



Dorothy Davies and Colleen Rae-Gerrard. Photograph by Arthur' Rae, 1979. MS Collection, acc. 82-69

where she accompanied and played chamber music. Dorothy recalls a live broadcast of a trio with Harold and Irene Beck during which an earthquake struck: 'I remember the piano leaving my hands in one of the waves and. . . I had to dive after it.' She also set up the music library—the nucleus of Radio New Zealand's present library.⁵

Dorothy saved her performance earnings and in 1931, armed with £100, she went to London to study at the Royal College of Music, where she remained for three years. Among her teachers were Arthur Alexander, another New Zealander, and the Bach specialist Frederick Jackson. As there were no student grants in those days, she supported herself with part-time work, playing for Ballet Rambert and for two very different clubs—a physical culture club, for which she played jazz, and accompanying for one of Malcolm Sargent's concert clubs.⁶

It was while in London that Dorothy met the Austrian pianist Artur Schnabel. She had become an admirer in New Zealand through hearing his recordings of the Beethoven sonatas, was 'speechless' when she met him but requested an audition. However, as Schnabel was leaving London the following day, he said she would have to go to his home in Italy to audition. Dorothy recalls: