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# EDMUNDO ROS RETURNING TO ASTOR

Leaving Churchill's in Four Weeks

(Express Staff Reporter)

DMUNDO ROS, foremost exponent of Latin-American music, is leaving Churchill's Club in four weeks time to return to the Astor.

Ros will supply the Latin-American music during the remainder of Roy's stay at the Astor prior to taking his band on tour, and when Roy leaves Ros will be the featured band at that Club.

Edmundo Ros has had a most amicable stay at Churchill's, and the only reason he is leaving that club is the attractive offer that has been given him by Astor Enterprises Ltd. We understand from Foster's Agency, who have handled the business, that Ros's contract will enable him to feature the music for which he is so well known and that no other band appearing with him will be allowed to play music in the Latin-American style. Sign of Ros's popularity is the fact that he will be returning to the club as featured band when Roy leaves and also at a greatly increased emolu-

## HENRY HALL AT THE COLISEUM

A very pleasant variety show began a three-weeks run at the London Coliseum on Monday, May 12, with Henry Hall topping the bill, and I give full marks to Hall for a most entertaining show. Nice to see Bob Mallin by those well-known artists series. vocalising with the band again; he needs no introduction to the Hall fans, as Bob was with the orchestra in the old B.B.C. days. Incidentally, it was a double event for Mallin, as just before the show commenced a telegram brought the glad tidings of the arrival of a baby boy.

The comedy and chaos was in the very capable hands of trumpeter- Freddy "Curly" Mann, who has been with Hall for many years. May I pay tribute to pianist Bert Marland. I thoroughly enjoyed listening to the ten very nimble fingers of Bert at the keyboard. Betty Driver was her inimitable and versatile self-a grand personality.

show, the boys went to town with "Runnin' Wild," Drummer Ted Alexander was in the spotlight.

brass section who was handling Serenade." On the label this his trumpet in no mean fashion, record will be dedicated to the by name Harry Hall. In an in- late Major Glenn Miller, who terview with Henry after the made this number famous. The show he told me his new Song Pedlars, and Rabin's own trumpeter hails from Dundee vocalists, Anabelle Lee and Bob and played with Ted Sampson, Dale, also recorded with the and I was assured this boy would band, the Song Pedlars giving be more than at home on any vocal backing to Bob Dale, who jam session.



Jack Simpson recording a gallop with four hammers. First time this has been achieved at such a speed. 'Musical Express' picture taken at H.M.V. Studios.

## AMBROSE TO BIG DERBY

In aid of Royal Armoured Corps

ON Wednesday, June 4, Ambrose will lead his full orchestra for the Derby Ball to be held at the Royal Albert Hall. Vocalists with the band will be Alan Dean and Bette Roberts, who will sing in their own inimitable styles. Bette Roberts, as readers will be aware, is currently appearing at Hatchetts with Chappie D'Amato and Alan Dean, apart from his very fine work with the Song Pedlars, is also very busy arranging for several famous name bands.

This big charity show, in aid; of the Royal Armoured Corps War Memorial Benevolent Fund, is being presented by the Lynford-Joel Office. Patrons of this very deserving cause are the Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill and Field Marshal Viscount Mont-Eric Barker and Pearl Hackney, and the other band will be the Rumberos.

At the time of going to press details are not yet available as to who will be in the line-up of the Ambrose orchestra, but it is almost certain that many of his original players at Ciro's Club will be in the band.

## Oscar Rabin Dedicates First To wind up a very pleasant Label to Miller

Cutting their first recordings for Parlophone last week Oscar Rabin, with Harry Davis and the I noticed a newcomer in the band, recorded "Moonlight was making his first recording H. S. | since before the war.

Geraldo, 34 piano, 36 bass .

SELMER

Spanish Guitars Large size Telesforo-Jones, pft., etc. £6/6 £6/17 Verdi I, grey, 34 piano, 48 bass ..... £25 Well-m'de big bdy. Cliff'rd Essx. mod. £8/10 Alvari, Italian, white, 34 p., 48 bass £25 Abbot, Ige. body, modn. built, sound £11/15 Casali-Verona, Italian, white pearl, Gibson, famous U.S.A. flat top ... £16/10 3 voice coupler, 34 piano, 36 bass £25/10 New sample Cremona, finger style £26/16

Estrella, brown or grey, 25 p., 12 bass £10 Geraldo, silver, 25 piano, 12 basa £13/10 Hohner, white finish, 25 p., 12 bass £13/15 Geraldo, Ped nac., 25 piano, 24 bass £14/15 Casali, black, 31 piano, 24 bass ... £16/10 Hohner, Stud. 4, 25 piano, 32 bass £17/15 Pletro, white pearl, 31 p., 24 bass £18/ Concho, 3 set coupler, 24 p., 32 b. £18/15 Geraldo, blue pearl, 34 p., 36 bass £21/ Geraldo, grey pearl, 34 p., 48 bass £22/ Estrella, light grey, 34 piano, 48 bass £22 Barcarole, blue, 34 piano, 80 bass £23/10

'Cello body, Gibson, perf., sound, etc. £21 Verdi II, grey, 34 piamo, 80 bass ... £26/10 Gretsch popular "New Yorker" ... £23/15 Hess, grey, 3 v'ce cplr., 34 p., 80 b. £26/10 Trumpets Epiphone 'cello mod., con. like new £27/15 Brown, s.p., h. and l., med. bore ... £10/ Ref., gold lacq., low p., slide chng. £12/16 Piano Accordions Estrella, group 25 piano, 12 bass ..... £11 Jedson, s.p., med., perf. rqc. ..... £12/10 the famous Marx Brothers, will

Tennessee, s.p., low, dance model, slide change Couesnon, s.p., slender dance style, Broadway, low, slide change Lincoln, s.p., high and low, dance Comet, s.p.g.b., dance style, med.,

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JOE DANIELS

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gomery. Tickets for this big class band is packing them in who is under contract to M.G.M., "That's export - and it means den is very good, and I think the ball will be thirty shillings each, at Cricklewood Palais, will do its should be arriving on the day dollars!" beamed Dash. I asked best they have given us this including buffet supper, and first overseas broadcast on May that that film company will be film now he aid it. He said:these can now be obtained from 24 from the Palais from 11.15- having the premiere of their new the Lynford-Joel Office, 17, midnight. The band will also be film, "The Yearling," in aid of Cavendish Square, W.1, or from heard on June 5 by Home Ser- the Printers' Pension Fund. At the Albert Hall. Presentations vice listeners at 3.30-4 p.m. in the time of going to press it is during the show are to be made the Music While You Work not yet known whether Iturbi

last week, will be coming to copies to Shapiro Bernstein in ON OVERSEAS of concerts for Harold Holt, will started. Result, on May 6 they lier is full of lovely rich tunes so be arriving on May 29. It is sent Dash a cable accepting the gay, amusing and moving. The Jan Wildeman, whose first- interesting to note that Iturbi, song for number one plug. new production at Covent Garwill be seen at this premiere.

ARRIVING

**MAY 29** 



Gerry Wilmot gives the cast a 'once over 'before the Carroll Gibbons' Summer Show opens at Folkestone.

## CHICO MARX

### for Variety at London Casino

The London Casino is to com-

mence a big international variety bill, commencing in June. Leslie Macdonnell, of Foster's Agency, Majestic, s.p., g.b., med., slide ch. £12/10 tells us that Chico Marx, one of Leviathan, g. lac., med., dance, low £13/13 top the bill opening on June 9 £14/10 Macdonnell's partner, Harry Whitehall, s.p., med., low, dance m. £14/10 | Foster, is, at the time of going to £15 press, in America negotiating £15 many famous names to appear in these colossal variety bills, £15/15 and as soon as these are avail-£15/15 able we shall advise our readers. Marx will appear for four weeks, with a big supporting bill. Foster's have also completed bookings for many famous names to appear in films, and Jack La Rue will arrive in Eng. land this week to play the lead in "No Orchids for Miss

## that Star of Stage and Radio REWARD FOR STOLEN CLARINET

Blandish.

