

“Musical Evangelists”

The life and work of music copyists in the United Kingdom during the early-mid twentieth century.

With particular reference to Rosina "Rosie" Bramson.



An orchestral
part for a
William Alwyn
work, copied
by Rosie
Bramson's
agency.

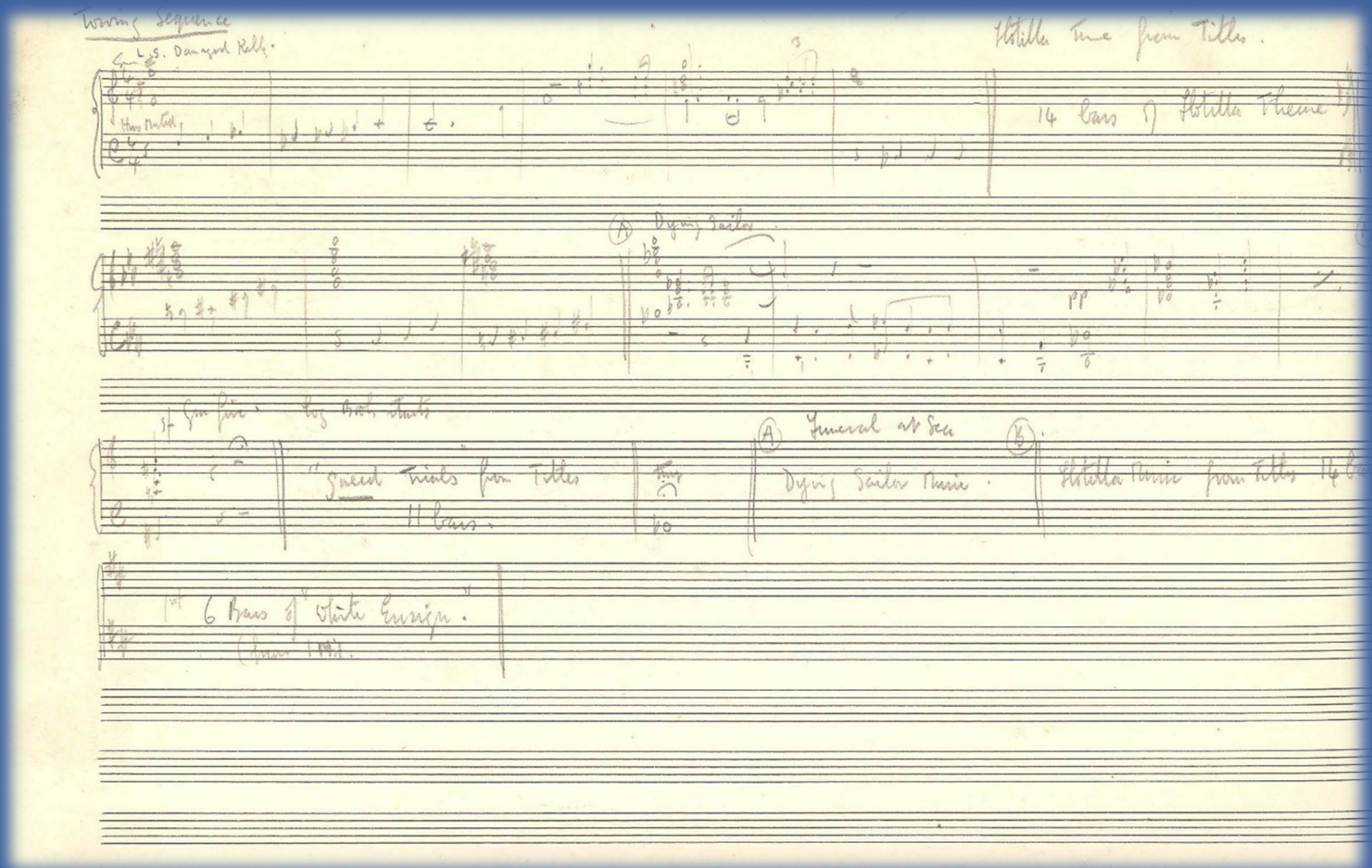
MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Thorough Good Bill-Poster for Tour,
Bostock and Wombwell's Menagerie. Join at once.
Apply, FRANK BOSTOCK, Sittingbourne, Saturday and Sunday ;
Faversham, Monday ; Canterbury, Tuesday.

WANTED, Musical Writer, to take down
Composer's Works. Must be quick. Near London.
Well paid. Address, Box 4,629, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Music Copyist. Must be clear.
Cheap. Large number of Songs.
Address, Box 4,630, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Lady of Twenty-five, with tact,
fair education, and pleasing manner, for confidential
position involving travelling. Liberal Salary. Particulars,
&c., Box 4,634, "The Era" Office.



