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Musical Express

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 1947



No. 44

PRICE FOURPENCE

HIT THE HIGH NOTES! with Ted Nash's studies in HIGH HARMONICS FOR ALTO AND TENOR SAXOPHONE

SAMPSON ON DECCA

Camarata to Coach Sampson Orchestra (MUSICAL EXPRESS STAFF REPORTER)

TOMMY SAMPSON, who has had an almost meteoric rise to headlines since he first came to London to audition his band for the first time four weeks ago, has now crowned this success since he is to record for Decca in October under the guidance and advice of Toots Camarata.

Camarata intends to feature this band in brand new music with new ideas. He has given Edwin Holland, arranger for the Sampson band, a completely free hand in composing and scoring for the orchestra.

Before he left, Camarata recorded a new number, he had just written entitled, "Rumbalero." We understand from all the musicians who played on this session that the record is a gem, and will raise the standard of British musicianship to a very great advantage in the States.

GONELLA & BURNS AT SOUTHSEA

On the opening of the Savoy Ballroom and Restaurant, last Friday, 1,400 people were present to listen to the bands of Nat Gonella and Tito Burns. These two bands, featuring their own distinctive brands of music and specialties, were warmly received by the audience.

BENNY LEE GUEST ON 'Black Magic'



Benny Lee will be a guest on the popular "Black Magic" series when it transfers to the programme on August 11. Gene Crowley, ex-vocalist, who is doing so well as a comedian these days, will also be on the programme.

ANOTHER CHILTON PROGRAMME

Up and coming and enterprising B.B.C. producer Charles Chilton, producer of "Accordion Club," "Cabin in the Cotton," and the Big Bill Campbell show, tells "Musical Express" that he will revive another of his popular radio shows on August 19, at 10.15 p.m.

DAVIS FAMILY LEAVES FOR AMERICA

Mrs. Davis and Cherry, mother and sister of Beryl Davis, left for America last week to visit Beryl, who has managed to get a flat for them in New York.

Tommy Douglas Seriously Ill

Tommy Douglas, who has been playing second tenor with Stan Atkins for many years, was taken ill while on holiday with Atkins in Exeter, last week.

MENDELSSOHN FOR RAMSGATE

The Coronation Ballroom, Ramsgate, which has had such fine entertainment for holiday-makers throughout the season, are to present Felix Mendelssohn and his Hawaiian Serenaders for a week at that ballroom, commencing Monday, August 18.

DUNCAN WHYTE FOR RAMSGATE

Duncan Whyte will take his newly-formed ten-piece outfit to the Coronation Ballroom, Ramsgate, for five days commencing August 12, when Gordon Homer, the resident band, comes to London to appear at Hammersmith Palais.

DUBARRY OPENING IN MANCHESTER Walford Haydn Conducting

Arthur Lane is to present the revival of "The Dubarry," which will open in Manchester on August 19. The leading role will be taken by famous American artist Irene Manning, who arrived in England a short while ago, and the orchestra will be conducted by Walford Haydn.

STAPLETON WORKS DURING HOLIDAY

Cyril Stapleton, whose band is on vacation for two weeks from the Embassy Club, is utilising this time by doing two weeks in the provinces. We understand that his opening at the Pavilion, Redcar, this week, was very successful, and he anticipates good business at Seaburn Hall the following week.

Syd Wright's Second Season

Playing his second season since the liberation at Parkins, Luxury Camp, Pleimont, Jersey, Syd Wright's Band are playing for dancing every evening and giving a regular concert every Sunday to the enjoyment of the holidaymakers there.

MOFFATT AT HAMMERSMITH



Ralph Moffatt surrounded by fans when he announced the Leslie Douglas Orchestra at Hammersmith Palais last week.

BREAK FOR HOMER AT HAMMERSMITH

GORDON HOMER who, with his band, is resident at the Coronation Ballroom, Ramsgate, will be appearing in town for one week commencing August 11, when he takes the place of Johnny Swinfen, who will be on vacation from the Hammersmith Palais on that date.

DEPARTURE & ARRIVAL Musical Express Lightning Camera Travels With Ramon and His Orchestra



Bill Duffy, known to Ramon and his Samba Orchestra, leave by Ciro's Aviation to take up residence at the Palm Beach Casino, Cannes. Seating them off is agent Gino Arbib, who made this engagement possible.



Billy Duffy and his band on their arrival at Cannes are met by Pierre Havez and Maurice Golsier, Manager and Stagemanager of the Palm Beach Casino.

