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# Musical Express

Incorporating ACCORDION TIMES

FRIDAY, MAY 7th, 1948 No. 83 PRICE FOURPENCE

**BERG LARSEN**

"It's the biggest sound in mouthpieces," says DIZZY GILLESPIE

"I wish I could use a Berg Larsen mouthpiece on my trumpet," says REX STEWART

**SAX MOUTHPIECE**

## Gian-Carlo Menotti's Brilliant Production

### AN IMPORTANT MUSICAL EVENT

(Musical Express Staff Reporter)

THE MOST IMPORTANT MUSICAL EVENT THIS YEAR MUST BE THE PRESENTATION AT THE ALDWYCH THEATRE OF TWO OF GIAN-CARLO MENOTTI'S BRILLIANT WORKS ENTITLED "THE MEDIUM" AND "THE TELEPHONE." THE LATTER IS DESCRIBED AS A CURTAIN RAISER. IT HAS A CAST OF TWO—MARIA D'ATTILI AND GEORGE IRVING. A MORE CHARMING MUSICAL ROMANCE COULD HARDLY HAVE BEEN CONCEIVED. THE MORE AMBITIOUS PRODUCTION—"THE MEDIUM"—IS AN OPERATIC WORK IN THE MACABRE, AND I DO MEAN MACABRE. I FEEL THAT THE WORK ITSELF IS WORTHY OF A MORE TECHNICAL CRITIC THAN I. FOR THIS REASON "MUSICAL EXPRESS" HAS ASKED ONE OF THE DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE EQUALLY DISTINGUISHED ORCHESTRA, HAROLD COMLEY THE SOLO TRUMPET, TO DISCUSS THE WORK, ITS BRILLIANT COMPOSER AND CONDUCTOR IGOR BUKETOFF WHO SO ABLY COMMANDS A TALENTED AGGREGATION OF FOURTEEN EXCELLENT SOLO MUSICIANS. HAROLD COMLEY'S STORY WILL APPEAR IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE OF "MUSICAL EXPRESS." IN ADDITION OUR MUSIC EDITOR MALCOLM RAYMENT WILL MAKE HIS OWN CONTRIBUTION UPON THE SUBJECT IN THESE COLUMNS.

The above presentation is the New York Ballet Society's production which Emile Littler, according to the programme, "submits." Mr. Littler should never have "submitted" this brilliant entertainment. He should have "proudly presented" it. In London it is fortunate to see and hear what I think is a work of very considerable importance. We are indebted to Mr. Littler. But London must not be greedy. The provinces, too, must have the privilege of hearing (and seeing) this opus.

In spite of over thirty years in the entertainment business this proved to be a new experience, a new thrill for me. This brilliant composer (and author, for the works are also his own) produced the work himself. As a production it is quite sensational. To try to describe it would rob my readers of the excitement of seeing it.

Praise for the excellent voices and tremendous sincerity of Mesdames Maria D'Attili, Emile Littler, Maria Powers, Daniela de Lya, Leon Madeira and Messrs. George Irving, and Leo Coleman for his orchestra comprising Messrs. Andrew Cooper and Sidney Bliss (violins), Martin Lovett (cello), Harold Comley (trumpet), Stanley Farnsworth (flute), Peter Schidlof (viola), Clause Hughes (bassoon), James Mason (horn), Stanley Smith (oboe), Leonard Bryant (clarinet), Frank Drake (bass), Arthur Dalaly and Richard Johnson (pianos) and Robert Read (percussion).



The Conductor: Igor Buketoff

**MORE NEWS AND PICTURES ON P.4**

## SAMPSON FOR B.A.O.R.

ALEX SUTHERLAND who is Station Director for B.F.N. recently wrote to the B.B.C. to enquire if they knew whether it were possible for Tommy Sampson and his Band to do a tour of the British Zone of Occupation in Germany. The B.B.C. contacted Sampson's agents, Kinn-Elliott Direction who in turn arranged with C.S.E.U. and the War Office for the band to commence a tour of this zone on August 9 for 11 weeks. We understand that the Sampson band is a great favourite of the many young conscripts in that area and it is in response to their requests that the tour has been arranged.

Sampson who will take his full broadcasting orchestra of nineteen and vocalists Anne Gray, is fully booked until he leaves in August. His agents have asked us to thank the many promoters who have been kind enough to release him from engagements already booked and especially Phillip Moss-Vernon who has released him from a week's engagement that he should have played at the Coronation Ballroom, Ramsgate.

The band will be heard on the radio at the Light Programme this Friday May 7 and it is expected that they will broadcast their B.F.N. during the tour of Germany.