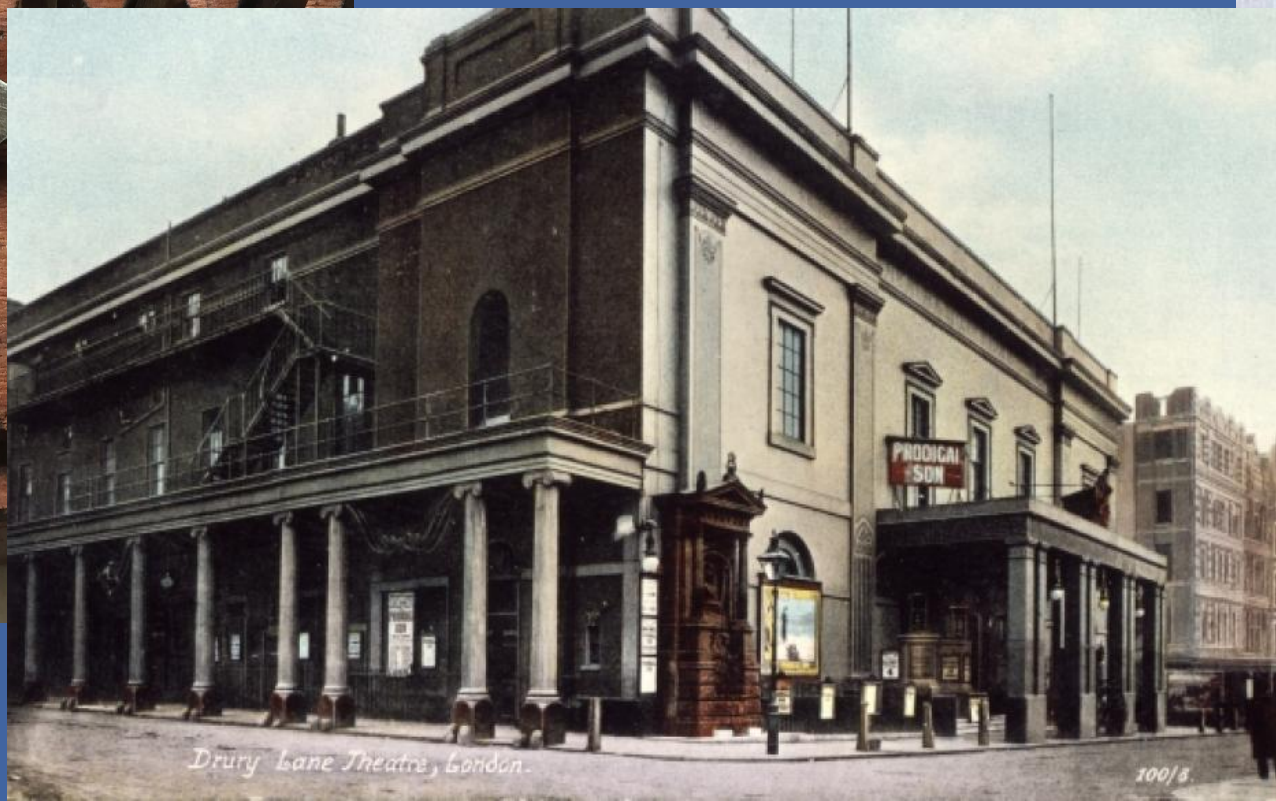
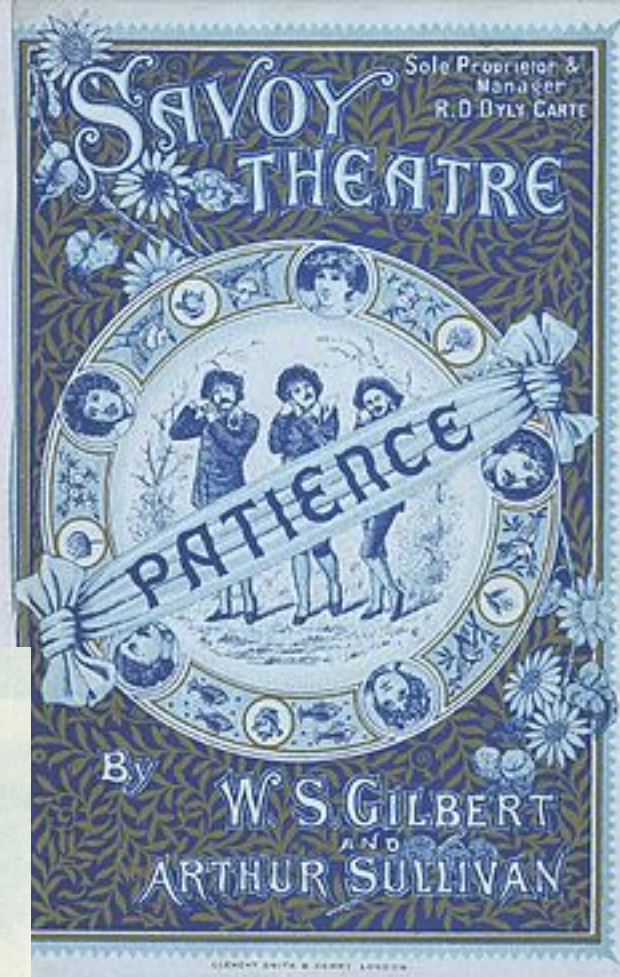
A young William Alwyn and a sketch for a film score

Copyist at work





Copyists worked in many places, including theatres...



I. Flute

1. M. 2.

Handwritten musical score for Flute, measures 10 to 15. The score is written on a single staff in 4/4 time. Measure 10 starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a *mar.* (marcato) marking. The tempo is marked *Moderato*. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests. Measure 15 is marked with a *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic and a *cresc. molto* (crescendo molto) marking. The score ends with a double bar line.

Parts for an Alwyn film score,
using different copyists both from
Rosie's Agency.

I. FLUTE.

Handwritten musical score for Flute, measures 15 to 45. The score is written on a single staff in 4/4 time. Measure 15 starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a *mar.* (marcato) marking. The tempo is marked *Moderato*. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests. Measure 20 is marked with a *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic and a *cresc. molto* (crescendo molto) marking. Measure 25 is marked with a *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic and a *cresc. molto* (crescendo molto) marking. Measure 30 is marked with a *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic and a *cresc. molto* (crescendo molto) marking. Measure 35 is marked with a *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic and a *cresc. molto* (crescendo molto) marking. Measure 40 is marked with a *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic and a *cresc. molto* (crescendo molto) marking. Measure 45 is marked with a *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic and a *cresc. molto* (crescendo molto) marking. The score ends with a double bar line.

Sometimes, copyists were
needed urgently...

And they were spread across
the country...





TORQUAY
DEVON'S RIVIERA
 FREE ILLUSTRATED GUIDE FROM
 THE CORPORATION PUBLICITY OFFICER




Halle Orchestra
 (Leader: LAURANCE TURNER)

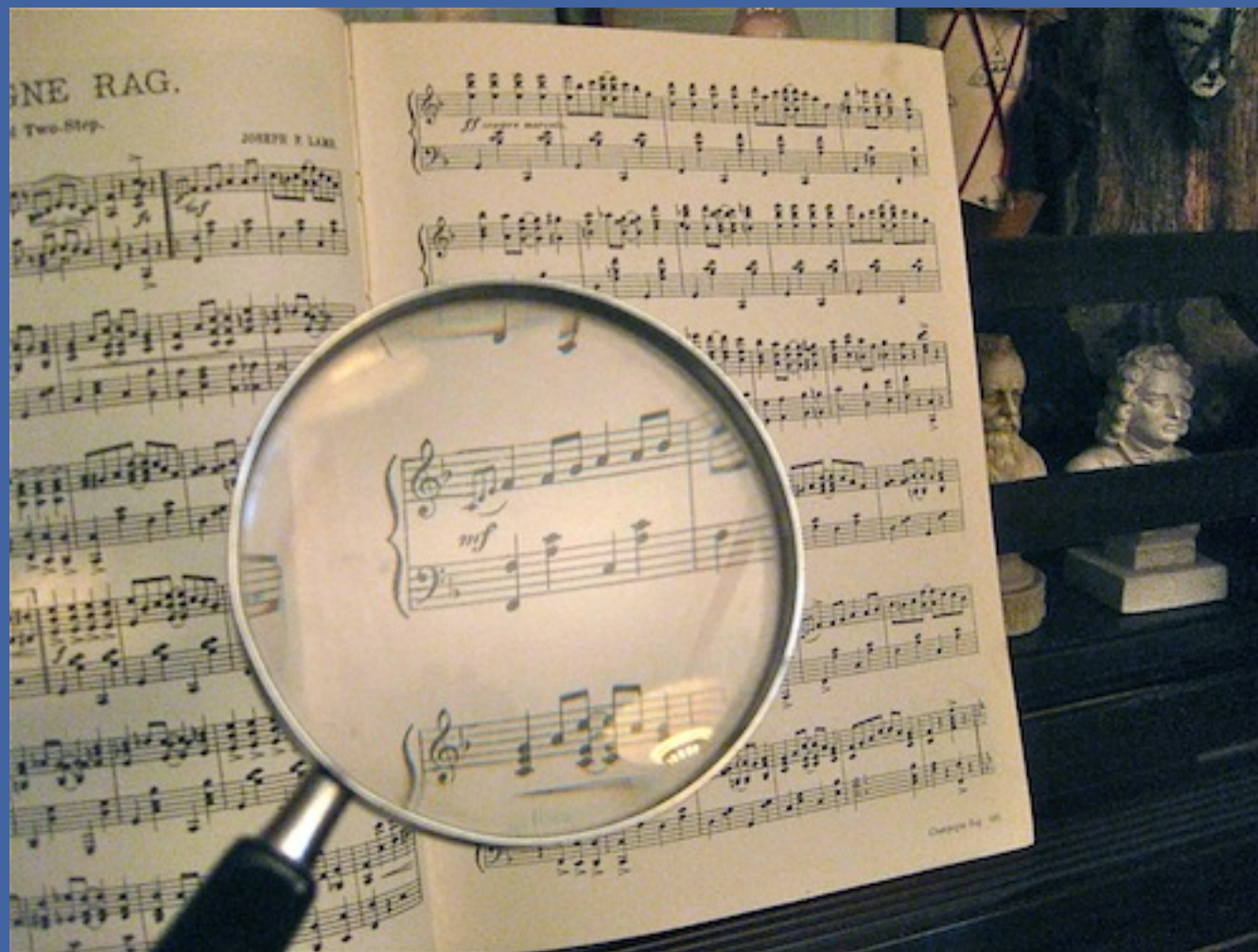
Conductor
SIR JOHN BARBIROLI

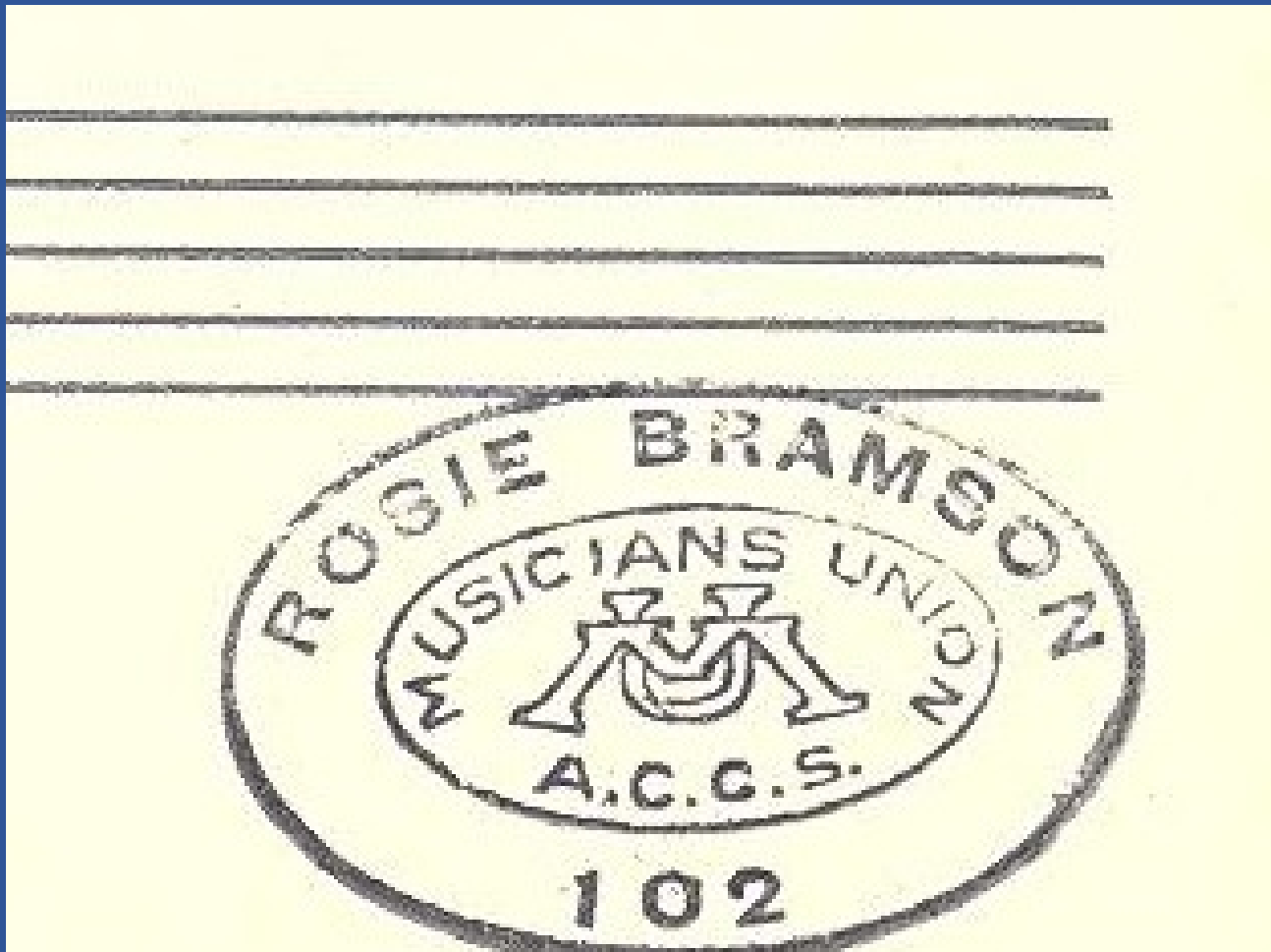
Solo Violoncello
HENRI HONEGGER

**FREE TRADE HALL
 MANCHESTER**



Not every composer's text
was clear.





Rosie's official Musicians'
Union stamp.



Andy Hodgkiss, a young music copyist / musician, who died tragically young.

Rosie shared an address with the publishers of Band Wagon magazine.



She was involved with
copyists joining the
Musicians' Union
from the beginning.

KEEP MUSIC LIVE

**Musicians'
Union**



