

Week Of Welcome To Radio Stars

FINE
SINGERS—



—GREAT
FLAUTIST



Left to right: Sydney de Vries (baritone); John Amadio (flautist—in character for "Jenny Lind" production); Florence Austral (soprano).

NEXT week will be busy with welcomes for the listeners of this country, for it will witness the introduction through the national microphones of some artists the like of whom may be heard only once in a long while. In addition to the new "importations" of musical talent there are to be considered those two fine singers who have already become acquainted with their radio audiences—Beatrice Pugh and Grace Wilkinson, soprano and contralto respectively, the former an Australian and the latter a New Zealander. But beyond these personalities there loom the figures of Florence Austral, John Amadio, Browning Mummery and Sydney de Vries.

Four or five weeks ago Grace Wilkinson swept through Wellington on a swift intention to get back to her old friends in Christchurch, where her welcome was that to be expected of an old friend of the city and one who had made a not unenviable name for herself on the other side of the world. Two weeks ago she started a tour of the national stations at 2YA, and the friendly manner in which she introduces herself to listeners has already had its reward in the appreciation expressed by her audience. As she explained to a "Radio Record" representative last week, "I like the friendliness of speech through the micro-



GRACE WILKINSON.



BEATRICE PUGH.

phone for those people who are going to listen to me. After all, I'm about to tell them a story in music, and unless I get that personal contact beforehand, both they and myself are missing something."

Through the interest and encouragement of Dame Clara Butt after she had heard Miss Wilkinson sing in Christchurch some eight years ago, the young contralto was able to go to England and Europe for study. Sir Henry Wood, Kennedy Scott and Sir Dan Godfrey were three of the outstanding musicians with whom she has been associated in England, and in Berlin she studied with Conrad von Bos, through whom she was able to appear in the German capital. In Paris her further tuition was with Madame Croiza. Recitals, oratorios and symphony concerts in England saw many appearances of the New Zealander, and several broadcasts were given.

"I found the people in Berlin most kind and hospitable," said Miss Wilkinson. "One cannot help but see the change there is in music since the expulsion of Jews, many of whom had been in the front rank. But the Germans' love of music is undiminished. They love the simple things of life, yet they're so serious at the back of it all."

Already the tour of Beatrice Pugh has begun, (Continued on page 8.)