**BOX & COX** wish to thank all their friends for helping to make

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## VIRGINIA O'BRIEN THE CHARIOTEERS BERRY BROTHERS

THE new vaudeville season commenced at the Temple Ciellet last Monday with Dead-Pan Virginia O'Brien at the top, supported by that grand vocal quartet The Charioteers and the sensational dancing team The Berry Brothers. Miss O'Brien opened under a handicap, for her number did not go up in the frame and nobody knew who she was for a moment. In addition I would not say the orchestra was at the top of its form. But these are first night difficulties that can be overcome. Below are exclusive "Musical Express" pictures taken during rehearsal before the show opened.



Virginia O'Brien



The Charioteers

## CHANGES IN ROSE BAND

CONNY ROSE who is doing very good business with his band at the West End Dance Hall, Birmingham, informs us that he has made several changes in his personnel as Druggie Fordyce second alto and Rex Greenwood trombone, have left to join Gordon Rosmond's outfit at Hillingdon Towers Holiday Camp at Morecambe. There is now a new policy in the brass section as Wally Hale, multi-instrumentalist, now playing third trumpet with the band making the line-up three trumpets and one trombone. Formerly the brass section was two trumpets and two trombones.

Hale, who is an expert on Latin-American music and rumba instruments, also plays piano and arranges. He joined the band after leaving Peter Rose at the Tower Ballroom, as second alto, clarinet and flute is Geoff Gough who takes the place of Fordyce. Disputing until Gough joined the band last week was Bob Bentley brother of well known trombone player Jack Bentley.

Due to the great success of their last broadcast on May 29 and his band will again broadcast on Wednesday May 19 in the new Midland series "Take Your Partners."

## NEW FRANKFURT WAVELENGTH

SINCE A.F.N. Frankfurt went off the short wave, reception of this station has been difficult in this country. Last week Roy Meschum, who came over with Ralph Moffatt for the Jazz Jamboree, told Stuart S. Allen that his programme could be picked up on the medium wavelength of 601 metres, but that this was difficult to obtain on most radio sets over here.

After considerable dial experiments, we can now state that A.F.N. Frankfurt may be picked up at about three-quarters Munich strength on a medium wavelength of 210 metres. The station carries most of the same shows as those relayed on Munich, but the late night disc-jockey show is different. At the same time that Moffatt puts on his "Accent on Music" programme, the equally personable Roy Meschum has a speedy record show called "Shall We Dance." The choice of records on this show is first-class and well up to date with an absolute minimum of chatter from up to date with an absolute minimum of chatter from Meschum, who told us that it is the records you want to hear and that this is his first consideration.

Now you have the choice again, A.F.N. Munich on 240 metres and A.F.N. Frankfurt on 210 metres.

## AT TEMPLE'S NEW OPERATIC NIGHTINGALE King Leaving After 18 Record Months

NEWS BREAKS THIS WEEK THAT FOLLOWING HIS FIRST BROADCAST WITH HIS NEW OCTET AND MARTINIQUE BRIGHTON, NAT TEMPLE WILL TAKE THIS NEWLY FORMED BAND INTO THE EXCLUSIVE NIGHTINGALE CLUB ON MAY 26. HE WILL REPLACE FELIX KING AND HIS ORCHESTRA WHO HAVE BEEN RESIDENT AT THIS CLUB SINCE IT OPENED EIGHTEEN MONTHS AGO.

"Musical Express" Radio Critic Les Conway says of the Temple Octet which broadcast last week:

"This combination has a decided 'new sound.' The arrangements and instrumentation are of the highest standard. This band is one that personally we could enjoy listening or dancing to equally well. It has a decided lift that is not raucous or jarring in any way and gives the impression that it is highly rehearsed. I would like to hear this outfit on the air again and feel that it would be exceptionally well in Band Parade."

Temple informs us that although negotiations are completed, his full line-up will not be ready for print until next week. However, we understand that he will be using two pianos, drums and vibraphone, bass, guitar, tenor, trumpet and he will of course lead on clarinet.

Felix King told us that he has had a very happy stay at the club and when his contract terminates he will take his first holiday for many months, prior to carrying out his future plans which he will advise us of at a later date.

## TITO BURNS WILL DISBAND SEXTET Cab Kaye Taking Over

NEWS reaches us from Scotland that the Tito Burns Sextet Harry Dawson of New Century Artists told "Musical Express":

"After a phone call from Tito in Edinburgh I am afraid there is no definite statement at the moment but I do know that he has several very interesting ideas which he intends to discuss with Eric Winstone and myself on his return to town."

He intends rehearsing a new combination during a two weeks' break following his Scottish tour, which will cater for both swing fans and dancers. There are still commitments for Burns which the new Sextet will fulfil. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking all promoters, bookers and agents for their confidence in Tito Burns' new venture, and I hope to be able to give you a list of his dates in the near future."

On the same day that we received the foregoing news a telephone call from Cab Kaye, who is featured with the band, told us that the members of the present Sextet had asked him if he would like to take over as new Sextet. He has agreed to do so and the full line-up will include 2 o.m. p. on piano, Ronnie Scott tenor, Tony Crombie drums, Joe Munden bass and Dennis Rose will remain on their original instruments, but are ranging for them. On their return to London we shall have information for a reprinting of future dates for the new outfit.

## Melachrino's "Orchids" Score is recorded

A twelve-inch recording of George Melachrino's musical score for the film "Orchids For Miss Blenheim" is to be produced by H.M.V. during the next few weeks. The recording, made by the Melachrino Orchestra, conducted by George Melachrino, takes up both sides of the disc and being out by the makers in answer to tremendous enquiries from music, described by experts as one of the best scores ever composed for a British film.

The management of the Plaza, Piccadilly, where the "Orchids" is now showing is packed with the film and is receiving literally hundreds of enquiries from patrons as to where they can obtain recordings of the very attractive theme music.

## Broadcast for Harry Leader

Harry Leader will broadcast again on May 12 in the Strict Tempo series. Leader informs us that he has signed Maurice Arnold his pianist for a further year's contract.

## CYRIL SHANE RETURNING

We understand that well known pianist and general entertainer Cyril Shane has been in America for several months and will be returning to Australia last Wednesday to return to England.

## OPERATIC M.D. CONDUCTS THE SKYROCKETS

WHEN the Skyrockets Orchestra rehearsed the famous Polish dancing team, Halama and Konarski, they were not surprised to find that this famous team is a first class dancing act brought with them their own conductor. His terrific command of the baton, and his obvious emotional feeling of the two numbers played, immediately earned for him from the Skyrockets, the affectionate title of Dr. Jekyll.

Delving into his musical history, they elicited the fact that here was a conductor of unusual musical ability. His name is Kurt Behrens and, until 1937, was conductor of the Hamburg State Opera Company. Finding that under the Nazi regime his talents were no longer being appreciated, he came to England and applied for British citizenship. He was granted it and served six years in the British Army.

He is now Musical Director to the Anglo-Polish Ballet, and in common with other distinguished conductors, has expressed pleasurable surprise at the high standard of musicianship displayed by the Skyrockets Orchestra.

## Johnnie Smith is given a big farewell

GIFT OF A SUBSTANTIAL CHEQUE

A VERY nice gesture was made by Sam Ramsden proprietor of the Blue Ballroom, Derby when he gave Smilin' Johnnie Smith and his Out of West Band a cheque for the night last week. The hall was packed to capacity and a substantial cheque was handed to Smith to share out among his musicians. Judging by the reaction of the dancers it would appear that Smith and the boys are leaving at the height of their popularity to take up their residence for the summer at Butlin's Pwllheli camp.

The line-up he is taking with him is now completed and includes: Harry Levin lead alto and clarinet, Al Calcutt second alto, clarinet and violin, Ronnie West first tenor clarinet, Bert Winter second tenor, clarinet and Hawaiian guitar, Arthur Smith baritone, and Carl B. Brown and Bobbie Bell trumpet and arranger. Musical Director, Smilin' Johnnie Smith, piano, Andy Isaacs bass, Dennis Skeetes drums and Larry Gretchen vocalist. Smith will fracture the band in his own inimitable style and we feel sure that this band will be just as successful at Butlin's as it has been at the Plaza Ballroom.

## CASUAL BROADCASTS

FOR about two years London Members of the Musicians' Union have been clamouring for increased rates for Casual Broadcasts. "Musical Express" suggests that the Union might advantageously intimate to the B.B.C. that these increased rates are long overdue and that a deadline should be fixed "unless..."

## TED HEATH'S VISITING ARTISTES

For the last of his current series of Palladium concerts on Sunday next, May 9, Ted Heath brings back two of the favourites from his great star gallery—Hannah Montana and Carl Bretteau. The break in these Palladium engagements has been solely by heavy pressure of engagements elsewhere and they will be resumed in the late autumn or early autumn. Next week's Heath engagements bring three first-time visits. Thursday May 13th, May 14th and May 15th. Week commencing May 13th, Ted Heath will play a return visit to the Empire Theatre, Glasgow.

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THE VOICE

SONG SERVICE This newspaper has achieved its present colossal eminence through service to the profession and its allied musical trades.

