



On the visit of the Hallé Orchestra and Barbirolli to the King's Hall, Belfast for three concerts Tue, Wed, Thu, 27-29 Aug 1946

Belfast Telegraph - Thursday 29 August 1946, page 2

Seen and Heard

Ulster Woman in Hallé

For one of its musicians the visit of the Hallé to Northern Ireland this week has been a homecoming. Miss Joyce Forster, of 104 Stranmillis Road, has been a member of the string section of the orchestra since May 1944.

Born in Tyrone, she was a well-known competitor in musical festivals in many parts of Ireland a few years ago, and won numerous prizes, including the Ord Scholarship for Musicianship, one of Belfast's most coveted awards. She has travelled extensively with the Hallé Orchestra in the last two years, performing in concerts given for the Forces in France, Belgium, and Holland before the end of the war.

Her father, Mr. T. S. Forster, has been organist in Fisherwick Presbyterian Church, Belfast, since 1932, and Miss Forster attributes her skill with the viola to his early encouragement and to the tuition she received from Miss Margaret Huxley, B.B.C. violinist.

Miss Forster, as well as being a member of the Hallé, can claim an interesting link with the late Sir Hamilton Harty, for 13 years its world-famous conductor, Sir Hamilton's father was at one time organist in Hillsborough Parish Church, a position which Mr. Forster in turn occupied for eleven years. During that time the Forster family resided in the house in Hillsborough where Sir Hamilton Harty was born.

In addition to Miss Forster there is only one other Irish musician, a Dublin lady, in the Hallé.