NAT ALLEN SIGNS EVE BEYNON for CIRO'S

NAT ALLEN, who has commenced playing at Ciro's during Maurice Winnick's absence, has signed up well-known vocalist Eve Beynon, who has been appearing with Henry Hall for the past three years.

The complete line-up of the band playing at Ciro's consists of Eddie Pratt, Freddie Williams and Benny Brommick on altos, with Brommick doubling on baritone, Billy Amstell and Norman Fantham tenors, Billy Shakespeare, Johnny Hamilton, a new Scottish discovery, and Monty Montgomery trumpets.

Midland Band Broadcasting

Well-known Midland band, Styx Wilkinson and his Dance Orchestra, will be broadcasting in the Midland Home Service on Saturday, August 9, at 7.30-7.45 p.m., in a programme entitled "Memories of You."

BRUNO WALTER TO CONDUCT THE L.P.O.

Bruno Walter will conduct the London Philharmonic Orchestra at three concerts in the Albert Hall on October 30, November 6 and 13, at 7.30 p.m.

The London Philharmonic Choir (newly formed from a nucleus of the pre-war Philharmonic Choir) will take part in the final concert, which will include the "Choral" Symphony of Beethoven and "Te Deum" of Bruckner.

D'AMATO STARTS 2nd SERIES

Chappie D'Amato commenced his second series of late-night dance music broadcasts from Hatchett's Restaurant last week. The programme from 10.15-11 p.m. will be heard every Wednesday in place of Carol Gibbons and Roberto Inglez.

VARIETY AT CASINO

THE Nicholas Brothers made their much-heralded reappearance in London at the Casino last Monday. It is some years since these two talented brothers were here.

Ex-dance band crooner but now star in her own right—Phyllis Robins—is a consummate artiste. She holds her own magnificently on a talented bill. Harry Parry and his Sextet did well. Miltum in Parvo, Jean Bradbury, who sings with the Parry Sextet, has a full and interesting voice.

TOMBOY'S IN NEW SHOW

Tom Henry's Tomboys will open in a new show to be called "So Much The Better" on August 25, at Swindon, the first week of a twelve-week tour.

AUSTRALIAN 'DIXIELAND' BAND IS HERE

Short Stay Prior to Leaving for Prague

GRAEME BELL and his famous Australian Dixieland Band arrived in England last Thursday and left the next morning for Prague, where they will be appearing for five weeks.

Their Press representative and business manager, Mel E. Langdon, told "Musical Express" that they have been playing together for many years, and the line-up consists of Graeme Bell leading on piano, Roger Bell, his brother, on cornet, Don Roberts clarinet, Adrian Mousborough trombone, Russ Murphy drums, Louis Silberstein bass and tuba, and Jack Varney banjo and guitar.

ROSE'S VERSATILITY ON ACCORDION CLUB SHOW



Dennis Rose

Revellers Save Show in Power Failure

When the hydraulic power failure kept the fire curtains down at a number of London theatres last week the audience at the Victoria Palace were given an impromptu entertainment by the Radio Revellers, Eric Whitley and some of the Crazy Gang members.

Serenade in Sepia Returns

Serenade in Sepia returned to the microphone in a new series on August 5 with Evelyn Dove and Edric Connor singing sweet music in the Negro style.

ALYS ROBI HERE

Famous Canadian Victor recording artist and radio star, Alys Robi, has arrived in England. This well-known vocalist with the sultry voice, who renders most of her songs in French, televised in Picture Page last Wednesday, and will be heard over the air when she broadcasts as guest artist in the Carroll Lewis Show on August 24, and again as a guest star in Accordion Club on September 4.

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THE VOICE

WORDS OF WISDOM

The London "Evening Standard" of August 2 carried an editorial column under the heading "An Idea for Dalton." It contained words of great wisdom and we on "Musical Express" sincerely hope Mr. Dalton will take notice of it.

A CLEVER SUGGESTION

"Let him examine the possibility of discouraging the double-feature programme in our cinemas... Would not live entertainment bring the people in? Could not the cinemas give part of their time to variety, turns, music, songs, community singing?"

GREAT POSSIBILITIES

The "Evening Standard," as you see above, thinks the saving isn't much—but that it would be something. I think that statement is far too modest. Not only would there be a saving in dollar currency, but there would be a sharp rise in the graph of professional employment throughout this country.

ACTION NEEDED AT ONCE

It is not sufficient just to have a policy "in favour of" live entertainment. This is the big chance to get it started in a big way. The country needs to save dollars. Prohibit the second feature film and replace it with live entertainment and we not only save dollars but we take the show business out of a minor seasonal slump and create a boom.