theMU.org

A public thirst
for music and
dance during
wartime, led to
more, not less,
work for music
copyists.

12.0 noon **FRED HARTLEY
AND HIS SEXTET**
with Brian Lawrance
Spread a little happiness.....Ellis
When the Rose of Tralee met Danny
Boy.....Wallace
You made me care.....Gilbert
Hap-hap-happy day.....Timberg
La Rosita.....Dupont
Rosita.....Carr
Smoke gets in your eyes.....Kern
The pride of Tipperary.....Lochhead
The Londonderry air.....
arr. Dudley Beaven
Phil the fluter's ball.....French
(All items arranged by Fred Hartley)
12.30 p.m. **FREDRIC BAYCO**
at the organ
(See Home Service)



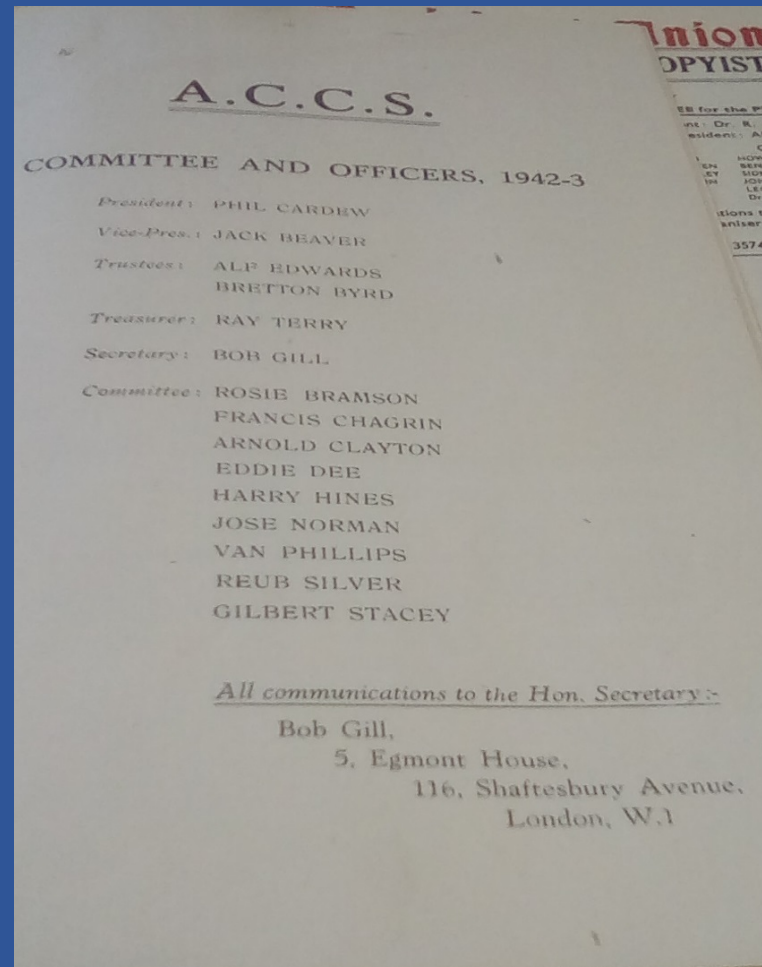
and **FREDERIC**
who will play to you today. Fredric Bayco
Theatre at 12.30 and Frederic Curzon
tonight at 10.0.

2.30 'GARRISON THEATRE'
(A recording of last night's
broadcast)
Devised by Charles Shadwell and
Harry S. Pepper
Richard Hassett, Bunny Doyle, and
other famous artists have promised to
appear (engagements permitting) at
the Garrison Theatre to entertain the
troops
Jack ('Blue-Pencil') Warner will be
there
The Garrison Theatre Orchestra
conducted by Lieut. Charles Shadwell
(late West Yorkshire Regiment)
Produced by Harry S. Pepper
3.30 'MUSICAL PICTURES'
Presented with gramophone records
by Sydney Northcote
4.0 'REQUESTS IN RHYTHM'
played by
Harry Leader and his Band
with Terry Wilson and Len Reed

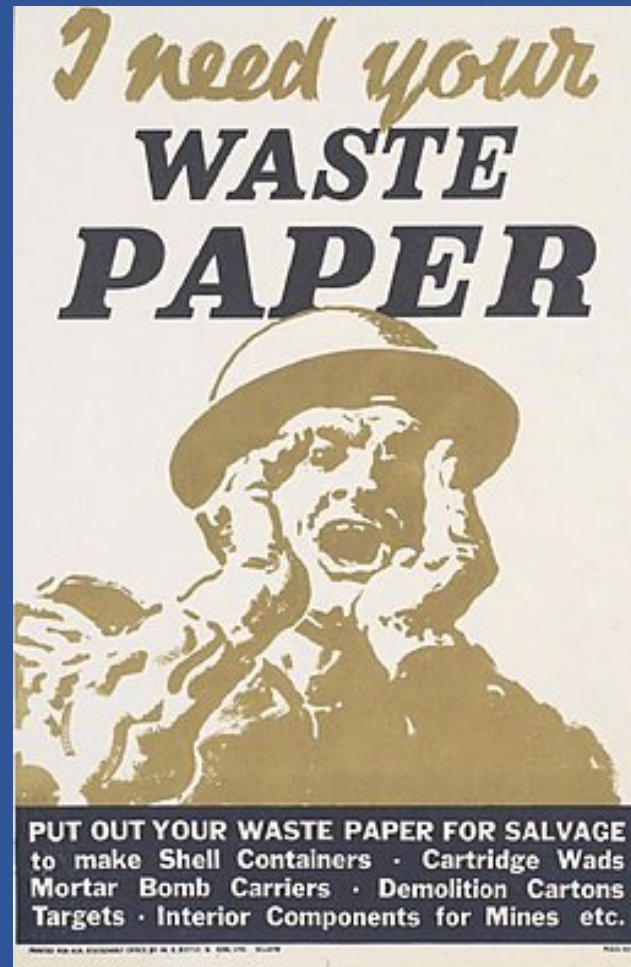
Here goes.....
Little Polly Finn.....
Diack (with apon.....
Handel wakes.....
The wedding of the painted doll.....
Musical box.....Heykens
Lilacs in the rain.....de Rose
Ad infinitum.....Kenneth Sydney Baynes
Star serenade.....May
Memories
(All items arranged by Kenneth
Sydney Baynes)
6.0 Foreign Languages Bulletin
6.30 'THE TWILIGHT HOUR'
A programme of melody, arranged
and presented by Sandy Macpherson
at the BBC theatre organ
7.0 A SHORT EVENING SERVICE
from St. Martin-in-the-Fields
Order of service
Introduction
Hymn: There is a green hill far
away (A. and M. 332; Rv. C.H.
105; Army Prayer Book 114)
Address by the Rev. W. P. G.
McCormick, D.S.O.
Prayer
Hymn: Sun of my soul, thou Saviour
dear (A. and M. 24; Rv. C.H.
292; Army Prayer Book 107)
Blessing
7.20 'WEEKLY NEWS LETTER'
7.40 'DEAR OLD SOUTHLAND'
A programme of dance music styled
the 'ultra-modern way'
with Ken Johnson and his West
Indian Dance Orchestra
featuring Al Bowlly, Don Johnson,
and the Johnsonairs
8.30 **ICE HOCKEY
FROM CANADA**
A commentary, by Foster Hewitt, on
the last period of the match between
Toronto Maple Leaf and New York
Americans, played last night at
Maple Leaf Garden, Toronto
(The programme recorded by, and
presented by the courtesy of, the
Canadian Broadcasting Corporation)