An Academi Boehm clarinet was stolen from the Band Centre at Finchley, last week. Serial number of the instrument is 4079. The Band Centre have series, of this fine Latin-Ameri- She can be contacted at 55, Soho Miller will, as usual, entertain offered a ten pound reward.

## PARLOPHONE CONTRACT

Harry Leader has just signed a new contract with Parlophone, the head of the Burns organisaand his first recording session tion, in which she was already will be on May 12. The first on the board of directors. session will consist of old favour- "Musical Express" readers will ites, and on later sessions he all join us in expressions of will be recording some of his deepest sympathy. own compositions.

Leader has a series of lunchtime concerts with his band, the first of which will be at Hoover's, on May 13. On May 20 he will feature his broadcasting show on television, and singing with the band will be Shirley Gray and Dick James. Len Scrivener and Agency, tells "Musical Express" Nellie Duggan will be the that he has just arranged for dancers, and Freddie Overton, the inhabitants of Jersey and well known in the dancing world visitors to that resort to see the

### EL MARIO'S RUMBA BAND TO BROADCAST AGAIN

El Mario's all ladies rumba

## MUSICIANS' UNION AND GRAMOPHONE COMPANIES NOW AGREE

A N Agreement has recently been concluded between the Musi-"A cians' Union and the British Gramophone Companies. This Agreement, which was reached as a result of amicable negotiation and a mutual recognition of the rights, interests and principles involved, deals with the use of commercial gramophone records for purposes of broadcasting and other forms of public entertain. ment, and may be said to represent a policy common to both parties to the Agreement.

The principal features of the Agreement, which is for three

(1) A progressive reduction in hours per week in the use of commercial records by the British Broadcasting Corporation (2) A payment to the Union in respect of the revenue derived by the Gramophone Companies from the broadcasting and public performance of records;

(3) Restrictive conditions on the licences for public performance, issued on behalf of the Gramophone Companies, the purpose of which is to avoid the displacement of musicians.

## Export of British Songs to America

("Musical Express" Reporter)

IT can be done, in spits of what the pessimists tell us. British songs CAN be sold to America if they are good songs and potential winners. American publishers, however, seldom interest themselves in a British song until it has achieved something in England, has been exploited, and is, more or less, a ready-made potential hit. But this is what happened last week.

'ublisher Irwin Dash, that ;virile protagonist of the British is entirely British and is writ-José Iturbi, who, as mentioned ten by Don Pelosi, Leo Towers England to appear in a series America before this song had

always make the grade on their own merits.

"If you want another classical example, I believe 'How Lucky You Are' has also been sold to America. I don't even know its in America."

## songwriter, had a brand new Rosenkavalier exclusively in this newspaper and Lewis IIda. Dash sent two at COVENT GARDEN

Richard Strauss' Rosenkava-

season; this applies particularly "There's nothing difficult to the singing. Doris Doree's that a good song is a good sung, it had dignity, pathos and song all the world over, irres- elegance, and was most convincpective of its nationality. Don't ing. I shall look forward to forget there are also bad hearing this artiste again. British songs. You can't ex- Victoria Sladen captured the pect these to deserve any spirit of Octavian excellently, special consideration just be and sang with good tone and fine cause they are British. But control. Virginia MacWatters' don't ever worry about the ingenue manner and pretty voice good British songs. They'll were well suited for Sophie. David Franklin's Baron neither Ochs or Baron, but he sings well. Karl Rankl conducted with his usual verve and

care, but somehow in the playing publisher personally, but as I I missed the Viennese flavour, see it he has a fundamentally particularly in the waltz tunes. good song which will always Anyhow, don't miss this good and receive the fullest recognition enjoyable Strauss opera.

## ALEX BURNS PASSES

TE deeply regret to announce the death of Alex Burns, who passed away suddenly last week. For some time he had been complaining of indigestion, not knowing that his heart was giving him trouble. Affectionately known as Alex to all his many clients at the big instrument store in Shaftesbury Avenue, which he ran for so many successful years, he will be greatly missed.

His widow, Mrs. Rosalind Burns, intends to carry on the business her late husband loved so well. She told this reporter that she feels this is what Alex would have wanted most. The baby which she is about to bring into the world will, she hopes some day take its father's place in that business. Miss Stone, the secretary, who is her constant guide, adviser and companion, tells us that Mrs. Burns is taking this blow courageously and philosophically, and hopes soon to take her husband's place at

## HEATH FOR

Leslie Macdonnell, of Foster's as a teacher, will compere them. Ted Heath band this summer. Heath will appear for two weeks at the Sports Stadium, commencing August 25

During his appearance at Bir. mingham last week with his stage show Heath played to capacity business, and this week in Glasgow he opened to enthusiastic audiences.

Street, Glasgow.

## PRESTON-RAYMENT debate with Philharmonic

On Tuseday, May 20, the Philnarmonic Arts Society will be holding a debate on the fact that jazz has a deplorable influence on the world of music. Of interest to "Musical Express" readers will be the fact that Jazz Editor, Denis Preston and 'Musical Express" contributor Malcolm Rayment, will be holding the fort for jazz. This should prove a very lively debate, and it will commence at 7 p.m., at the St. Martin's Art School, Charing Cross Road, W.C.2.

Arts Society

### Rose Room Merges With Sporting World This Week

The new Committee of the Rose Room announce that this week's rendezvous will be held at the usual time at Freddie Mills' (the well-known sporting figure's) Chinese Restaurant. The Helen Davis, who has just ter- address of the restaurant is 143, band, who have been appearing minated a long engagement with Charing Cross Road, and it is so successfully on their recent Felix Mendelsohn and his understood that many sporting broadcasts, have another two Hawaiian Serenaders, and who celebrities will be visiting the dates lined up. On May 29 the has appeared on all his broad- Club for the first time. It is band will be seen on television casting and television dates, is hoped that Joe Baksi will also and June 11 will see a return now free for a resident engage- be present. Ronnie Selby and date to the "Cafe on the Corner" | ment as a vocalist in London | his Trio, together with David

## WHATIS THIS THING CALLED POLICY?

(By The News Editor)

has been prevalent that radio he was Prime Minister!) bandleaders are not allowed to Whose susceptibilities shall we for several bandleaders tele- Suppose they take stock: phoning these offices asking us I heard one or two efforts of to ascertain, on their behalf. B.B.C. staff announcers last exactly what the B.B.C. ruling

Believing in the old adage. what's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander," I thought it time to enquire from the B.B.C. what their policy was. That body told me that

"only certain bandleaders are allowed to announce." This left me a little puzzled. After all, it seemed very unfair. In the recent broadcasts of to say the least of it. So I de- Cyril Stapleton's Orchestra we

to the mystery. Announcing is staff announcer. The compari-NOT prohibited-except to those son was, unfortunately, unciation or diction does not come O.B.'s of the week. up to the standard of the B.B.C. Then there is the little matter

Cockney accent his fans in Lon- Lipton thanked his radio don will think, "Blimey-one of listeners for their requests last us, ain't he?" If he speaks with week and assured them that a Yorkshire accent, his fans will some would be played during the say, "Ee-yon lad's doin' alreet following week's broadcast. I oop in Loondon!"

about it at all. I've always said Marschallin was extremely well nence in the world of music? shows! That is why I am ask-No! Was there no trace of ing, in all sincerity-Cockney in Winston Churchill's broadcasts that endeared him to policy?

FOR some time an impression the hearts of the nation? (And

announce on their own pro- be offending if we allow our grammes. During recent O.B.'s, popular bandleaders to do their however, certain bandleaders own announcing? Nobody's-but have been heard to make the snob element at the B.B.C. annoucements, while others have And while on the subject of been relegated to silence. This announcing - let the B.B.C. put situation has been responsible its own house in order first.

week. Quite frankly, I would sooner hear the simple, honest - to - goodness Cockney accents of a bandleader than the unintelligible University accent of one announcer in particular who screamed the dialogue from his script into the microphone with frenzied hysteria and a plum in his mouth

cided to ring the B.B.C.'s Press have heard the pleasant voice of Representative, Mr. Munn. That Gerry Wilmott announcing tastefully in a snappy but dignified "Well, use your own imagina- manner. Clear and lucid diction, tion. Some bandleaders' perfect timing and intelligibility. voices are more suitable for I understand that last Tuesday broadcasting than others. It week Wilmott was taken off the depends on how they speak." programme so that this work So here we have the solution could be undertaken by a B.B.C. whose speech is flavoured with, favourable. "Dead spots" apperhaps, a Cockney or a North peared in what has hitherto been Country accent, or whose enun. considered one of the slickest

But my point is that a maestro of "requests" that we thought endears himself to his public were now barred from dance through his music. If he has a music programmes. But Sidney have nothing against this what-And does Geraldo sound like a ever. After all, requests are a B.B.C. announcer? Thank God sine qua non of a popular radio -no! Do we want Ted Heath band. But why Lipton and noand the rest to adopt a County body else? I rang the B.B.C. to accent just because they have enquire. They said that requests achieved tremendous promi- are only allowed in special studio

What is this thing called

## STAPLETON FEATURING UNPUBLISHED SONGS

has not been heard by the general public. These numbers have been written by well-known it is believed that from the varied assortment to be featured it is find several song hits apart from giving a great chance to the musicians to prove their capa-

## LUCRAFT BAND'S QUICK CHANGE

Howard Lucraft and his band will be broadcasting on Thursday, May 15, overseas, from 9.30-10 p.m., with Bette Roberts as vocalist, May 16 in the "Cafe on the Corner" series, featuring As from next Tuesday, May 20, famous accordionist Emilio, May Cyril Stapleton will feature on 23 "On the Sweeter Side," 11.15his broadcasts every week one 11.45 a.m. in the Light Pro-British manuscript number that gramme, featuring Bette Roberts and Johnnie Green. The band will be doing a very quick transportation move when they appear in the "Workers' Playtime" musicians and as yet have not broadcast from Southampton on been published. The first will be May 27. The show is a special a jazz arrangement of a number anniversary broadcast and will written specially by George be done from two canteens of Shearing for the Stapleton band. the Southern Railway Works at There will also be commercial Southampton, and the band will types of tunes with lyrics, and have to move instruments and set-up at the other canteen during the actual programme.

Lucraft tells us that he is quite possible that Stapleton may looking for a very good girl vocalist and that he can offer certain appearances with the band for a girl of the standard he requires.



#### OLD TIME DANCE ORCHESTRATIONS Veleta " Ancliffe " Original Palais Glide 3/6 Doris Waltz Royal Empress Tango... 3/- Schottische "Loch Were the Days" March "Sons of Brave" 3 March 2-Step " Esprit Square Tange 3/- March "Sword and 4/- March "El Abanico" 3 Moonbeams ALL SETS WITH SAX, PARTS

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#### THE VOICE

SONIN'S BLUNDER

Last week our contemporary, "The Melody Maker," announced (on the front page, of course!) that its Editor had the unusual assignment of playing the part of himself on television in a dance band play, entitled "Blow Your Own Trumpet"; that in this play a bandleader telephones the Editor of "THE LEADING MUSICAL PAPER" and that Ray Sonin will appear "AS HIMSELF" in the sequence. On reading this I telephoned immediately to the B.B.C. to tell them that this sayoured of favouritism towards one musical paper and prejudice against "Musical Express," which (as they well knew) was so strongly behind the B.B.C. inquiry. If this were not the case, then my dreams of commercial television had at last come true. If this announcement in "The Melody Maker" were correct, then it could be only one of these two possibilities.

#### BLOWING WHOSE TRUMPET?

I was told by the B.B.C. that the producer of "Blow Your Own Trumpet" was in Paris. But their Press Department had immediate investigations made for me. The script of the play was carefully read and the B.B.C. finally gave me the following authentic facts: (a) in the script it is NOT THE LEADING MUSICAL PAPER and (b) RAY SONIN WILL NOT BE PLAYING AS HIMSELF. Satisfied now that "The Melody Maker" had grossly distorted the true facts either in the interests of Ray Sonin's personal egotism or to add an air of greater importance to his paper, I began to wonder if that periodical is being run as a publicity medium for its semipro-actor Editor (who prints his own name on every conceivable occasion) or for the music business. I also wondered how their Editor finds time to indulge his flair for the histrionic at a time when the music business is lousy with anomalies and needs the combined efforts of the entire musical press more now than ever before. Is it fair to leave "Musical Express" to fight the battle entirely alone?

#### LET'S HAVE THE TRUTH

Just in case you should imagine, erroneously, that this outburst is a matter of sour grapes, I had better inform you that when television recommenced my friend, Cecil Madden, invited me to Alexandra Palace. Owing to my enormous practical and technical experience in the production of motion pictures, he suggested I might like the opportunity to produce television shows. I was obliged, reluctantly, to turn that gracious offer down. Why? Because if you want to do a job properly you've got to give it your FULL TIME AND ATTEN-TION. Reading "Musical Express" you may well imagine that it occupies ALL our full time and attention-that's why we're always first with the news and first to bark and show our teeth when anything is wrong with the music business. We have no time for "BLOWING OUR OWN TRUMPET." Nevertheless, we have no objection to Ray Sonin blowing his if it makes him happy. Let him televise by all means. But we do insist that he should have presented this news to his own readers WITHOUT DISTORTION OR MISREPRE. SENTATION OF THE FACTS. Mind you, it is a great coincidence that an Editor was chosen to play the part of an Editor when so many PROFESSIONAL actors are out of work. But then if Equity were as strong as our own Musicians' Union that would be another story.

#### BAND CONTESTS THIS AUTUMN

When "Musical Express" first saw the light of day it announced some very pointed views on the conducting of Dance Band Contests. We also promised that an ambitious scheme would be announced in due course. Since then hundreds of letters have reached us from all over the country from bands wishing to compete. This coming autumn will see our plan in action. A sensational announcement may be expected in the course of a week or two. You have my assurance that the announcement will be of paramount importance. A scheme will be disclosed, the like of which has never yet been attempted in this or any other country.

#### A CORRECTION

Before the critics have a "bash" at me for my remarks last week, let me apologise for an extraordinary error in my list of musical stars in the film, "Carnegie Hall." Quite inadvertently I wrote Kreisler for Heifitz. I know them both, so I could not have mistaken one for the other. It was a plain, straightforward slip of the pen. My apologies to Heifitz for calling him Kreisler, and my apologies to Kreisler for calling him a movie-actor!



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## John Davis and Gray Clarke write this week on current trends

## COLLECTORS' VIEW

WE remarked in our last vv article in this series that popular music in England is no longer a mere reflection of what happens in America. Nevertheless, the general trends at any given time are without doubt still greatly influenced by what takes place in the U.S.A. It follows, therefore, that all those whose interests are linked with English popular music must necessarily watch American developments with the closest attention. In this, the record student is able to be of some assistance, because the pattern world was made safe for them placidly. Whilst, it's true, cerof American trends are nearly by Paul Whiteman! always made in the recording When the hep were trucking have achieved a modest success,

Nichols and his fellows to the even better to-day. the succeeding "back to Dixie- something approaching level which demand answers. land" movement, and the even terms, just as Ray Noble proved From the purist's point of it. New Orleans musicians, as

for what is to follow.

Whether we like it or not it and developments of American Orleans ensemble. must be admitted that the posi- popular dance music. tion of the solidly commercial It seems particularly unlikely chamber music, it is the team are still unable to visualise the in "le hot"—ever since the English commercial music: in. as important as the seven indi- of their signature tune!

MANY of our staid old musical instrument repairers have been surprised by requests for the conversion of four string basses into five string basses.

Though the "five" is quite common in the symphony orchestra, its appearance in the dance band has been practically unknown until recently, when, due to its much publicised use by "Chubby" Jackson of Woody Herman's band it has become the thing. There is, however, a great deal of difference between the symphony "5" and the jazz "5" (apart from its application), the difference being the This was very confusing and in this be your guide, however, as tuning. Tuning for symphony is an attempt to overcome the diffi- some instruments will not generally C E A D G, whereas culty, I strung a bass A D G C. readily lend themselves to the for dance work the fifth string, Never again will I do that. It added 400 lbs. pull exerted by while remaining C, is placed a was a nightmare. The number the added fifth. fourth up from G, making the of times I went for a low G or Your best plan, then, is to try the blessing of his tutor, Victor tuning E A D G C.