DANCE BAND CONTESTS

I can promise those bands interested in competing in the "Musical Express Dance Band Contest Scheme" an announcement of paramount importance within the next few weeks. At the time of writing the various Committees and sub-committees are meeting to work on the gigantic task of this undertaking.

Lady Tympaniste for Duke Ellington THE PETRILLO STORY

By M. E. Correspondent, Stuart S. Allen

HAVING already given you news of one forthcoming Duke Ellington concert of international importance, I think musicians in this country will be interested in the following little item, which concerns yet another Ellington date and yet another major Ellington composition.

Gershwin and Vincent Youmans accounting for most of the other perpetual favourites.

SINGER'S SECTION

Dinah Shore and George Montgomery have decided to name their baby "Gregory" whether it be boy or girl, thus continuing the new vogue for naming girls with boys' names.

Lovely June Christy followed her successful Hotel Sherman date with a two-week engagement at the Oriental Theatre on July 31, in that same Windy City of Chicago.

Majestic Theatre, Dallas, Texas, last month, Hal McIntyre's publicity agent dreamed up a smart stunt by having the local Sheriff appear on the show and award the band leader with a badge, making him an honorary Deputy of the Dallas County Force.

"THE PETRILLO STORY," or "Cesar, what are you dreaming of now?" A.F.M. President James Cesar Petrillo, continuing his testimony before the Senate Investigation Committee, told them that 604 affiliated radio stations employed no staff musicians, and that his decision to go into the record business was mainly intended to deal with the radio networks.



Eddie Newman, disc jockey on New York station WOR, interviews band leader Mercer Ellington, son of the Duke, while spinning some of Mercer's new recordings. L to R: Al Hibbler (Duke's vocalist loaned to him), Mercer Ellington, Lew Litvin (Mercer's manager), and Eddie Newman.

Candid Comment

EVERY once in a while rumour has it that BING CROSBY has "had it." Joe Public shakes a doleful head and murmurs, "Poor old Groaner... still, he's had a good run."

Transatlantic

Although only a mediocre film, Warner Bros. "The Time, The Place, and The Girl" is surveyed as being the 1946/47 motion picture to contain the greatest number of hit songs, according to the Peatman Office of Research, Radio Division.

Wow, Wow-Uh-Wow! I have it on reliable information that the Fred Pipers have blended a weekly guarantee of ten thousand dollars, plus expenses, for an eight-week tour of theatres and concerts in Britain, commencing this November.

from participating in radio network music shows from February 1, 1948. His reason for this action, he said, was to avoid large-scale unemployment.

Will Restrictions on U.S.A. Films Benefit Cinema Organists?

Asks Robin Richmond

MAIN topic of conversation amongst organists is the effect of the proposed restrictions on American films. They seem to think that when Mr. Dalton gets busy it will probably mean a return to single feature programmes with supporting stage attractions. This of course would be a splendid chance for the lads to get cracking and present some interesting organ-stage shows.

The Importance of SELF-DISCIPLINE

By Russ Allen

"The time has come," the Walrus said, "to talk of many things, Of music, modes and manners, As well as other things."

THE TIN-PAN ALPHABET

By "Troubadour"

ARTISTS—Anne Shelton recording "MY YIDDISHE MOMMA" back with "ALIE ALIE" I understand Issy is writing to Sophie about this!

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TEN BEST SELLERS

The following list of TEN BEST SELLERS, irrespective of price, for week ending July 31, 1947, has been compiled from lists supplied by members of the WHOLESALE MUSIC DISTRIBUTORS' ASSOCIATION in London and the Provinces:

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★ THE VIEWPOINT ★

Statistical: FIFTY TONS OF WAX

By Valentine Britten (Librarian: B.B.C. Gramophone Library.)

THE B.B.C. Gramophone Library must be the largest record collection in the world, consisting, as it does, of nearly 250,000 discs. It occupies some 3,000 square feet of space, and weighs about 50 tons!

Without Comment: ROLLO MYERS ON JAZZ

ONE of the most widely diffused and popular kinds of 'light' music is the dance music that is now being turned out by mass-production methods and disseminated all over the world on gramophone records.

AN APOLOGY

On seeing Don't Forget Short Waves attributed to "Dennis Morgan" in this column last week, some readers may have had the mistaken impression that Dennis Morgan is no longer producer of Radio Rhythm Club.

Send us your views for "The Viewpoint" Articles should not exceed 400 words.

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Revivals: U.S.A. RECORD POLICY

By Bob Kreider

WITH three consecutive releases between June 23 and July 7, Columbia Records issued its first post-war albums of Hot Jazz Classics — "the original records that made jazz history."