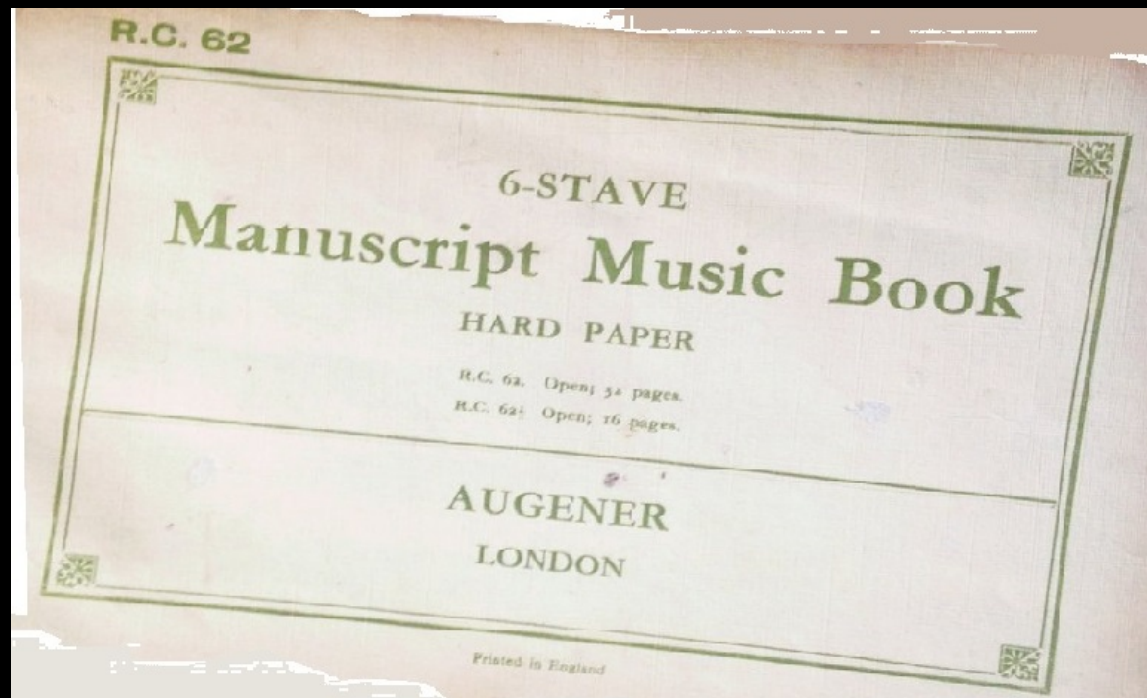
9.0 Foreign Languages Bulletin
9.15 'What's on tomorrow'
9.20 'THESE YOU HAVE
LOVED'
The songs you know so well and the
music you love to hear
Doris Arnold will play for you some
more records she has chosen
On 877 kc/s 342.1 m.
10.0 **FREDERIC CURZON**
at the BBC theatre organ
London Scottish march.....Haines
Three smart girls:
1 Fifinette.....Curzon
2 Sophisticated lady.....Ellington
3 Beryl.....Desmond
Portrait of a toy soldier.....Ewing
Selection of Jerome Kern melodies
arr. Curzon
10.30 A FAMOUS SOLOIST
Léon Goossens (oboe)
on gramophone records
Gavotte.....Rameau, arr. Burmeister
Romance No. 2.....Schumann
Le Cygne (The Swan).....Saint-Saëns
The Londonderry Air.....arr. Kreisler
10.45 **EPILOGUE**
(See Home Service)
From 10.55
342.1 m

Rosie is listed on the
Committee of the Arrangers,
Composers, and Copyists
Section of the Musicians'
Union early on in its history.



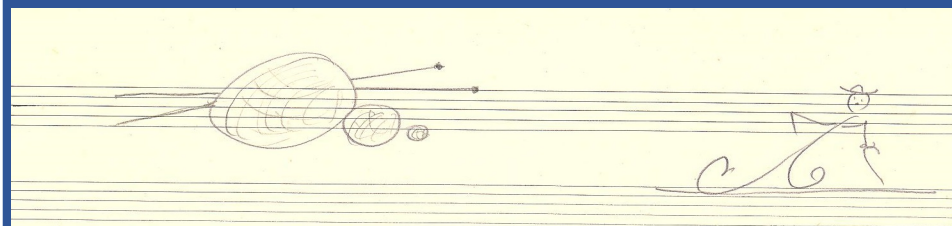
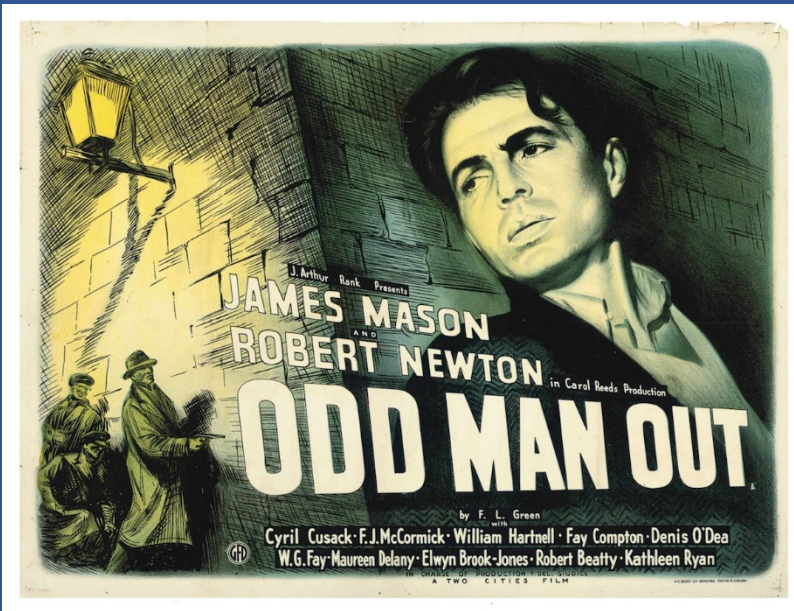
Finding manuscript paper was difficult, with even large suppliers running out.







