

Maurice and Audrey Brett – and the Olin String Quartet, 1963

During their eight years in Northern Ireland, Maurice and Audrey Brett have made a considerable contribution to music in the province. This talented couple first met when they shared a 'desk' with the Yorkshire Symphony Orchestra and shortly after their marriage they joined the BBC orchestra in Belfast. Maurice gave up a job as a bank clerk in London to study at the Royal College of Music while Audrey at the age of 16 gained a scholarship to the Royal College of Music in Manchester - both studied the violin.

Quite soon after settling down in Ulster, the Bretts formed the Olin String Quartet with two colleagues from the BBC orchestra, violist Barbara Shires and cellist John Bunting. The quartet quickly gained recognition and has performed all over the province under the sponsorship of the Arts Council. They also broadcast regularly. When Barbara Shires left Belfast 18 months ago, another member of the BBC orchestra, David Gribble, took her place. David Gribble, who formerly played the violin, was persuaded to change to the viola which he plays with the quartet and also the BBC orchestra.

In addition to the performances of the quartet, Audrey is leader of the Studio Symphony Orchestra while Maurice is deputy leader of the City of Belfast and BBC orchestras and has given recitals all over Ireland. Most recently the Bretts had an outstanding ovation when they played Hank Bading's Concerto for two violins with the City of Belfast Orchestra.

In Music Room at 6.25pm on Thursday, 4 July [1963], in the Home Service the quartet will be joined by Havelock Nelson for a performance of Novak's Quintet for piano and string quartet.

Edward Osborne, oboe – 1964

For the past six years Edward Osborne has been playing the oboe with the BBC Northern Ireland Light Orchestra. On Tuesday evening, 12 November [1964], at 6.35pm, he joins the orchestra as soloist to play Vivaldi's Concerto in E major for oboe and strings.

After studying at the Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall and winning second prize for the oboe, Osborne served in the Middle East with the Band of the Queen's Bays 2nd Dragoon Guards. Between leaving the army and coming to Northern Ireland, Mr Osborne taught the oboe in his native Edinburgh.

In addition to his work with the BBC and City of Belfast Orchestras, Ted Osborne has become well-known throughout the province as a soloist and chamber music player. He tells us that Tuesday evening will be his first concerto performance.