Now I can see a let of musicians smirking at this illegitimate practice and I can almost on this and Pat Reilly and Bert the change. hear the elders of the profession Howard are two who don't mind According to advertisements five strings would make the making statements detrimental the loss of the lowest tones. in American trade journals, the switch over to symphony easier. to those of us with (may I say) courage to experiment.

If we cast our minds back to depth which occurs is not good; Principally of course, "Chubby" I asked Tiny a couple of questhe 19th century, let us say to the instrument, after all, is still Jackson, who claims to have in- tions. My own views corrobo-1847, we find that the bass in a bass. general use is the three stringer, To overcome my problems I reputed to have retired on the First question:- Why do you tuned sometimes in fourths and sold one of my "4's" and had royalties paid him by Kays, for prefer five strings to four ? Anssometimes in fifths. It took the other converted. This con- use of the idea and his name. wers: - Greater length of string many years to establish the four- version has quite surprised me, Bob Haggart, of "Big Noise," vibration aids tone, gives more stringer and to standardise the tone of the instrument being and Bob Crosby fame, now uses volume to high notes. Playing tuning to E A D G. The Ger- actually improved. Don't let a "5" and says:man school were. I believe, the pioneers.

Dragohetti tried various tunings for his basses and also experimented with "5." That was a long time ago, for he died in 1846 at the age of 91.

Doubtless his experiments were criticised and scoffed at by the three string diehards and so we come back to 1947 and have the four string diehards scoffing at us who have plunged into the

high "C's." The idea of an added string first occurred to me while I was in the forces and three of us attempted to play some trio stuff with myself attempting to cope with the 'cello parts. My efforts were not well received and the plan was changed to a duet. Of course I know that there are bassists who would have competently played those parts, but then I was not one of them, so I fell to thinking that if I'd had another string, a fourth up from G, it would have

In consequence I commenced to search for a five string bass. With the aid of dear old Jim Higgins, I finally located my dream just over two years ago and after selling up my home I bought it. It was a hard winter. Quite a few sad sessions en-

simplified matters considerably.

sued due to my inability to remember which string was which and many were the intended Bb's that came out Eb because my fingers still believed that the first string was G.

Added to my initial problems was the fact that I had also two "4" stringers and no car. The inconvenience of manhandling basses around led sometimes to my doing one session on "4" strings, then another on "5."



## Edited by DENIS PRESTON

in the aisles to Benny Good- the measure of that success A glance at recent history will man's band, Guy Lombardo's un- should not be over-estimated. show the truth of this statement. blushingly schmaltzy music was It is early for a considered re-From 1927 onwards (if not from still drawing capacity crowds, port as to what permanent

more radical "New Orleans or that he could do ten years ago. view, the New Orleans trend is a general rule, avoid the virtuoso

An interesting discourse

on the five string bass

ON THE HIGH C's

two, only one is in any way new. reference to the new standards Lawrence Brown in a New Orleans manner, but, while we 3

Ab only to discover I hadn't got and obtain the genuine article Watson, who thinks that more

them. There are several or one already converted and people should play the five

bassists who disagree with me still whole, if you desire to make string bass, as even with the

the consequent loss of tonal Yank topliners are using them, to chamber music players.

deed, the point has to be examined whether the New Orleans influence is having any great effect on American practice. It is here, perhaps, that the relatively restricted viewpoint of the collector may lead him into dangerous snap judgments To read the specialised American jazz press one would gather that American dance music is being rocked to its foundations by the New Orleans revival. A study of the wider scene, however, suggests that the States is taking it all very tain New Orleans Style groups

an even earlier date) little has Bob Crosby in his hour of effect if any, be-bop may have happened in the American dance triumph never found Shep on either popular commercial band business that could not Fields or Sammy Kaye begging music or jazz proper. It has have been forecast fairly accu- the price of a cup of coffee at enjoyed extensive and frankly rately by any shrewd observer the stage door. And Freddy disproportionate publicity in cerwith access to American records. Martin, whose ideas on instru- tain elements of the musical The record collector watched mentation were always interest press on both sides of the Atthe pendulum swing from the ing, has been doing nicely for lantic, and any opinion based small white groups of Red fourteen year's, and is doing solely on this publicity may Nichols and his fellows to the even better to-day. be misleading. Eye-witness aclarge Negro bands of Duke In this department we in Eng- counts suggest that up to now Ellington, Fletcher Henderson land can sit back comfortably be-bop has made little headway and others. He saw, too, the with little to fear. Whilst we can with the wider public, although manner rather than the spirit of not deny that the general overall it has had a deep effect upon these large orchestras adopted standard of American commer- musicians. Whether this effect by white bands like the Casa cial bands is higher than in this is to be lasting, whether it is Loma Orchestra, and put to country, Ambrose, Geraldo, and desirable, particularly in its uses which rapidly developed possibly others, can produce application to jazz, and whether into abuses! And he observed bands capable of meeting their the trend will be followed over the reaction against "swing," transatlantic equivalents on here, are important questions

bust" flurries. He now looks And most Americans realise this, more important than all the soloist's role in order to preserve There are far more Noble col- others put together, and is cer- that sense of supreme impor-The time lag in all this can be lectors in the U.S.A. than there tainly worth examination. New tance of the team. In this conjudged by the fact that the will ever be over here, and they Orleans Style jazz has been com- nection, it may be worth reswing craze, which in America take the matter very seriously pared with legitimate chamber calling that the members of the is already on the wane, still besides. We can also report a music. It is a fair analogy, for Flonzaley Quartet, perhaps the flourishes here in England. In steady demand, not only for the they have much in common. finest and most completely Dorsey's and Herman's-have all Hylton; and not merely because only be soloists of very moderate the Quartet throughout its en- gramophone catalogues. disbanded. The Bob Crosby they may have Al Bowlly vocals! accomplishment. For example, tire existence! band, storm centre of the Dixie- While we aren't suggesting it matters little that Bunk John- On the aspects we've dis- tinue, this week, with BLUES land revival, has run its course, that these old records have son is an elderly man with cussed, we are prepared to place and BOOGIE WOOGIE. stood the test of time, it is neither the lungs nor lips for on record the interim conclusion The remaining current in- widely apparent that in America "power-house" blasting. He that as the be-bop trend de- BLUES. fluences are about as far apart they are considered to have a has a team to lead, and his re- velops it will have more effect as it is possible to imagine. At certain style which was not maining technical proficiency is on the English commercial one end of the scale we have wholly transient. It is by their adequate for the purpose. Kid scene than the mere ripple the return to power of the style, too, that our modern com- Ory's Creole trombone is cer- raised over here by the New Orstrictly commercial band- mercials should be judged: it is tainly not the work of a master leans revival. We do not bar leaders; at the other, the lusty neither fair nor proper that they player, yet nobody could the possibility of further New Orleans jazz-and of the should be criticised solely by imagine it being replaced by attempts at music in the New

In New Orleans music, like directing a be-bop session, we gentry has never been seriously that the New Orleans influence as a whole that matters: the Geraldo cohorts opening a broaddisturbed by changes of fashion will ever have much effect on whole is more than seven times cast with a New Orleans version

## United Artists' New Super Musical Picture COPACABANA



Carmen Miranda with Andy Russell in a characteristic scene from the new film "Copacabana"

## vidual entities which go to make RECORD

Every week this column lists

can just imagine Ambrose

would be pretty rough if I

didn't have the extra 25 per

Frank Weir band, is a disciple,

with Lew Stone at the "Mon-

out very carefully and has, too,

of high notes in simple posi-

Remarks.-The high action

which is required for clean

pizzicato playing is not suited to

playing high notes with cer-

Answers:-Bowing is more

difficult. Greater care is needed

to control the bow arc to avoid

touching other strings. Diffl-

hards. Rude remarks from the

I intended to put the same

questions to Ted Heath's

tracing, I eventually cornered

Charlie. "Sure," I replied,

"what else?" "Nothing more,"

If you require more con-

My own boss, Paul Adam,

"The tonal clarity of high

to write effective

passages for bass,

notes on the five string bass

enables my arranger, Phil

fiddle and piano that would be

impracticable on the normal

four stringed instrument. I

think the fifth string is a de-

This last opinion is endorsed

by Woody Herman, Jimmy Dor.

sey, Frankie Carle, Elliot Law-

rence and Ted Heath.