Salute to Farmers, 1941.
Merton Park / Ministry of Information.
Composer – William Alwyn



Parts were seen as ephemeral, as these doodles illustrate.

Augs 11/11

VIOLAS ODD MAN OUT [B]

Slow (marcio fumble)
con rord.

5

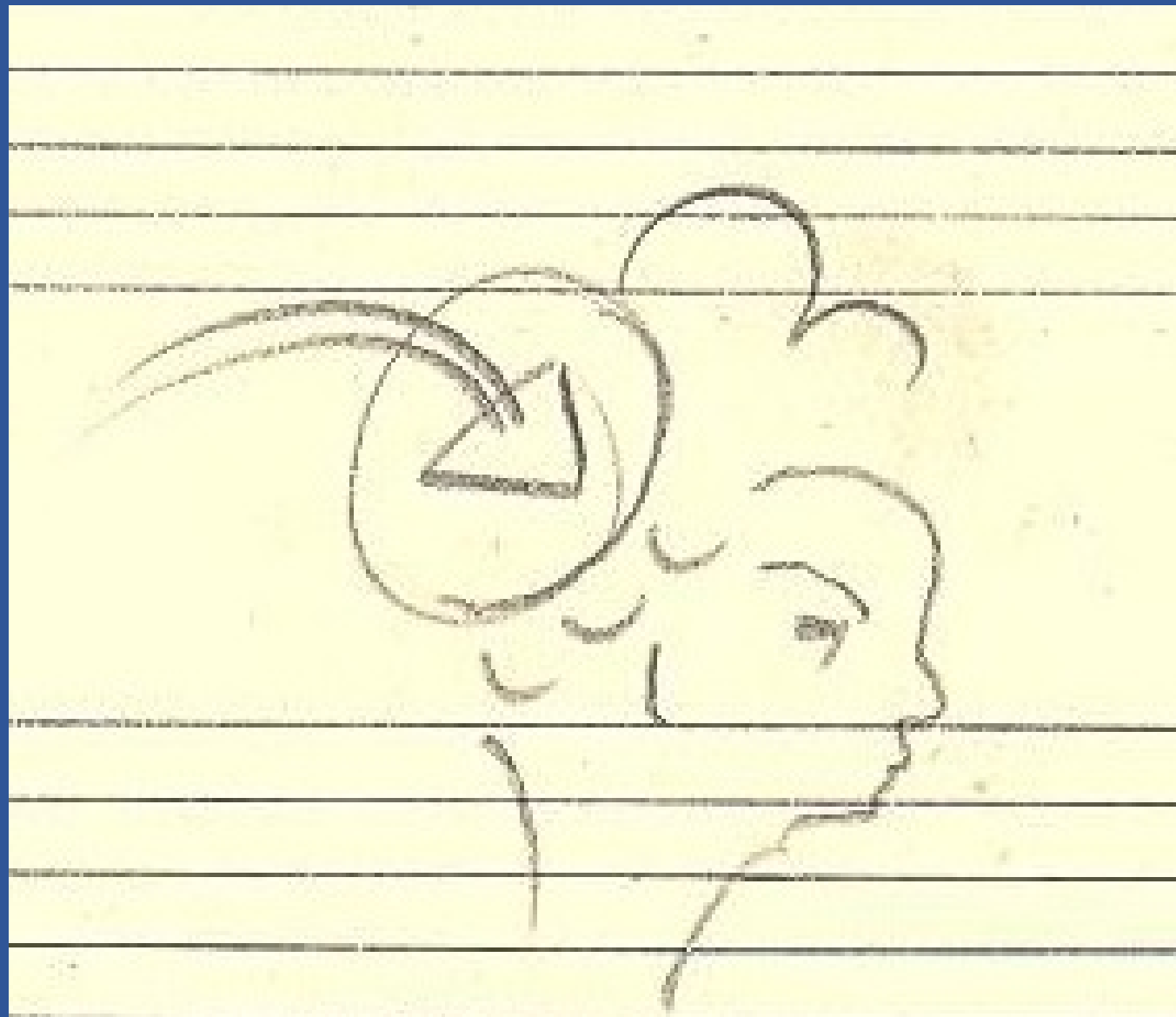
10

15

20

dim. rall. pp

I like to think that
this might be Rosie
Bramson, as I have
no idea what she
looked like.





The agency continued to prosper after the war.