ALL FACTORS CONSIDERED It has been pointed out that the Top Ten list as it now appears is not truly indicative since not all publishers distribute through these channels.

COMMENCING NEXT WEEK The entire technical resources of "Musical Express" are being harnessed to produce this important new service.

THE NEW B.B.C. AGREEMENT All in the publishing trade are apparently unanimous that the new Agreement with the B.B.C. is what they want.

KHACHATURIAN'S EXHILARATING! SPARKLING!

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WIST POSITIVE

BEFORE starting of this week's news I have a correction to make to last week's column in which I wrote news about Perry Como's proposed visit to this country in June.

EXPECT some lively plugging for four new Harold Arlen-Leslie Robin songs in the last issue of Music Express. It was, in fact, the only true indication available of the sales of popular songs so far.

TALKING about tunes, which are for one of the loveliest begoniae in the garden, a few months. It's called "Matinee," and is written by the same partnership that wrote the unusual hit "Ballerina."

HEAR that Beatrice Lillie has scored a terrific hit in the new Broadway show "Inside U.S.A." about which I told you in my column in the "Top Ten" numbers from this top tuffen!

"over The Continent" Latest Continental Activities reported by Our Continental Correspondent DEN BERRY Stan Hasselgard (centre) Swedish clarinet player (currently working in California, pictured with Jack Teagarden and Pettunio Hucko).

how the top college bands are doing in the U.S. these days. Remember that was how Tommy Dorsey and Rudy Vallee started: American colleges buy nearly three thousand names a month.

UNTIL last week our old friend Sam Donahue had worked three campus dates this year, while young Eddie Lawrence, the current college favourite, had completed forty-one.

THE summer replacement on the Chesterfield Supper Club on a five-night-week, will get \$15,000 a week for the stint.

ANOTHER letter from Beryl Davis out in Hollywood tells me that she has met Dave Goldberg, whose trip to the U.S. she read of through this newspaper.

GOSH! wish our Universities would get more of these wags they do in the States, then we wouldn't have to worry about other than her Hit Parade band.

THE CARLTON CLUB REUNION USED AT THE CARLTON DRUM CLUB REUNION THE CARLTON FOUR-FOUR PEDAL It's Fast and Flexible used in daily performance by the KING OF BOP RAY ELLINGTON, BOBBY MIDDLEY, Cyril Stapleton's Orchestra, JACK GREENWOOD of "Annie Get Your Gun" fame, JOE GETTY, etc.

Sixteen reasons for the abolition of tax on musical instruments

By GEOFFREY HAWKES (Director of Boosey & Hawkes, Ltd.)

- (1) The orchestral instruments very necessary instruments to make this music have been penalised. (2) Even the local authorities have been authorized to levy a tax on the purchase of musical instruments... (16) The additional hardship imposed on the Services are amongst other bodies of a like but minor nature.

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VISIT POSTIPER

Sixteen reasons for the abolition of the purchase tax on musical instruments

By GEOFFREY HAWKES (Director of Boosey & Hawkes, Ltd.)

THE VOICE

SONG SERVICE This newspaper has achieved its present colossal eminence through service to the profession and its allied musical trades.

BEFORE starting off this week's news I have a correction to make to last week's column...

EXPECT some lively plugging for four new Harold Arlen-Leo Robin songs soon when Tony Martin comes...

TALKING about tunes, watch out for one of the loveliest beguines in years in the next few months...

THE NEW B.B.C. AGREEMENT All in the publishing trade are apparently unanimous that the new agreement with the B.B.C. is what they want.

THE NEW B.B.C. AGREEMENT All in the publishing trade are apparently unanimous that the new agreement with the B.B.C. is what they want.

The call is amply answered by (left to right) trumpeter Harry James and singers Dinah Shore and Johnny Mercer.

NEWS from New York friend Jay Michaels at G.A.C. says that the welcome news that Jack Parnell's Quartet is just about the most popular band on the London label...

Until last week our old friend Sam Donahue had worked thirty-three campus dates this year, while young Elliot Lawrence, the current college favourite, had completed forty-one.

Transatlantic American Commentary BY STUART S. ALLEN

Don't Know Enough About You? The summer replacement on the Chesterfield Supper Club on a five-night-week basis...

BIGGEST record sensation of the year is the recording of "Nature Boy" by Nat King Cole. The business was explained to me by Cole's manager Carlos...

- (1) The orchestral instruments... (2) The condition of the instruments... (3) The educational value of music... (4) For the music teaching community...