Any questions?

"It's the end!" said

tions improves intonation.

tainty on four strings.

boys.

says:-

unison

finite asset."

lights and go to bed."

gives me.'

- 1. Married Woman Blues. Drop Down Mama, ("Sleepy" John Estes.) Brunswick 03562.
- St. Louis Blues. Cold In Hand Blues. (Bessie Smith.) Parlophone R2344.
- Back Water Blues. Nobody Knows You When You're Down and Out. (Bessie Smith.) Parlophone R2481.

I'm Tired of Fattenin' Frogs

- for Snakes. Double Crossin' Papa. (Rosetta Crawford.) Brunswick 03461. "I've done a lot of arrang-Death Letter Blues. Four
- ing myself so I am not at all Days Creep. (Ida Cox.) surprised to see arrangers Parlophone R2974. write more super high stuff

#### for bass players . . . I don't BOOGIE WOOGIE. mind saying that the going

- 6. Pinetop's Blues. Pinetop's Boogie Woogie. (Pinetop Smith). Brunswick 03600.
- cent. range my fifth string 7. Yaneey Stomp. Five O'Clock My friend Tiny Winters, of the Blues. (Jimmy Yancey.) H.M.V. B9366.
- in fact, he is a pioneer, for as Honky Tonk Train Blues. long ago as 1933, when he was Whistlin' Blues. (Meade Lux 2 Lewis.) H.M.V. B8579
- seigneur," he experimented with Shout for Joy. (Albert Ama bass tuned A D G C and actually recorded with it, one of the mons.) Bear Cat Crawl. (Meade Lux Lewis.) Parlo. titles being "Let's put out the phone R2909.
- Tiny has thought the matter 10. Basement Boogie. Death Ray Boogie. (Pete Johnson.) Brunswick 03292.

#### FROM A BACK NUMBER of the "Melody Maker" "The piece has the conventional 32-bar chorus. But in

place of the more usual form of a first eight-bar strain repeated for the second and fourth eight bars, with something different for the 'middle' eight bars, it consists, as far as I can make America the decline of swing is latest issues of Ted Heath re- There is no place for individual integrated chamber music en- ten outstanding records by lead- out from the record, of a 12-bar so far a fact that the greatest of cords, but for the older items of virtuosity in New Orleans music, semble of the age, bound them. ing jazzmen and bands drawn strain, repeated to form the last the swing bands - Goodman's, Roy Fox, Lew Stone and Jack and the best of its players need selves never to play except in from the current English 12-bar strain (between which In two strains is the usual different strict alphabetical order we con- middle), with the 12-bar strains themselves split into a first fourbar phrase repeated for the third four bars, with a different four-bar middle phrase between each of their two four bar phrases. Or perhaps it will be

> form. . ." Edgar Jackson (April 20, 1046)

> clearer if I set it out in diagram

.444444444444444444444444444

## A Clarinet JACK DUARTE

1. Who invented the clarinet, and when? 2. When was the clarinet first effectively used in

- the orchestra? 3. Have clarinets ever been equipped with A.B flat changes like trumpets? If so by whom, and why
- did they not succeed? 4. Does the "tube" of the clarinet taper towards one end, or is it cylindrical? If the former, towards which end does it

of a clarinet mainly depend-the reed or the air column in the tube?

5. On what does the tone

(Answers on page 3.) minimum minimum

### modern tuning, familiarity with Allo Sax, John Grey, art. mod. H.P.

Absence of the low E affects "Kay 5" has taken the U.S. by Mr. Watson also feels that the the enharmonic vibrations and storm and quite a number of the high C tuning would be an asset vented the idea and, in fact, is rated his answers identically. Melody Sax., Hawkes XXth cent.,

Bb Clarinet, Boehm, L.P., cov. holes £20 Piano Acc., Geraldo, 48 barses ...... £16 Trumpet Conn, slide change, gold lac. £20 Eb Alto Sax, Buescher Aris., S.P., £60

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Russ (Col. Blimp) Allen and his five string bass

Having got over their first attack of window gazing and sight. seeing, the boys hied themselves to the Three Deuces where they heard that new band I told you about a couple of weeks ago. Charlie Venturo (Ronnie's idol) Bill Harris, Dave Tough, Lennie Tristano and Bill Leineiger comprise the line-up and according to our boys "Venturo is everything they expected and then some, while Bill Harris is -just too much!" Leineiger also also impressed them, but Tough and Tristano did not come up to expectations. Also

Tony caught the Duke Ellington stage show at the Paramount Theatre. The band is reported as being top rate, with the saxes blowing like mad. Ronnie said that Al Sears was featured, but that Johnny Hodges only played solo in "Flamingo." With the Duke are the coloured dance team Buck and Bubbles and the swell Golden Gate Quartet.

The same evening, they visited the Arcadia Ballroom on Broad. way to hear the new Buddy Rich band. Elaborating on what I've already told you, Ronnie says that the outfit is mostly composed of youngsters and is very keen. The saxes aren't great, but the four trumpet-three trombone brass team is terrific. Rich only plays drums in the get-off numbers; he has a relief to take over the ballads. Tenorman Allen Eager plays even more like Lester Young than Young himself, while hear that some of these boys are so big time it isn't true. The lads saw other outfits and I'll let you in on that next week.

The fine "California Meloprogramme, broadcast from Hollywood over Mutual and rebroadcast here on A.F.N., featured two new vocalists as from last week. Thora Mathiason and ex-Woody Herman singer Frances Wayne are the additions to this excellent musical half hour. Frances is specialising on the blues type of numbers and her return to band work following her retirement after her wedding to Neal Hefti has been welcomed by musicians and fans all over the States. Maestro Harry Zimmerman, who originally conducted the Voices of Romance on the same show when Frank De Vol was M.D., is now in charge of the entire show and his arrangements for orchestra and vocals are a real joy to hear-that's where Stanley Black got his effect for that "Bluest Kind of Blues" disc.

Representative Hartley (Republican New Jersey) has subpœnaed James Cæsar Petrillo, chief of the A.F.M., to appear



### AMERICAN COMMENTARY BY STUART S. ALLEN

tries and turned them all into Mills, Ohio and Hollywood.

from Consolidated Film Indus- ing for Russian appreciation. the Columbia Record Corpora- man is kept very busy at Capitol in America by Margaret Whittion, the business has grown, studios. Until now this com- ing, D'Artega and Vaughn despite wartime interference, pany have kept their products Munroe, who inanely sings it in to the point where it is now pro- exclusively to popular music, the picture, and is to receive ducing a quarter of a million but with the advent of B. G. heavy promotion now that the discs a day from its plants in they are now commencing pre- film has been released, they may Bridgeport, Connecticut, King's paration for a classical cata- well think again. Once the discs at the Three Deuces is the Teddy Now reincorporated as Colum- were cut last month by Benny negie Hall" is premiered in this Walters Trio. Teddy, like most bia Records Inc., the company and pianist Nadia Reisenberg, country, I predict "Beware My

of the boys, has a fantastic don't seem to have any illusions who recorded Von Weber's Heart" will do them very well technique, while the other two, about the future of recordings in "Concertino for Clarinet." They indeed. Herb Rainey on be-bop piano America. They have just com- have many more pieces Following last week's anand Ed Shangressy on drums, missioned building to commence scheduled for the new series. nouncement in the "Melody really knocked the lads out for on a new, ultra-modern pressing Incidentally, the addition of Maker" that Stan Kenton and his the count. Later that same plant in Beverley Hills, Califor- Ernie Filice, that new accor- Orchestra were imminent for disevening. Shelly Mann and nia, an additional 75,000 square dion player, to the Sextet is a bandment, I must only quote Charlie Shavers sat in with the feet addition to their Bridge- real innovation. Filice is de- Stan himself and hope that he main group and more of the best port factory and a fifth produc. finitely a more jazz-minded keeps his word. Said he: "I'm in five rounded out the evening, tion unit in Mexico City. Still musician than Mooney (that's not in quite as bad shape as my