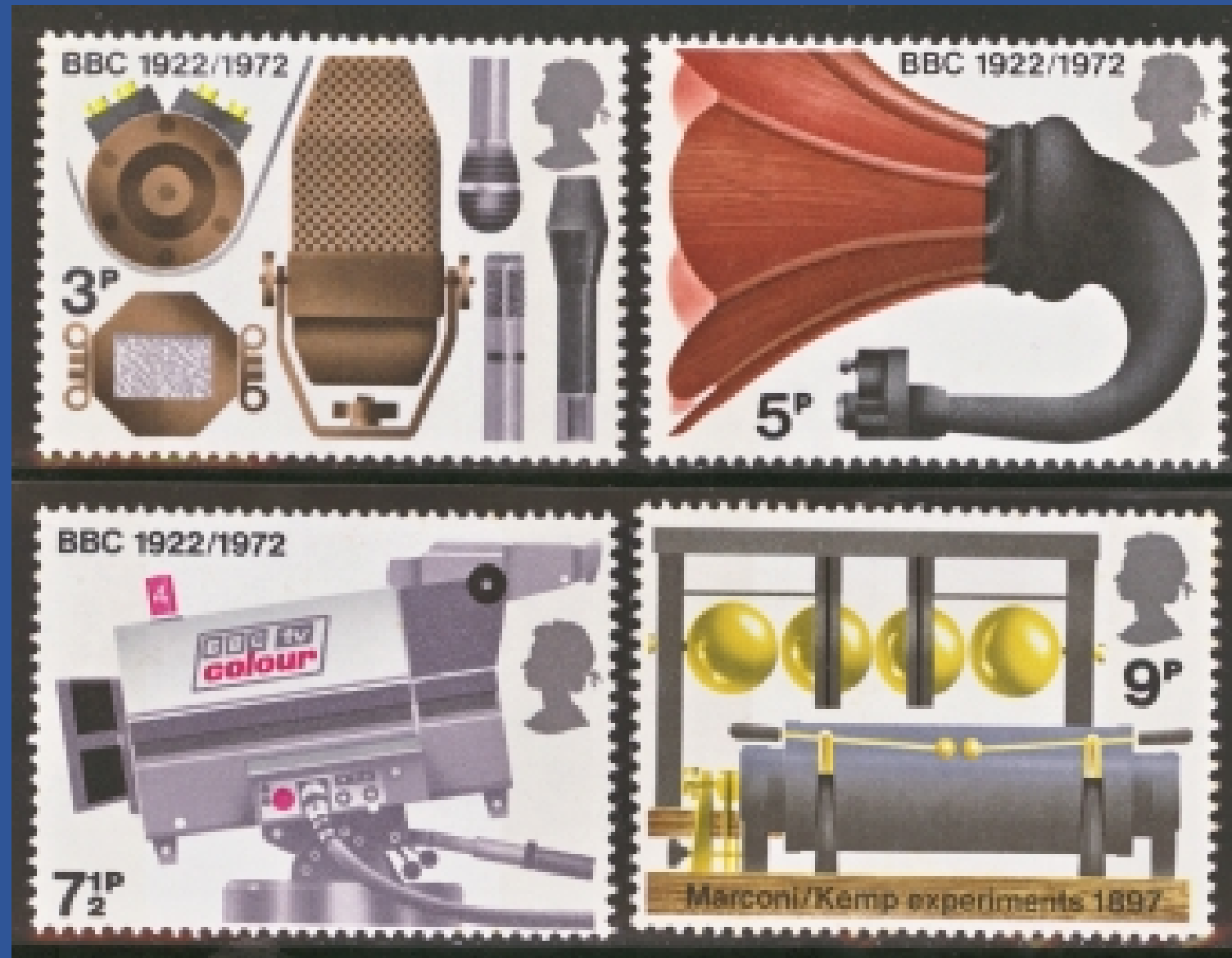
...though its original site
now lies somewhere under
Centrepont.





Photocopying and new devices would overtake the hand copyists....

...but a strike by
music copyists
at the BBC in
1972 proved
that they were
still needed,
despite
changing times.



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The life and work of music copyists in the United Kingdom during the early-mid twentieth century.

With particular reference to Rosina "Rosie" Bramson.

The reason for my title?

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----|----------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| 59 Ditto | 41. | 1. Branson Lewis J. | M. 14 MAR 83 | M. Porter (commission agent) |
| | | 2. Branson Emma | F. 10 SEPT 85 | M. Unpaid domestic duties |
| | | 3. Branson Thomas L. | M. 31 MAY 06 | S. Printing machine manager |
| 17.4.46 ICM | | 4. Branson Rosina C. | F. 15 JULY 07 | S. Musician |

An entry for Rosie and family (Rosie is on the bottom row, with her married name) in Ancestry.co.uk

Rosina C Bramson

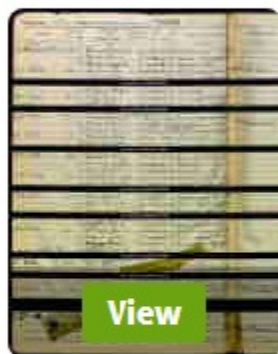
in the 1939 England and Wales Register

And appropriately, a copyist's mistake...



You've saved this record to your [shoebox](#).

[Remove](#)



 [Add Alternative Information](#)

 [Report issue](#)

Name: Rosina C Bramson
[Rosina C Butt]

Gender: Female

Marital status: Single

Birth Date: 15 Jul 1907

Residence Year: 1939

Address: 59

Residence Place: Sutton and Cheam, Surrey,
England

Occupation: Music Evangelist

Schedule Number: 41

Sub Schedule
Number: 4

Enumeration District: CNKR

Registration district: 31-4

Suggested Records



-  1911 England Census
Rosina Bramson
-  London, England, Church of England
Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917
Rosina Charlotte Bramson
-  England & Wales, Civil Registration
Birth Index, 1837-1915
Rosina Charlotte Bramson
-  British Phone Books, 1880-1934
Rosie C Bramson





Margaret Jones,
Music Collections Supervisor,
Music Department,
Cambridge University Library

mj263@cam.ac.uk

Photograph of Cambridge University Library courtesy of Sarah Chapman