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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1946

No. 8

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# TRUTHFUL VISIT IS UNLIKE ANY OTHER

## ELLINGTON VISIT IS NOW UNLIKE ANY OTHER COUNT BASIE PROBABLE

(Musical Express Staff Reporter)

DUKE ELLINGTON IS UNLIKE TO BE VISITING EUROPE, DUE TO THE FACT THAT SUFFICIENTLY LUCRATIVE DATES ON THE CONTINENT CANNOT BE FOUND TO MAKE THE VISIT WORTH WHILE IN VIEW OF HEAVY TRAVELLING EXPENSES AND LARGE OVERHEADS. LESLIE MACDONNELL, OF FOSTER'S AGENCY, TOLD ME, HOWEVER, THAT HIS PARTNER, HARRY FOSTER, HEARD THE COUNT BASIE BAND WHILE IN THE UNITED STATES RECENTLY. HE CONSIDERS IT ONE OF THE FINEST IN THE WORLD TO-DAY.

Basie is very keen on coming to England. While it is very probable that he will actually play on the Continent if the international situation between the two unions concerned—the A.F.M. and the M.U.—are such as they were when Hylton wanted to bring Don Redman over here from the Continent recently, than there is not much hope of the Count playing in England.

On the other hand, Basie said to Harry Foster, during conversation, that if there were any restrictions on a British tour, then he was so keen on coming to England that he will be prepared to do a couple of shows for an important charity—such as the Musicians' Benevolent Fund. Of course, this offer was conditional upon Basie playing sufficiently near on a Continental tour. Such an appearance would be an important event in the interest of an important cause.

In fact, Basie is so keen on a European visit that Leslie Macdonnell is making enquiries into all the first-class dates available for a band of this magnitude. As soon as a tentative booking schedule has been evolved negotiations will no doubt commence.

## INDIAN MUSICIANS HERE

Currently in London are three well-known Indian musicians who are studying English music and conditions. They are Ike Isaacs who had a nine-piece band at Greens Hotel, Dahnudin, Reubon Solofon, who started the Jive Boys in Hangon in 1939 with Isaacs, and was there until the Japanese occupation, when he left to go to Calcutta and Norman Eermann, who has played tenor with both Solomon and Isaacs. These boys got together in London and decided to come over to see if there was a possibility of bringing their all-Indian band over, but on arrival they have found the Union restrictions make it impossible for them to work here individually, which had they hoped to do to gain experience of working conditions.

## Bliss for Budapest

Arthur Bliss is shortly leaving for Hungary. On November 27th he is to conduct a concert of his own works in Budapest.

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## JACK HARRIS in London

Hearing that Jack Harris was in London last Monday night our night reporter rang through to Crown Club where he was entertaining friends. Clow is the old haunt of the American maestro and getting news that he was there with Messrs. Aronson and Stocco, this reporter half expected to hear of developments of major importance, but no, Harris told us that he was in London saying farewell to some old friends about to leave for America. It was purely a social visit and nothing more. He explained that he gets Monday night off in Paris and took the opportunity of visiting old friends.

## JACKSON JOINS FOSTER'S AGENCY

Municipal Contracts Envisaged  
(Musical Express Staff Reporter)

IMPORTANT new move by that international institution, Foster's Agency, is the acquisition of bandleader Jack Jackson. This well-known musician will bring to Foster's his wealth of practical knowledge of bands and musicians. This move is the result of a far-sighted policy. In conversation with Leslie Macdonnell, that impresario told me he had seen too many of the wrong people in the right jobs going on all around him in other organisations. Fosters were about to enlarge their band department. They would, he said, put one musician with considerable practical knowledge of band business in charge of affairs. With this in mind they engaged Jack Jackson.

The project has a great deal to do with future municipal contracts. So many piers and dance halls at seaside resorts are being de-requisitioned that Foster's have been approached by many municipal authorities for advice on policy and presentation of band attractions. It is believed, therefore, that 1947 will be the first really big boom holiday period since the war. Macdonnell handles the big international name bands and can give no time to a new booking programme of this magnitude. So Jackson, with his great knowledge of music business, will be in a capacity to advise municipalities on the most suitable type of orchestras for their various requirements.

I spoke to Jack Jackson about his new undertaking. He told me he would not be free to give it his full time attention for a couple of months, due to other commitments. But after that, he said, he was going to devote all every minute of his personal attention to it.