Ancient and Modern in the Film ATLANTIS by MICHEL MICHELET

ONCE, they say, there was a great kingdom filled with strong men and beautiful women, known for its wisdom and the happy grace of life within its glittering gates.

Two ballet dancers from Sadlers Wells—Don Brittain and Alan Baker—were used in the action of the film, and their sequences were actually shot after the score had been recorded.

I personally, have great hopes for the future of jazz in film music. Already film composers are being influenced more and more by jazz rhythms, and there is no doubt that such rhythms are eminently suited to the equally important rhythm of the film.

Improvisation: THE JAZZ OCTET By Robin Scutt

ENCOURAGED by the response from French jazz fans to a series of Eddie Condon jam sessions, broadcast by arrangement with A.F.N. in 1944, I obtained the administration's permission to try something similar here.

All octet sessions were jointly produced by Mark White, John Foreman (European Service Presentation Assistant, who also writes jazz programmes for the B.B.C. German, Russian and Czech services), and myself until the first-named joined Variety Department. Since then, production has been entirely in the hands of the European Service representative.

Over two hundred titles have been recorded since 1945—ranging from "Original Dixieland One-Step" to "Isle of Capri"—from jazz classics to the popular tunes of the moment.

Reaction to the Octet's broadcasts has come from many European countries, particularly France, Switzerland and Holland, as well as from the U.S.A. and British troops serving overseas. But, of course, our sessions have been primarily intended for the French Service, which has financed most of them.



"So THAT'S where he's been getting it!"

RECORD REVIEW

Blues Too (Wilson), I Can't Get Started (Duke), by the Teddy Wilson Sextet. Parlophone R.3046.

SHORTAGE of space prevented my reviewing this record with its fellow July issues. That it merits review in retrospect is, at once, a commendation.

The atmosphere of the first side is a happy one—a group of excellent musicians gathered together, playing, without self-conscious concession to fad or fashion, the kind of music they really enjoy.

"Blues Too" is so unpretentious that the casual listener could be forgiven if he overlooked some of its outstanding qualities. For one thing, Buck Clayton, always a sensitive trumpeter, is reverent as a player of strength and imagination, sure and clean in the upper register and possessed of an intriguing cloudy tone in the lower ranges of his instrument.

Ben Webster plays restrained, breathy tenor, subtly phrased and modulated. This is perhaps his most successful style, and one of which we've heard all too little on English record releases. I recall with a good deal of pleasure similar playing by this artist in Benny Morton's "Converting in Blue" on American Blue Note 46.

The collective improvisation at the end of the record is very effective, and proof that this is not a lost art as the purists claim.

"I Can't Get Started" is altogether less successful. On this slow, attractive melody, Webster tries a Hawkins-style variation which doesn't quite come off. Clayton again plays beautifully, in the release of the first chorus, but is poorly backed—especially by the tenor sax.

Minor faults aside, it is indeed refreshing to hear small-band improvised jazz of this type in these days of experimental "bebop" and phoney Dixieland.

RECORD RECOMMENDATIONS

- Each week this column lists ten outstanding records by leading jazzmen and bands, drawn from the current English gramophone catalogues. In strict alphabetical order we continue, this week, with PIANO JAZZ.

APPRECIATION OF JIMMIE LUNCEFORD By Hugues Panassie (Part 2)

WHAT are Jimmie Lunceford's best records? It is hard to say: there must be fully thirty first-class sides among the band's many recordings. Personally, I especially enjoy "Stomp It Off" (Brunswick O2512), "Swanee River" (Brunswick O2391), "Avalon" (Brunswick O2297), "Organ Grinder's Swing" (Brunswick O2288), "For Dancers Only" (Brunswick O2531), "Margie" (Brunswick O2570), "Uptown Blues" (Parlophone R.2528), a d "Wham" and "Keep Smilin' Keep Laughin'"—both unissued in England.

Unfortunately, the first two sides do not sound as fine as they might have done owing to too fast tempo—the result of having to squeeze the full arrangements into the short space of ten-inch records.

"Avalon," an Eddie Durham arrangement, both better recorded and played in correct tempo, features an amazing chorus played in harmony by three trombones and Joe Thomas, tenor saxophone. In the last chorus a lovely effect is obtained by having a trombone play the theme very rhythmically against a powerful rhythmic ensemble, played by the rest of the band.

"Organ Grinder's Swing" is too well-known to require much comment. It can be summed up as true Sy Oliver music, and Sy, besides making the arrangement, plays all the trumpet solos with the sole exception of the short open solo, which is by Paul Webster.