Claude Thornhill back in the business rehearses his new band at the Glen Island Casino.

merly a captain, was previously must definitely hear. an assistant to Hall Johnson and the organiser of the mixed chorus for Moss Hart's play "Winged Victory." During the war, his soldier choir gave over 2,500 concerts. Their repertoire does not include one spiritual, but consists of music collected in all the lands they played while in the service. The group, known as The Infantry Chorus, governments to the pupil is recom- tion. held their first recording session

last Friday. before the House Labour Com- Benny Goodman, who can be ? mittee, of which Hartley is heard over A.F.N. with the chairman, and testify on the Victor Borge show on Thursday internal conduct of his union, nights at nine o'clock, is one of The hearing has been deferred the busiest men in Hollywood until the Supreme Court rules on these days. Apart from his the constitutionality of the Lea regular weekly radio show, Benny is currently working for Since 1939, when C.B.S. pur. the U.S. State Department tran- COMMENCE this week with a I read in "Down Beat" that chased the American Record scribing special radio shows for feeling of misgiving. A friend Hollywood musicians are con-Corporation, the Columbia rebroadcast to Russia. He has of mine who manages one of the cerned about television doing Phonograph Company, the to do six programmes a week, biggest ballrooms in the country what the motion picture business Brunswick Record Corp., the in which he comments on Ameri- informed me that several big. does. They refer to the practice

work series, the record firm have to his work and comparing the just signed up Leonard De two), and the combination of Paur's 35-piece ex-U.S. Army Benny's clarinet and Felice's get himself well and truly lost Negro Choir. De Paur, for accordion is something the cats

fore, and Frankie occupies the sponsored radio.

9.30 spot on Wednesday even-

The Pied Pipers report that the initial 200,000 pressings of their latest disc "Mam'selle," theme song from "The Razor's Edge," have sold out within ten days of their release, and that they can't even get copies to stock their own three stores in Southern California.

When I spoke to them over here, the song pluggers weren't too optimistic about "Beware fornia and Master Records Inc., offers examples of his own play. My Heart," the only pop song in "Carnegie Hall," but when they In addition to all this, Good- learn that it has been recorded logue. The first discs for this are heard over A.F.N. and "Car-

The following day Ronnie and expanding their classical Master- my own opinion from listening doc thinks. I feel I might be worse if I abandoned my orchestra right at this point. I think I can fool my doc-he means well, but on the day he examined me I was extremely exhausted and my condition isn't actually as dangerous as he thinks." To-morrow they open at Frank Daily's Meadowbrook for a two-week engagement, and follow this with another month of one night stands.

When Stan was last examined in April, he had just concluded a hectic recording session and thirty consecutive one-nighters -enough to put even the strongest men off key. "I'll make out alright," Kenton states, "Breaking up my band, even temporarily, would hurt me more than a physical breakdown. It's all I live for. Being out on the road in the warm summer months should help to lick me into shape." But you know what those doctors are!

Following last week's announcement of the marriage of 2 has brought me a large fallen considerably due to the hundred finished accordions from Jimmy Zito to June Haver, amount of interesting correspon- fact that some of the ear-players the Darlington factory this year. comes news that Jim has dence. One of the most informa- who originally joined the Club Another interesting piece of organised his own outfit in tive letters came from Mr. Billy are reluctant to learn to read "under the counter" news is Hollywood - Won't these guys Stewart, of Carlisle, who has music. Ted quite rightly felt that a firm in Scotland is ever take "No" for an answer? entered eighty-six pupils for the that he had to make a firm endeavouring to make arrange-Featuring himself, the band is examinations of the British Col- stand on this point for the ments to bring over a complete ful to place the thumb on the an eleven-piecer, with Frank lege of Accordionists since Feb- benefit of the remaining mem- Italian factory - including the Comstock, ex-Brown arranger, ruary, 1946, with one hundred bers of the Club. There is a more highly skilled members of in charge of the book. Nobody per cent. successes. else of particular interest is in the group. Mr. and Mrs. met while both were members of Ted Fio Rita's orchestra.

TO GO OR NOT TO GO Bing Crosby is determined to this summer, but still can't the music. make up his mind as to whether or not he will cross the ocean goes on the air at 11 p.m. as be- one programme in the history of instruction on phrasing.



"You probably would'nt understand-but this is quite a pleasant change after a couple of months of one-night-stands!"

## Accordion Times

Edited by J. J. BLACK

on lessons in the rudiments of the Club, and, writes Ted, "It is finger exercises in the right members." hand. Scales and simple tunes are next introduced. All bellow

After several lessons on the modern dance numbers suitably Cellulose Acetate Plastic. A.F.N. Times, by the way, are for the British holiday he had right hand, pupils are taken on arranged for the instrument. now back to normal once more. planned. His last Philco pro- to a study of the basses, and are Ted tells me that his spare-time Last Sunday saw the introduc- gramme goes out on June 18 then given exercises combining occupation of arranging these. One of my teacher-readers in of all their programmes back heard over 400 U.S. radio sta- easy solos of albums from the hopes (not, I believe, without has caused some confusion. He

> mended to enter for an examination. This, Mr. Stewart believes. assists him to develop a really My remarks last week about lows control, which helps enor. have brought news of another less central position. mously when the time comes to accordion factory which has fit him into a band.

small nucleus of keen players, the staff. but many accordionists in the

of course, it is difficult to obtain ting, one of the many uses of

been opened recently near Dar.

lington. The man behind this Member of the N.A.O. Adviparticular venture is the famous sory Council, Conway Graves, Swedish manufacturer, Hag- was asked for his opinion, and strom, who, incidentally, is the he replies as follows:second largest accordion manufacturer in the world (the largest

in Sweden, one in Denmark, one method, and assiduously practises in Finland, and another in it until he feels reasonably sure MY note about teaching Ted Oliver, of Ipswich, tells me America. I understand that he of himself, he may develop ademethods in the issue of May that membership of his Club has hopes to be turning out two quate speed and accuracy.

Mr. Stewart starts his pupils town seem very apathetic about flash! For the first time an Yet another important news music, then gives them five a real struggle trying to get new British Industries Fair this year. It is a product of the Most of the remaining Club Arthur Bell factory, which I and should be followed up by movements are pencilled in on members prefer to play a large mentioned last week, and is on proportion of dance music and, the Celanese Stand, demonstra-

tion of Central European Double and will not resume until Sep- both hands. After this, the stu- numbers for eight or nine accor- Aldershot writes for advice on a Summer Time and the switching tember 24, when it will be dent is put on to one of the dions is a tedious business. He technical point which, he says, one hour. Moffatt's show now tions, the largest hook-up for B.C.A. List, and given special justification) that the National says that some technical experts Accordion Organisation will, in advocate that when taking a due course, be able to provide skip in the left hand, the hand Fairly early in the course of suitable assistance in this direc- should not slide, but should swing from the wrist in a circular movement. He presumes that the reason is to give greater accuracy when the bass notes good grasp of phrasing and bel- Britain's Youngest Industry are within reach of a more or

> He says that the advice which he has always given to pupils tube being cylindrical. The does not agree with this, unless flare at the bell is not a the bass note is within very easy reach, and is not followed by a chord. He is of the opinion that the hand should slide to each new position, taking care to keep the wrist low, so that the fingers are always presented to the buttons at the same angle.

"I agree with you that in of course being Messrs. Hohner), swinging the hand for a skip, the hand is thrown out of posi-Hagstrom has seven factories tion. But if a player likes this

> "I am in agreement with your method of sliding the hand over the buttons with the wrist low, thus maintaining the position of the hand. It will be found useback panel, which is used as a lever, the loose wrist carrying the hand to any oblique row without difficulty.

