

**BBC Press Information, c.1967**

## **BBC MUSIC APPOINTMENTS**

### **NEW LEADER AND ORCHESTRAL PRODUCER**

Two new music appointments are announced by the BBC in Northern Ireland this week.

MAURICE BRETT has been appointed Leader of the BBC Northern Ireland Orchestra in succession to DAVID ADAMS who resigns at the end of August to return to England in a freelance capacity.

MAURICE BRETT joined the BBC Orchestra in Belfast in 1955 and for the past seven years he has been Deputy Leader. Prior to coming to Northern Ireland he played with the Yorkshire Symphony Orchestra where he met his wife Audrey who is also a member of the [BBC] Northern Ireland Orchestra and Leader of the Studio Symphony Orchestra.

MAURICE is well known as a solo and ensemble player; together with his wife he formed the Olin String Quartet, and has played a number of concertos with the Ulster Orchestra and given many recitals in concert halls all over Ireland. Last June the Bretts were invited to Vienna where they took part in a Kurt Roger memorial concert which was highly acclaimed in the Austrian press.

As a relaxation from music, MAURICE is a keen flyer. He holds a pilot's licence and is an active member of the Ulster Flying Club.

### **NEW PRODUCER FOR N.I.O.**

ALAN TONGUE has been appointed Music Assistant in charge of the BBC Northern Ireland Orchestra.

Since coming to Northern Ireland in 1963 as Director of Music at Belfast Royal Academy, ALAN TONGUE has made a considerable impression in musical circles. At B.R.A. he has formed two orchestras and brought the choirs up to broadcasting standard. He has conducted the Belfast Dance Group in a memorable performance of *The Soldier's Tale*. He has also played as percussionist with the BBC Orchestra.

ALAN TONGUE founded and conducted the Bath Youth Orchestra in his home town and toured Germany with them, and when he was studying music under THURSTON DART at Jesus College, Cambridge, he founded and conducted the Cambridge Modern Ballet. It was through this ballet company that he met his future Ulster wife MADELEINE McCORMICK who danced in a recent BBC television series *Lighting-up Time*.

ALAN TONGUE is a composer – mainly of ballet music, and an arranger, and he has just returned from Trinidad where he was adjudicator at the Steel Band Festival.

With the compliments of the Information Officer, BBC Belfast.