

# MUSICAL DIARY

## Lively small group

The Circle of Friends of the "Gilboa" School. Yael Nathansen, flute, Kurt Weingarten, violin, David Newland, viola, Jane Hodgson, cello and Mary Dalton, piano. (Beth Harofe, Haifa, March 18.) J. Chr. Bach: Quartet in C major, op. 8. No. 1; Joh. Brahms: Sonata in E-flat major, op. 120. No. 2, for viola and piano; Max Reger: Serenade in G major, op. 141a, for flute, violin and viola; Mozart Quartet in A-major K.V. 298 for flute, violin, viola and cello.

**F**OR the four members of the Haifa Symphony Orchestra it was more adventurous to play in a smaller music-making body than in a full orchestra. Flutist Yael Nathansen seems the team's spiritual leader. She kept alert to the composers' various styles and moods, with her dynamics and phrasing exactly right. Her tone is clear and warm, easily dominating the strings.

The strings handled their task with fluent technique and phrasing. Mary Dalton, a new face in Haifa is a disciple of the Manchester B.B.C. accompanist Clifton Helliwell. She follows on his footsteps with technical qualities (in the Brahms Sonata) palpably beyond amateur standards. With Mr. Newland as viola partner, the Brahms Sonata was given life, though the music's intensity still was not completely revealed. Reger's "Serenade," light-hearted and with an extra portion of lyric in the "Larghetto," was well played as the three participants communicated its poetry and happiness.

The concert was in aid of the retarded children of Haifa's "Gilboa" School, and the five young musicians volunteered their services. They were showered with flowers and applause from an overcrowded hall.

G.W.-B.