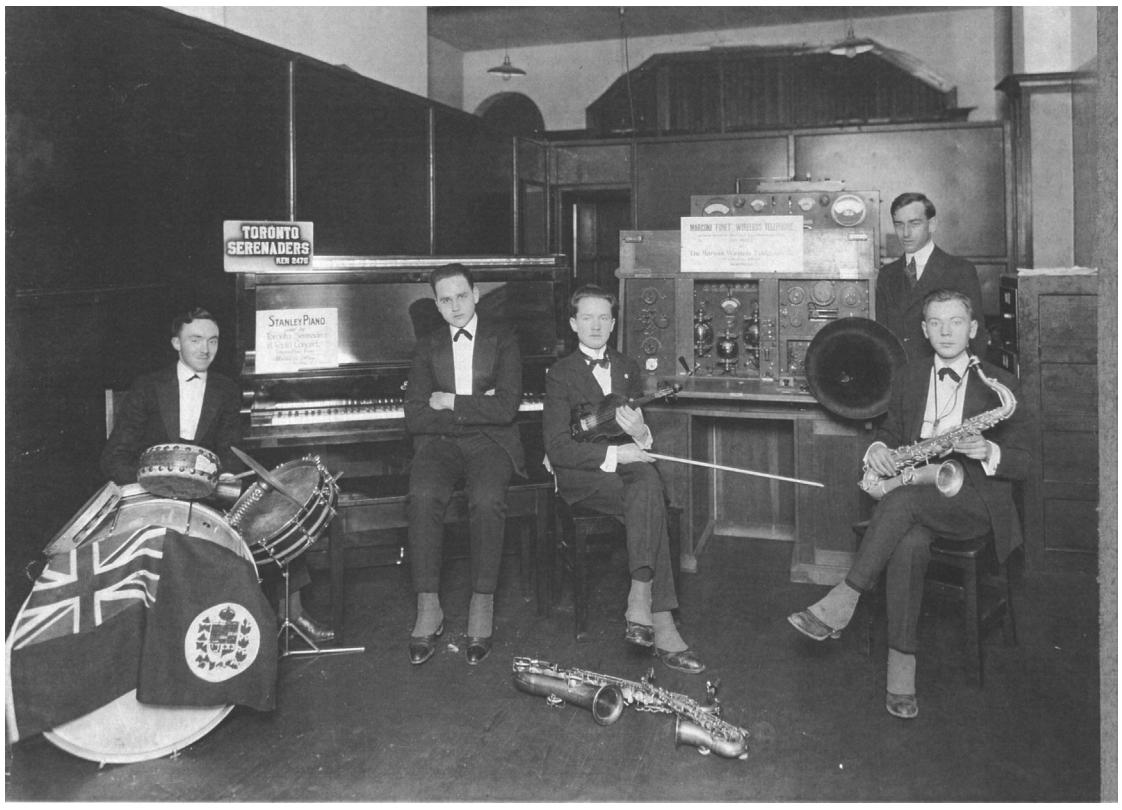
Bob Cornfield, violin




## First Wireless Concert Was Greatly Enjoyed

The first wireless concert given for the public in this city, was held last night, the Toronto Serenaders' Orchestra putting on a program at the Marconi Co. offices, 93 King Street east, which was transmitted so as to be perfectly audible at the Stanley Piano Building, 241 Yonge Street. It seemed like magic hearing the music carried through space and the intervening brick walls, and when at the conclusion of the program, the time signals for ten o'clock were heard from Arlington, Virginia, the marvel of the wireless impressed itself still more. Big Ben was fifteen seconds ahead of the United States time, booming out just before the expiration of the five minutes during which the seconds could be heard as they were ticked off at Arlington. The weather forecasts followed the time signals.

Mr. Frank Clarke acted as director at the Stanley Building, while Mr. W. Clarke received the wireless communications. Mr. Frank Clarke explained that a small indoor area for transmitting was being used at the Marconi building, as it was impossible to place one on the roof. A small wire on the roof at the Stanley building was used to receive the music. While music of this kind was more often received by the ear receivers, to arrange the concert for an audience to hear, the receivers had been placed on the small part of the horn of the gramophone to amplify the tones. Four horns were used to increase the sound. The sounds were sometimes interrupted, and Mr. Clarke attributed the cause to atmospheric disturbances. The Street cars also affected the tones, he said. A cloud-burst often had a marked effect, and in the Summer time it was much more difficult to transmit the sounds.

The program at the Marconi building was directed by Mr. Will G. Cottenden, who played the drums and bells, and other members of the Serenaders' Orchestra were Mr. George H. Smith, piano, James R. Fraser, saxophone, and Mr. R.N. Cornfield, violin. The first number was "Dixie Made Us Jazz Band Mad". The saxophone selections by Mr. Fraser were very clear, especially the "Alabama Moon", while the piano solo, Prelude in C minor, by Mr. Smith, was also distinct. "Honolulu Eyes", "Bright Eyes" and "Kismet" were transmitted very successfully. When the numbers were announced, the words could be heard quite clearly, and also when the Toronto station called Montreal. It was difficult, Mr. Clarke said, to know just the right position in which to place the various instruments so as not to deaden the tone. A horn was used to collect the tones, as it was also used to transmit them. The horn used was the all wood Brunswick Horn.

## AUDIENCE LISTENS TO WIRELESS MUSIC

### Sweet Strains, Borne on Ether Waves, Penetrate City's Clangor

A public audience was last night permitted to hear a concert by wireless. Over fifty people who assembled in the large salesroom of the Stanley Piano Company, 241 Yonge street, heard music which was played by the Serenaders' Orchestra at the Marconi Company's offices at 93 King street west. These concerts have been heard before by several amateur wireless enthusiasts in the city, but in such cases a receiver placed to the ear had to be used.

Last night popular airs came seemingly from nowhere through a wooden horn which amplified the tones until the room was filled with music - not loud, but quite distinct. Through the clamor of the city's most crowded section; through the discordant blare and racket of street cars and motor horns; through the giddy talk and laughter of thronging thousands, the wizardry of science guided every tremble of a note. It had the quality of music heard from a distance through still air.

**Reunion of first wireless broadcast with music**

From left to right, Bill Cottenden (dms.), George Smith (pno./sax.), Bob Cornfield (violin), Jim Fraser (sax.).

Photograph taken in 1954. Bill Cottenden suggested that Mm. Melba was the first singing voice over the wireless but the above group was the first to broadcast music played by an orchestra. No matter what Vincent Lopez had to say!!!