> " I quite agree with your point that reasons should always be given by the teacher for the methods which he advocates, practical demonstration."

#### ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Christopher Denner, of Nuremberg, ca. 1690. The town did not produce only Meistersingers and Nazi

2. 1770 - by Mozart in his "Paris" Symphony.

3. Yes. By Simiot of Lyons in 1820, Buffet in 1867, and more recently by James Clinton. They suffered from increased cost, weight and liability to get out of order and the intonation was faulty at one of the pitches.

4. The bore is even, the tapering of the tube and has little to do with the tone.

5. The air column in the tube. The overtones given by the reed are not normally prominent at all.

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## CANDID

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My informant told me of occa- television system. £1 7 9 sing manner.

> boom in serious music is going of any broadcast? which it should be affecting really worth hearing. them? Having made this dis- Geraldo at the Albert Hall gave covery, they might lose interest. us some orchestral high-spots? After all, it happened with and a beautiful sound. Neverthe- leader's prettily-blown kiss from recently, when the pessimistic Station would be acoustically wife see? said that dance music was on its superior to the Albert Hall for a way out. That, of course, was a broadcast. I cannot reconcile gross exaggeration. What they Harry Champion's "Boiled Beef A top line bandleader, listening character who forgot it was meant was that the nation had and Carrots" with the musical to another band, turned to his "dress" compromised with a getting apathetic towards the duced as an ultra lowbrow I think it must be, I can't worn over a pale blue shirt and was the new super-dance character men - John Rorke corchestra of full complement, -who sang it, that Champion Scene. Block of luxury flats. In the issue 20-4-47 I asked

I'm beginning to become too strong to go on the same bill Shame! alarmed for somebody I know with other singers, but a sad Zsix weeks.

American Record Corp. of Cali- can and Russian music and name radio and show bands are of recording the music and then not the exceptional box-office filming a dummy orchestra to? attractions one would imagine the playback of the recorded? them to be. He referred, of music. Well, it happens here in course, to ballroom engagements the film business. I believe there exclusively. The reason for this are fees for recording in film? certain of these bands. Brilliant minima for "dummy" musicians maybe. and showy arrangements are not -real musicians but not those enough for the Palais patron, who did the recording. I have Terpsichore-not Orpheus-must not, however, investigated how the scheme works with our own little "high," or was it just a

sions when the patrons of his Just another word about 6 3 ballroom applauded overwhelm- balancing. Stapleton's broadcast, 1 1 1 2 ingly for their local band to the sent from here to France, re-19 2 discredit of the star visiting corded there and later trans- bie seems to have affected the different places, playing with 41 17 4 Corchestra in a most embarras- mitted via Radio Diffusion Fran-line up of "Swing Shop." Three different bands. They've both Another friend of mine, a nice balance. If they can do it hours was heavy going. musical director of some con. on these occasions, why can't? siderable eminence, says he the B.B.C. always pay attention wonders just how long this new to this most vital technical part?

to last. Only in very recent I made some unkind remarks found music's call overpowering years have the British become a about singers last week, but I musically - minded nation. At feel I must give a bouquet this into selling his quartet. first they went to hear good week to the Song Pedlars for music because they were told it their brilliant ensemble in "Navy was good. Having heard it, they Mixture." However you look at swing club audiences, proving Paul really has himself a young liked it. But how long will the it, this team is equal to anything that jitterbugs and musicians band, while Bill's boys are musically-interested (as distinct from U.S.A. Add to the talent in don't really want to look that mostly Cotton veterans. from the musically - educated) this show Benny Lee and his colour. Stolerate Beethoven after having artistic way of putting a song theard the stuff about fifteen over and you have something! times? Surely they will suddenly worth talking about. What's discover that they do not derive more, Lee and the Song Pedlars toothpaste ad. smiles are findthe emotional pleasure with working together is something taking out film stars.

The strength of the wife has gone to work is the charwoman. Nasty-minded lot!

had so much of it that it was fare offered unless it was intro-boys and said: "Is that good? dress jacket and black bow, rhythmic idiom. Reaction to it contribution. I must remind understand it!" was flagging. The only antidote that greatest of all Cockney

guy, ain't I? The few quid they allow you Still I do not know why? Over-display of Yank neckregular listeners.

Confidence A NOTHER West-End band The "Nut House," noted for disappointment is, he says, be- studios stipulated here by the the change due in July, with the its notabilities, has housed cause dancers cannot dance to M.U. I think there are also displaced band going to France, noted singer with a very noted

Was the "Saturday night' vocalist who mixed his words a slip of the tongue?

caise was outstanding for its trumpets and rhythm for three grown horrible beards!

Seems the debonair (£30 a squeeze-boxer announced day in films) maestro has and he is putting heart and soul

Good weather seems to affect at Cotton - Adam Band Parade.

Those boys who seek the

with super-arrangements, super- sang his songs at an unintelli-Musician's wife leaves her hus- what had happened to emi-Sappearance, super-pyrotechnics, gible speed. That Dean of radio band in bed and goes out to grants Benny Winestone and super-singers and everything else commentary, Christopher Stone, work. Half-an-hour passes, Albert Harris. Mr. Sidney Shutpar excellence." And even all loved by all listeners young and another woman comes kever has written to tell me that this is of no avail in a ballroom old, should never have said a along, opens the door with her Albert is now a Doctor of Music where they demand some rare word without a well-written own key, and enters the sleeping and was recently playing guitar and elusive "x" or unknown script commensurate with the musician's flat. All is quiet?

to take out of the country when Bobby Young is not featured in wear spoilt the efforts of some-you go for a holiday doesn't last the new Inglez series. A pretty body's photographer, causing clong, particularly in America. compliment to Young if he is the picture to be scrapped.

who went there as long ago as disappointment to Bobby's Who is the Wolf of Archer more than a ride in a train re-Street? Different day, different cently-and how much did he BIT.

gal several Sunday nights of

A peculiar coincidence—there are two tenor players; both are of medium stocky build; both wear glasses; both have hair; their Christian names are Departure of Scott and Crom- "Len." I see both in entirely

> At Accordion Club the guest would play a selection Gounod's "Faust." Voice back of me said: "Why the hell can't he play it slow?"

Contrast in bands was twofold

\* \* \*

Forgot to mention that the woman who enters the musician's flat after the wife has \* \* \*

Someone noted for their tactless remarks was seen, sans make up, recently in public. dance music. There was a time, less, I should imagine Victoria stage to audience, and did his Moral is: "People who live in Gibson, Guitar in shaped case £15/15/0 glass houses. . . ." \* \* \*

Fashion Note.—Absent-minded 159, NEW BOND ST., W.1. grey flannels. It wouldn't have done for some.

on the Cass Daley Radio Show. He has also been playing in the " Mocambo" night club in Holly. wood. He is happily married. Thank you, Mr. Shutkever. Now, what about Benny?

Is it true that a well-known gramophone critic was taken for lose?



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entertainment from a mammoth Wheel, Dodgems, Brooklands Racer, Wall of Death (featuring George Todd and his Death Riders), and every other thrill for the holiday maker, including a Zoo and a Monkey Jungle.

Here, overlooking the sea, is the beautiful Coronation Ballroom, claimed to be the finest in Kent, but one which would be hard to excel anywhere in the country. Playing here is a really first-class dance orchestra, under the direction of an ex-Lou Preager player, Gordan Homer, who conducts his 12-piece band on the elegant bandstand to the delight of the holidaymakers. Homer came down last winter from the Plaza, Derby, with a seven-piece band. At that time there were three dance spots open. It speaks for this director's popularity when I tell you that Gordan Homer, still at the Coronation Ballroom but now with a twelve-piece outfit, is a name greatly respected among dancers in this part of the country. Singing with him is Judy Dean, one of three girls chosen out of 500 for television

This summer the Coronation has an ambitious booking scheme to engage many nationally famous bands as visiting

With the Musical Express Reporter and Cameraman THE

land," which is a super-aggrega- July 3rd brings Leslie Douglas the B.B.C. to come along and excellence.

