra left nothing to be desired. Mr. Geo. Ellwood's solo was the outstanding feature of this particular number.

The spirit of "The Answer" was sympathetically given. As music-lovers know "The Request" and "The Answer" interpret the query and answer of a blind organist as to the reason for his affliction. In "The Answer" there is conveyed a heavenly inspiration which soothes the wounded spirit and converts despairing ravings into content and happiness. The sympathy so necessary to this work was ably attained. In "Romanza Andaluza" opportunity was afforded Miss Ava Symons to display her brilliance and artistry. The final number of this bracket was the ever popular Toreador song played as a trombone solo by Mr. S. J. Forrest.

A musicianly interpretation of "Peer Gynt" proved very satisfying to classically-minded listeners. In the setting of "At Evening" Mr. H. Berry distinguished himself by the fine tone of his cornet solo and "La Paloma," which followed, delighted many. It may prove to be the popular choice for the repeat number.

Devotees of the fox trot were delighted by the versatility displayed by the orchestra in turning to fox trot numbers and waltzes. The final number, "Slavonic Rhapsody," was characterised by the brilliant work of Mr. A. H. F. Wright with the clarinet. In this he displayed brilliant technique and finished tone.

And so ended the opening concert with the reputation of the combination definitely made.

**CHRISTCHURCH** crystal set users have heard the new orchestra. To say that it has been enjoyed is to

express the sentiments of listeners very mildly. By the process of re-broadcasting through 3YA, the orchestra means almost as much to the crystal set users of Christchurch as to the crystal set users of Wellington. Though Tuesday is 3YA's silent day, the station went on the air and re-broadcast the Wellington concert for the special benefit of Christchurch crystal set users, an action on the part of the Broadcasting Company which was widely appreciated.

Many congratulatory messages have been received. One correspondent who is well-known to the correspondence branch at the headquarters of the Broadcasting Company for his candour in criticising or praising the Company as he thinks the occasion warrants, sums up the advent of the orchestra in these words:

Wonderful orchestra at 2YA. Expected something "extra special," and it was a triumph to all concerned. The R.B.C. forges ahead steadily. Congrat's.

### MUSIC LOVERS' APPRECIATION

**THE** formation of the 2YA studio orchestra marks a distinct step forward in broadcasting in New Zealand. The Broadcasting Company has done the thing very handsomely, and the combination of ten such talented performers comes as a welcome surprise. Listeners to Wellington's giant station are now able to hear what, to music-lovers, is one of the most enjoyable forms of entertainment. The scope of the orchestra is almost unlimited, embracing, as it does, opera, cantata, sonata, symphony, overture (ancient and modern), suite, fantasia, rhapsody, symphonic poem, march, all forms of dance music, song-setting, etc.

The 2YA studio orchestra has immediately scored a decided "hit," and has already proved itself perfect in combination and balance, and completely artistic in interpretation, in each form of musical expression so far put on the air. Each player, however, is recognised as a "top-notch" in Wellington musical circles, and all that was required for complete success was combination which, as experienced musicians, was easily acquired in a few preliminary practices together before their inaugural broadcast. Tribute may well be paid to Mr. Bellingham, not only for the wisdom which guided his selection of the members of the orchestra, but also for the diversity of the class of music already performed, for it must be remembered that the thousands of listeners to 2YA, Wellington, are widely varied in their tastes. Concessions have been discreetly made to each section so that each evening there will be orchestral numbers that will please everyone in turn. This is a requisite in broadcasting.

Of the lighter music there is an infinite variety to choose from, and new compositions are coming out all the time. Among the heavier compositions which are calculated to please not only the "high brows" but also a large section of listeners who lay claim to no special musical culture, are the "overtures" and other works of the great masters.

Here are a few items I would suggest as suitable for a wide circle of listeners: Overtures to "Rienzi," "The Flying Dutchman," and "Die Walkure" (Wagner). Prelude to "Lohengrin" (Wagner). "Midnight at Sedan" orchestral fantasia (Zollner). "Invitation to the Dance" (Weber). Overture "Di Ballo" (Sullivan). Overture fantasia "Romeo and Juliet" (Tchaikowsky). Symphonic poem "The Wood Dove" (Dvorak). Rhapsody "Espana" (Chabrier). Tone poem "Taormina" (Boeche). Little suite "Children's Games" (Bizet). Prelude to "The Ruby" (d'Albert). Fantasia "The Mystic Trumpeter" (Converse). Suite "Impressions of Italy" (Chapientier). Ballet music from "Fera-mors" (Rubinstein). Suite "Schererzade" (Rimsky-Korsakov).

One of the most effective works of the above rough list is the prelude to "Die Walkure," although somewhat brief. It is descriptive of the rising and subsidence of a furious storm. It is mainly constructed on a simple subject, repeated and varied, and leads to the scene where Siegmund suddenly appears in Hunding's hut. I would like first to hear this item tried out on the great listening public, but I have no misgivings as to how it would be received.

### LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

**A.C.M., Wellington:** "The programme was a pleasure to listen to after what we have had to listen to. It is the best programme we have had since the Maori entertainment, broadcast by the Wanganui Maoris, which was the best programme ever broadcast in New Zealand. The items rendered by the orchestra were beautifully played, especially "That Saxophone Waltz," and "The Doll Dance." I must praise the orchestra highly for their fine efforts and also give great credit to the conductor. Hoping we shall have the pleasure of hearing plenty more of such music."

