



DOROTHY KIRSTEN RELAXES WHILE STUDYING ROLE FOR MEMPHIS OPERA

Success hasn't changed Kirsten's taste for simple family living

Soprano discovery of the 1940 musical season, Dorothy Kirsten, a Montclair, N. J., girl, has rolled up an impressive record since her operatic debut with the Chicago Opera Company that year. In the intervening period Kirsten has sung 31 concerts, made 23 appearances in grand opera and 24 in light opera, and has been on 14 broadcasts. Her most recent success was in the stellar role of the Victor Herbert operetta, "The Only Girl," in the summer light opera season at Memphis, Tenn.

"As thoroughly American as a baseball game or an ice-cream soda," her press agents say, Kirsten has developed few of the foibles of temperament. In her middle twenties, married to a young radio producer now in the Army, she week-ends with her family in Livingston, N. J., and keeps a New York studio.

Blondely beautiful with a good figure for clothes, Kirsten has an assured manner as befits the grand-daughter of Buffalo Bill's band leader on that showman's European triumphs before crowned heads. She is proud of the fact that her late grandfather at 93, then the oldest ex-president of the American Federation of Musicians union, ran away to come to New York to protest the mismanagement of the union's affairs. Big-eyed, she confides, "I know how he felt. I ran away from school when I was a high school senior. They tried to tell me what to do."

Sponsored by Grace Moore and with a sound musical background, Kirsten is undoubtedly en route to the Metropolitan. Competent critics have acclaimed her voice and her ability as a musician. In their opinion she has what it takes to be one of the all-time great sopranos.