It is a great pity that "For Dancers Only" wasn't recorded immediately after it was written. This piece was, in fact, composed by Sy Oliver before the more famous "Christopher Columbus," but Sy never received due credit for those fine riffs because, when the Lunceford record did appear, everyone took it to be just another "steal" from the better-known "Christopher C." As it happens, it was "For Dancers Only" which introduced that new use and style of riffs to the jazz world—a style which is still going strong! The Lunceford band made a great performance of this particular Oliver arrangement, and the music really lives up to its title.

had the idea of taking this piece at so slow and pleasing a tempo, and besides writing wonderful backgrounds to the instrumental solos, he also wrote every phrase of Young's vocal chorus. That, of course, is why the singing and the lovely saxophone phrases that play hauntingly around it are so well integrated.

Jimmie Lunceford did not record many blues: in fact, the band never played blues as well as Duke Ellington or Count Basie. But it did record one great blues, "Uptown Blues," which consists of only two solos, each two choruses in length. The first soloist is Willie Smith on alto; the second, Snookie Young on trumpet. The latter's playing is certainly good, but what really "makes" the record is Smith's gorgeous improvisation, full of beautiful chord changes, yet faithfully following the true spirit of the blues.

Surprisingly, "Wham" shows the band in a Basie groove. The arrangement is by Eddie Durham, who, of course, wrote many similar riff numbers for the Count. Joe Thomas plays one of his finest tenor solos on this disc, and the whole outfit achieves something of the Basie drive in the final ensemble chorus. No wonder it is the Count's favourite Lunceford recording!

The arrangement of "Keep Smilin' Keep Laughin'" may not be outstanding, but this is the performance which comes closest to the way the band sounded "in the flesh"—perhaps because of the powerful, lively recording. The success of this disc is largely due to Jimmy Crawford on drums and to Joe Thomas, who swings to the utmost in both his vocal chorus and tenor solo work.

These nine recordings, together with some others I haven't mentioned, will, there's no doubt, stand the test of time, and serve to show us in after years what a wonderful band Jimmie Lunceford had in his heyday.

Poor Jimmie! There are in this music business some men who lead the wild life, who indulge, perhaps, too freely in the bottle—yet still look good for many years on this planet. And Lunceford, who was such a sober character—"Everybody save Jimmie hits the bottle!" sang Sy Oliver in "Hittin' the Bottle"—had to die, at the age of forty-five, of a heart attack!

Death struck him early, it's true—but not before he'd given us all great moments with his wonderful music.

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THE PROMS By "Musical Express" Critic Malcolm Rayment. ON Monday, July 28, Sir Malcolm Sargent conducted the L.S.O. in a performance of John Antill's Ballet Suite, "Corroboree," which is a favourite dancing ceremony of the Aborigines.

Accordions Times Edited by J. J. BLACK. I AM frequently asked for advice on the choice of an accordion tutor or postal course by readers who have just taken up the study of the accordion.

The Regent Piano Accordion Club, of Aidershot (M. D. Edwin W. Carpenter), continues to do valuable propaganda work on behalf of our instrument in the locality.

CANDID COMMENT (continued from page 3) boys "know Marl to be a daughter of Hell... but they like the kick she gives 'em... as long as it's up them stairs. He claims they take her with well-considered maturity and never more than once a session!"

"ATLANTIS" (continued from page 3) and ruler of this fantastic world. These musicians, mostly unseen, perform on ancient and unusual instruments in various parts of the palace, accompanying the rituals, the banquets and ballets.

My compliments to BOX and COX for their acquisition of "Galway Bay." What a really lovely ballad it is. (All acts please note.) An Irish tenor's or baritone's, piece de resistance.

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CHANGE OF POLICY AT ROSE ROOM. The Committee of the Rose Room have announced that an increasing element of "non-professionals" has been evident during recent meetings of the Rose Room.

HEATH - M.U. Cricket Result. As announced in these columns last week, "Musical Express" has pleasure in giving the results of the cricket match between the Ted Heath band and the Blackpool Musicians' Union.

Tin Pan Alley "The Troubadour" "NOW IS THE TIME" HEARD this show on Friday last. Now, I have no politics—but this show I consider anti-Government propaganda in the most possible taste.

MANAGUA NICARAGUA—Young Bill Phillips is doing a terrific job on this catchy tune—it won't be his fault if the song doesn't make the grade.

"ATLANTIS" (continued from page 3) era; he plays can-can music on his gramophone. I wrote a special can-can for the Count which recaptures, I believe, the light-hearted abandon and frivolity of the Paris of his time.

There are also in Atlantis a number of curious Europeans who have wandered by chance into Antinea's hidden kingdom, and never departed. These, too, must have their musical themes, and happily, as characters, they express some musical preferences.

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