**S.M.K., Wellington:** "I would like to congratulate you on obtaining such a first-class orchestra as you have. I have just been listening in this evening, the initial appearance of the orchestra, and I must say that their items were a real treat and very much appreciated indeed. Good luck and best wishes, 2YA."

**W.E.B., Featherston:** "I must congratulate you and the members of your orchestra on the very fine concert you have given listeners in tonight. It was undoubtedly one of the best I have heard in New Zealand—and will no doubt do a lot of good for wireless in New Zealand."

**J.B.D., Ohau:** "Speaking of the orchestra I may state that we here are thrilled with it, and I honestly consider it the best combination I've ever listened to, and I only hope it will have a long life in 2YA's studio."

### PRESS COMMENT

**THE** reception given by Wellington listeners to the new orchestra arranged for 2YA has been most satisfactory and pleasing. Writing in "The Dominion," "Aerial" says: "The orchestra comprises an array of talent it would be difficult to equal in any other portion of New Zealand. Each of the performers has a well-established reputation in musical circles, and Mr. Bellingham is to be complimented on his choice in selecting the orchestra. If there has been one weakness in the programmes of 2YA it has been the absence of an orchestra, and this circumstance has been frequently referred to in these columns. One must confess, however, that although there was every reason to believe that an orchestra would eventually be engaged for 2YA, it was not

anticipated that the performers would comprise such distinguished members of the musical profession. Musical people are, of course, aware that an orchestra is more capable, as a combination of players, of interpreting most massed instrumental music than a band. The 2YA orchestra is well balanced, the instruments being selected upon the most approved basis."

Describing the initial performance, "The Dominion" said: "The items given ranged from classical compositions to dance music, and listeners report excellent reception, and the tone melodious. Mr. Bellingham was the recipient of many congratulations on the excellence of the orchestra."

### RADIO LICENSES IN BRITAIN

2,583,726 ON JANUARY 1.

The latest figures to hand show that the total number of listening-in licenses in Britain on January 1 last was 2,583,726, plus roughly 11,000 free licenses given to blind and other listeners. The license fee in Britain is 10s. per annum.

### MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC CONFERENCE AT 2YA

### MEETING OF PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE

Following the recent conference of representatives of the musical and dramatic organisations at Wellington, the meeting of the Provisional Committee was held on Wednesday afternoon at 2YA Studio. There was a large and representative attendance. Mr. R. Palmer was voted to the chair, and after the minutes of the previous conference were read and confirmed, and the purpose of the proposed committee further explained by representatives of the company, Mr. A. Stanley Warwick moved and Mr. Harrison Cook seconded:

That this provisional committee approve the Radio Broadcasting Company's proposal for the formation of a 2YA musical and dramatic committee for the purpose of stimulating interest in musical and dramatic arts, and that those present agree to constitute themselves such a committee, subject to the ratification of the respective societies.

This was carried unanimously. The constitution and rules to govern the activities of the committee were considered, and, with minor amendments, adopted.

## Selecting Items for 2YA's Orchestra

### HEAVY RESPONSE BY THE PUBLIC

**A** HEAVY response has been made by the public to the opportunity given of expressing their wishes, through our voting coupons, and it is plain that this method makes a popular appeal. Experience throughout the first week shows the need of some adjustments to facilitate ease in working. We are therefore dividing the coupon into two—one for request items and the other for "repeats." In the case of requests, it is deemed advisable to make selection at least three clear days ahead to permit of the operative score being procured, should the number chosen be a little out of the ordinary. For convenience in administration the Broadcasting Company is co-ordinating a full musical library in Christchurch, upon which 2YA will need to draw undoubtedly from time to time. Those making "requests" will therefore please note this time requirement, and also that their nominations are not ignored because they may not be complied with at first. Great value is attached to the requests coming forward, and all will be recorded and used as a basis in the compilation of the ordinary programme of the orchestra, apart from the request number itself. In this way the assurance may almost be given that any item desired will be played sooner or later.

In the case of "repeats," the coupon is designed to permit voting on all four evenings. Selection in this case is made at noon of the day concerned, and votes are receivable up till then. Distant listeners may send their votes forward for the early part of the week in order to have a share in the voting, and follow later with their wishes for the latter part of the week. Ordinary correspondence may be sent apart from the coupon, which is merely offered for convenience. To distinguish voting correspondence readily from our ordinary business mail would listeners please use the symbols, 2YA/0 Radio Record, P.O. Box 1032, Wellington.

### Request Item Coupon

For Evening of .....  
(Fill in day and Date.)  
Address: 2YA/0, Radio Record, P.O. Box 1032, Wellington.

I would like to hear .....  
played by 2YA's Orchestra.

Signed .....

**NOTE:**—Request coupons should reach us three clear days before date of request, to give time, if necessary, for provision of music in orchestral score. Only items which are prepared for orchestral work should be nominated. Selection is made in accordance with majority wishes, but careful record will be kept of all nominations, and the effort made to comply sooner or later in the compilation of programmes.

### 'Repeat' Coupon

Address: 2YA/0, Radio Record, P.O. Box 1032, Wellington.

I desire to nominate the following items for "repeats" next week:—

Monday (Classic) .....

Tuesday (Operatic) .....

Friday (Popular) .....

Saturday (Vaudeville) .....

Signed .....

Votes may be recorded for one or for all of the nights mentioned. This selection is made at mid-day for the evening affected. Voting papers receivable till noon. Distant listeners may send forward their Monday's and Tuesday's votes if desired, in order to be in time, and follow later with Friday's and Saturday's wishes. The coupon is inserted for convenience, and may be supplemented in writing.



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