ARRIVED at Ramsgate to guest orchestras. These include Foster and 24 Ivy Benson, and arrangements the management find it bathed in sunshine, and Ronnie Munroe, Harry Davidson 31 brings Oscar Rabin-Harry of the Coronation Ballroom have fixed myself up comfortably in and, from June 2nd the Jerry Davis and their full radio band. for Homer apart from his enthe town's luxury hotel (I don't Allen Trio. June 23 they feature August 18 brings Felix Mendels. gagement with them, but I think pay for this-it comes out of the El Mario's All-Girls' Latin- sohn and his Haiwaiians and the it would be a great idea to hear expenses!), The Regency. Then I American Orchestra, and on season winds up with a mam- this excellent band on the air went out to explore the enter- June 12 the Blue Rockets are moth Beauty Contest for the from the Coronation with all due here. June 23 is also the title of Miss Merrie England. the background and glamour of What interested me most, of week of the Summer Fayre and This orchestra of Gordan his enthusiastic dancing public course, was the musical fare. I the Beauty Queen will be elected Homer should be watched care- around him. This would be went, therefore, to "Merrie Eng- in the Coronation Ballroom. fully. It might be an idea for Saturday Night at the Palais par

on holiday

this week at



Gordan Homer and his Orchestra, who are a great attraction as resident dance band at the Coronation Ballroom.



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# RINA GIGL

Hall on Sunday, May 25, next. Rina Gigli has recently concluded a season of opera appearances in several European countries, where her personal success has been a great triumph, and it is now established that she has been chosen as a soloist for the Festival of Music to be

## Cavalotti Takes Band to Scarborough

saxophonist, who, since his demobilisation, has done 24 solo broadcasts for the B.B.C., will take his band on May 24 to the NEW "BRILHART" model Mouth a vocal discovery in New Zea- the country.

### **NEW BAND FOR** BOURNEMOUTH

On July 1, at the Pavilion, Bournemouth, Roy Cooper will On Sunday last, May 11, the commence leading a new band that is being formed for the opened as a concert hall (excel- summer season, and being presented by Reg Holmes, wellknown writer manager. band will consist of three brass, Beecham and the Royal Phil- four saxophones and three harmonic Orchestra. Sir Thomas rhythm, and is in the process of solved the dress controversy being formed now. Holmes tells "Musical Express" that he is breasted cream jacket, evidently interested in contacting ex-Service musicians who would care to join the band. No musicain who is not an ex-Serviceman need apply. He is particularly interested in getting hold be disappointed. of a good vocalist who also plays an instrument, and any readers who wish to contact him can do so at 68, Latymer Court, W.6. Telephone: Riverside 6711. The brand of music the band will Harold Fielding has just com. play will be in the sweet manner pleted arrangements with Jack suitable for dancing. Roy Hylton to present Rina Gigli, the Cooper is currently appearing daughter of Beniamino Gigli, in with the band at the Florida, and her first English recital tour, will be leaving to lead the new commencing at the Royal Albert | band as soon as rehearsals commence

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Claude Cavalotti, well-known where these shorts will be sions-perhaps!!! He has got an tirely free from acrobatics."

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## IN THE NORTH by Billy Butler

write of the North and I en. and organist.

about a dozen establishments in the "Five Towns."

Northern leaders, who will, on Bloor.

tion of playing to well over ing report:-

THESE columns are weekly Dick Mayor-1st pianist; and placed at my disposal to Watson Holmes-2nd pianist deavour to give an insight to On Thursday, May 8, another

everyone what is happening in outstanding Stoke-on-Trent Orthis part of the country. Natur- chestra gave a concert at the ally to do this one principally Municipal Hall, Newcastlewrites of activity of this band under-Lyme. This was the Newor that band, or this affair and castle String Orchestra, leader that affair, and in an optimistic Ralph Jack, and under its conmanner. At the same time one ductor H. Leslie Jones. They must face facts. For some time provided a well-balanced proin the North we have been hear- gramme of popular works, ing conversations from which I which included Chopin's F minor quote: "Things are bad in Piano Concerto, with soloist Town" and "You should see John Brennan. The orchestra Archer Street with droves of also played Arensky's "Variamusicians looking for work!" tions on a theme of Tschai-This we can visualise, and I can kowsky," a Mozart Divertimento, assure our professional col- Vaughan Williams' "Fantasia on leagues in town that the North Greensleeves," and short works is not an Eldorado where oppor- by Avison, Grieg and Cimarosa. tunity is greater than the South. Altogether an interesting pro-Granted the seaside provides gramme, well played. Very few work for a large number of towns can boast of the many musicians, but this is not lavish excellent amateur orchestral in blessings any more, and the and choral societies as the prospects especially in Man. Potteries possess, and a well chester-of acquiring regular varied and stimulating diet is work are very poor, with only offered to all music-lovers with-

employing regular bands at At Lewis's Arcade Ballroom, moderate remuneration. As for Hanley, Ken Jones (Design for the gig business, well ! ! It Strings) and his Music, provide therefore gave me concern to for the dancers in a very comread in our contemporary, last petent manner. With Ken leadweek, advice to Town musicians ing on piano, the rest of the boys to seek in the provinces. My tip are: - Percy Le Rolland, Harry is-don't venture, and you won't Moores-altos; Frank Wrighttenor; Ken Chetwynd-trumpet; With that off my chest, I can and the drum chair is shared by now write of one of our busiest Freddy Stonier and Freddie

May 31, be celebrating his My final writings this week are fourth year at what is, I am of the Manchester Women's sure, the best known ballroom String Orchestra and the conon the west coast. I refer to the cert they gave at the Albert Tower Ballroom, Blackpool, and Hall, Manchester, on Wednesleader Joe Kirkham, who, with day, April 30, and I am indebted his band, will have the distinc- to Jack Duarte for the follow-

a million people again this "There has been a very consummer. To me this figure siderable improvement in the seems a very conservative state- tonal quality of this orchestra ment, having seen this ballroom since we last heard it in Manmyself on numerous occasions chester at a Tuesday Mid-day literally packed from floor to Concert last year, and on this ceiling, with sightseers and occasion Miss Clarice Duningdancers. In addition to playing ton was faced with a more diffi-Trade - shown next week in for dancing Joe also provides cult problem in controlling her London will be three new Uni- the music for the wonderfully- forces, since the Albert Hall was versal-International short films produced Children's Ballet, pro- only partially filled, and was featuring Tex Beneke and the duction again in the hands of very resonant in consequence. Glenn Miller Orchestra, Charlie Annette. He tells me every That she did so, keeping the Spivak and his Orchestra and hour of his day is occupied maximum clarity of line and Skinnay Ennis and his Band, the writing the musical arrange. transparency of texture, was a ex-Bob Hope and now maestro ments for this show, and he will tribute to her powers with the for the Abbott and Costello radio be glad of the rest when the baton, and particularly so since season opens on May 24. He she chooses to work with a Information as to when and will then only have normal ses- minimum of gesture, and is en-

screened will be given in "Musi- excellent band, which recently By the way, I close with an cal Express" as soon as booking gave a very successful audition appeal to clarinet players who figures are to hand. Several to the B.B.C. and expects to go are interested in playing with a other shorts, featuring Stan | "on the air" in the near future, first-rate amateur symphony Spa Ballroom, Scarborough, for Kenton, Gene Krupa, Lawrence The line up is:-Charlie Barlow, orchestra. Cecil N. Cohen Kitchen, Ltd., Queen Victoria Street, the season. The line-up of his Welk, Del Courtney, Charlie Frank Lundie, Jack Duerden, would welcome them at the band will comprise five saxes, Barnet, Tommy Tucker, are al- Bert Clayton-Saxes; Alf Leach, Monday night rehearsals of the three rhythm and one trumpet, ready here, and many are being Bill Turner, Harry Neal-trum- A.E.I. Orchestra, which meets at and we understand that he has shown by news cinemas around pets; Sid Flood, Maurice Fowler the Institute, Lower Mosley -trombones; Jack Guy - Street, Manchester; Cecil is also STUART S. ALLEN. | drums; Bill Breaknall-bass; available at Rusholme 5281.

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