Arrangements Available: Song Copy, Piano Solo-Oscar Levant, Piano Duet-Gyorgy Sandor, Simplified Piano Solo-Lecu Singer, Sabre Dance Boogie (Little Jazz, 9-piece Martin), Boogie Piano Solo-Louis Bucher, Dance Band Organ, 6 Brass, 5 Saxes, (Arr. J.C. Schen), Straight Organ-Harry Horlick, Accordion Solo-Charles Magnante

"Cover The Continent" Latest Continental Activities reported by Our Continental Correspondent DEN BERRY

As I sit at present on a visit to Sweden, this column is actually being written in Malmo (Sweden), all my news this week will have a Scandinavian flavour.

"National" is a big old-fashioned band which has been lately modernising and redecoration, but this doesn't deter the crowds from their dances.

LEEDS MUSIC LTD 21, DENMARK ST., W.C.2 HARRY PARRY and his "Gold Seal" Clarinet "Nothing could be finer!" This Price List... PREMIER

SWEDEN REX STEWART is still playing in the "National" Dance Hall in Stockholm but finishes up at the States, so America's gain returns to the States. The Sven Amussen Sextette. (Amussen centre back row.)

Stan Hasselgard (centre) Swedish clarinet player currently working in California, pictured with Jack Teagarden and Pettin Hucks. A good example of the "Gillespie School" is the sextet led by bass-player Simon Brum in the Salle Pleyel, Paris.

very necessary instruments to make. The local authorities have been authorised to levy a cultural entertainment tax...

BOOSEY & HAWKES BARGAINS CASH OR EASY TERMS. Trumpet, King's USA, genuine Silverstone with Sterling Cash, Depent, Modely...

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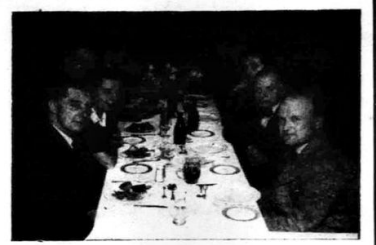
FAMOUS NAMES IN POPULAR MUSIC

Our Roving Cameraman at the M.P.C.P.A. Dinner

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(L. to R.) Johnny Franz (F.D. & H.), Paul Fenhoulet (Chappells), Hubert W. David (Keith Prowse), Cecil Wilson (Daily Mail), Johnny Johnson (Sun), Isabelle Burdette (B.B.C.), Julien Vedey (Musical Express).

(L. to R.) Reg. Casson, Pat Osborne (B.B.C.), Bobby Sellers (Peter Maurice), John Costa (Ascherberg), Ralph Walker (Noel Gay), Fred Taylor (Harmonic), George Seymour and Jimmy Lodge (Dash), Jack Heath (C. & C.), Laurie Henshaw, Jackson Potter (K.P.), Kenneth Baynes

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MISCELLANEOUS MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS: Any instrument... REPAIRS: Repairs—we are now in a position to repair all high-class instruments.

Name Bands at Newbury Tony Stuart, owner and band-leader of the Astoria Ballroom Manchester is to present a name band policy for Sunday dancing.

TERRY QUARTET ON AIR AGAIN Victor de Sabata is back again Conducts L.P.O. ANOTHER broadcast takes place to-day from 1.02 p.m.

Winstone's search for vocal Star The All Britain Final of Eric Winstone's nation wide search for a vocal star will take place at the Star Studios, Rodmaston Mews, Baker Street, W.1.

Accordions Times Edited by J. J. BLACK A NEW departure in College activities, which will be of particular interest to the large number of players who prefer Jazz to the Classics.

Big Programme for Chingford STOP PRESS Latest on Burns-Kaye story is that Kaye will appear on the radio on Burns dates, and when Burns' band is reformed.

THE SOUND Dizzy Gillespie Vernon Storey Rex Stewart Lucky Thompson George Kennedy

BALLET SADRER'S WELLS On Friday, April 30, the Sadler's Wells Ballet at Covent Garden presented the new production of the ballet, 'The Snows of Marmelade'.

Calvert Joins Oscar Rabin Trumpet player Leon Calvert who has just returned from a trip with the Paul Robeson band, joined the Oscar Rabin Harry Davis Band last Monday.

TRANSATLANTIC Gastel and Cole for pulling it off. The Capitol side features the music of the new band, the Vol's Orchestra.

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DRUMMERS YOU MUST READ "STYX" The Drummers' own Magazine containing everything about drums, drumming and drummers.

REPAIRS: OVERHAULS We have just completed our 10,000th instrument... VIOLIN CONCERTOS I must confess to finding the work rather drawn out and lacking in the concentration of our Irish's Piano Concerto.