Fosters have always been the world's greatest bands. In 1921 they brought Paul Whiteman to England. Then followed an impressive list of attractions, including "Vince" Lopez, Ebbie Lynn, Hal Kemp, Ben Bernie, and "The Four Aces" Calloway, Duke Ellington, etc.

## ARTHUR YOUNG for SWITZERLAND

Changes at BAG O' NAILS  
New personnel changes this week will convert to Re-Op at the Bag O' Nails is ex-Vivian Lewis and ex-Diana Lewis. Vivian replaces Reg Dare in Ray Ellington's jump band. Derek Hoyle joined Roy Fox's sax section.

## Polish Conductor's Success

Making his debut with the Philharmonic Orchestra at the Albert Hall on Tuesday, November 12th, Kietzki made a most favourable impression. His clear readings and complete mastery over the orchestra were most impressive. His restrained, poetic rendering of Schubert's "Unfinished Symphony" contrasted with a brilliantly dynamic performance given by the L.S.O. and Hammonds some days previously. Talmay showed plenty of attack in his rendering of the Erik Satie Concerto, and in the second movement Alec Whitlock's oboe playing was a treat to hear. Dennis Brain throughout the evening gave great pleasure and the many other virtuosi who compose this orchestra worked splendidly together.

## IVY BEINSON Booked SOLID

Having finished an excellent week entertaining the dance-music world at Cricklewood Palais, Ivy Beinson and her band followed this up with a fine show at Finsbury Park Empire this week. Ivy told "Musical Express" in an exclusive interview that she is booked solid until July of next year. Her dates after Finsbury Park will be Plymouth, Glasgow, Sheffield and a return date at Cricklewood Palais on December 10th. For Christmas and the New Year she will be appearing at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, for two weeks. Straight after this latter engagement she and the girls leave for three weeks in Austria and four weeks in Italy to entertain the Forces there.

I asked Ivy why she had not got a regular feature programme of her own, such as the famous "Hour of Charm" that is so well known in America. She replied that two years ago Jack Fallon, who is now with the Music Corporation of America, had submitted a suggested programme on her behalf. "Hour of Charm" she told me that it was refused because it would have meant augmenting her orchestra for the special type of music she would like to do. The particular band would have to be exactly the same as the one she is taking abroad to entertain the troops, including strings, harp and woodwind. Ivy feels that the feminine population is not catered for sufficiently and that she would like to see a programme of this sort which would have meant augmenting her orchestra for the special type of music she would like to do. The particular band would have to be exactly the same as the one she is taking abroad to entertain the troops, including strings, harp and woodwind. Ivy feels that the feminine population is not catered for sufficiently and that she would like to see a programme of this sort which would have meant augmenting her orchestra for the special type of music she would like to do.

## IN THE NORTH

(From our Special Correspondent)

**MET** Nat Bookbinder, now out of the States, is on his way back to his demob leave re-organising the well-known "Chapters". Has just returned to the States and expects to be actively operating before long.

New band working from Manchester is the Arthur Roseberry Band, missing a few hands through Lancashire. Darwen (the town) set up a band through Lancashire. Arthur's crowd arrived complete with loud-speaker pickup. Band working from Manchester is the Arthur Roseberry Band, missing a few hands through Lancashire. Darwen (the town) set up a band through Lancashire. Arthur's crowd arrived complete with loud-speaker pickup.

## WEIR IN AND ON THE AIR

After too long an absence, Ellington stylized Dick Katz and Coleridge Goode make their reappearance at the Feldman Swing Club next Sunday evening. Dick and Coleridge have just left the Caribbean Club.

## RUSS ALLEN TO THE RESCUE

When, due to the illness of Jack Duarte, the pianist of the Russ Allen band was unable to appear at Feldman's last Sunday, Russ Allen came hurriedly to the rescue and formed a small combination from musicians members of the audience.

## Another All British Programme

### LOU PRAEGER'S NEW SERIES

#### "Saturday Night at the Palais" With "Write-a-Tune" Feature

COMMENCING NOVEMBER 14, FOR 18 WEEKS, LOU PRAEGER WILL BE ON THE AIR IN A 40-MINUTE PROGRAMME WHICH WILL BE THE NEW LATE NIGHT PERIOD OF "SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE PALAIS." THIS IS RATHER POETIC JUSTICE IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT LOU PRAEGER STARTED THE FIRST "SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE PALAIS" TWO YEARS AGO WHEN HE DID A PROGRAMME WITH HIS OWN BAND AND THAT OF HOWARD BAKER. THIS PROGRAMME WAS REPEATED SIX WEEKS LATER, AND THE B.C.C. THOUGHT IT SUCH A GOOD IDEA THAT THEY USED THE TITLE FOR ALL SATURDAY NIGHT PALAIS BROADCASTS.

The new transmission will feature ALL BRITISH NUMBERS throughout, but this does not mean that Praeger is in any way boycotting other tunes, for his other programmes will be of an international nature as usual. Prior to its forty minutes on the Light Programme, this show will be doing a swing session lasting fifteen minutes for fans overseas. Then, when coming on the Light Programme at 10.15 p.m., they will play ten minutes of dance tunes followed by twenty minutes with the famous Praeger feature, "Write a Tune." The last ten minutes of Praeger's transmission will then be devoted entirely to ballroom dancing.

"Write a Tune" was a phenomenal success last year and has been repeated so often that Praeger has a chance to have his songs heard by the general public. The programme will be a total of £1,000, and there will be a special class for overseas. Praeger told me that Mrs. Neilson, of the show, told me that she had been discussing the programme with the Lord Mayor's Show, Praeger said that he had been discussing the programme with the Lord Mayor's Show, Praeger said that he had been discussing the programme with the Lord Mayor's Show.

The above is a verbatim report given to me by Lou Praeger who has been so busy that he refused to be interviewed by me. He is, however, a publisher in the business, including those with production and American publications, have congratulated him and wished him success.

## George Evans Is Home For 3 Months

Readers will be glad to know that George Evans came out of hospital this week for a three months' stay at home. He will, however, return to hospital for further treatment in February.

"Musical Express" has been given to understand that he is progressing very favourably and a few more months should see George back in the profession again. Before doing news from the Evans' family is that Mr. and Mrs. Les Evans are expecting a happy event in April.

## Scenes From Complicated 'New Orleans' NO CUES MISSED

One of the most complicated musical scenes ever filmed was completed in less than a day at the Hal Roach studio, where Jules Levey is shooting his saga of jazz, "New Orleans." Scenes run six minutes without a break and shifts from a concert setting to a ballroom, and from a jazz version of the title song. It begins with Dorothy Patrick singing to the accompaniment of a 60 piece symphony orchestra, conducted by Richard Hageman. Introduced midway are Woody Herman's 15 piece band, 26 choral singers, piano soloists and an organist. Associate producer Herbert Hiberman, assisted by musical director Nat Fenton, and art director Rudi Feld, worked out a double cue system by numbers and musical bars. Two revolving stages, two sliding stages and an elevator stage were used. Sixty-five hundred feet of film were exposed and not a single cue was missed.

## SKYROCKETS for Sunday League Concert

After a lapse of five years' the National Sunday League Concert is again presenting weekly concerts. The first one to be held at the Casino Theatre will feature the Skyrockets. These shows will be presented every week from November 24th and will have a top line dance band supported by several first class acts.

See Page Three

## B.B.C.'s BRASS EXCELS

Rafael Kubelick electrified the audience with his rendering of Janacek's sinfonietta and Beethoven's Eroica at the B.B.C. symphony concert on November 13th.

The movement is scored for full orchestra with the addition of nine trumpets, six trombones and one bass trumpet. The effect produced is reminiscent of a village concert. The additional brass are used again in the final movement. Kubelick was able to vary themes into the texture of the score with wonderful dexterity and the brass responded brilliantly, playing with the abandon that characterises the Prague and Czech Philharmonic Orchestras of pre-war days. In spite of the size of the orchestra, there was no sense of over-inflated pomp and circumstance. There was none of the ruffling beauty of Mahler nor little of the vital melodic rhythms of Dvorak.

Kubelick's direction of the "Eroica" reached great heights of dramatic intensity. It was truly Napoleonic. In the "Prague" Symphony of Mozart there was, perhaps, too much of the concerto. It has shown how to extract a maximum of vitality while maintaining all the grace and perfect phrasing of this work. Kubelick, like Toscanini, has a sense of drama, Mozart, and as a result sacrifices many of the exquisite qualities of this symphony.

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