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SENSATIONAL BEECHAM CONCERT

LONDON PAYS TRIBUTE TO SIR THOMAS

Maestro makes an epic speech

(FROM MALCOLM RAYMENT)

London paid tribute in no uncertain way to Sir Thomas Beecham at the Royal Albert Hall on Monday May 1, when he conducted the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in a special concert sponsored by the "DAILY TELEGRAPH" to celebrate his seventieth birthday. The orchestra was augmented to 100 players. Gordon Clinton and the Luton Choral Society took part in "Sea Drift," by Delius. The remainder of the programme consisted of Mozart's "Haffner" Symphony; the Dances of "Die Zauberflöte"; "Salomé" by Richard Strauss; two tone poems, "Tapiola" by Sibelius and "The Garden of Fand" by Siegfried Wagner; and finally the March from "The Trojans" by Berlioz.

It was an historic evening in more ways than one, for the performances did full justice to the event that was being celebrated. Performers included the soloists, all were the two lone poems. The augmented orchestra was not used to make extra noise, but rather to give the work its truest employment, and in the "Trojan March," five timpani (the Bradshaw Brothers, James and William) and three cymbal players.

During the interval Sir Thomas made a speech full of his usual wit. He said that, interesting as the occasion was to him, it was typical of a person of a certain age. It was a mere beginning. He would devote the next forty or fifty years to serials, albums, and recordings, some of which were structurally some not. Although he found the latter much more interesting, he would remain friendly to them.

He paid tribute to the "Daily Telegraph" and announced that the proceeds of the concert would be given to the Royal Philharmonic Society, which had started giving concerts "when Napoleon was on the way to Moscow." It has survived revolutions, wars, and the downfall of kings and, what is more important, of Governments. It is shortly to have the distinction of another. After a roar of laughter, he added: "I don't mean the successor will be any better."

He then announced that he would devote part of his time to touring for the Royal Philharmonic Society a capital sum that would free it unquesionably from the necessity of having to pay the tax on the taxpayer."

I have heard applause and cheers on many occasions at the Albert Hall, but nothing comparable to the roar at the end of this speech. "Harry Gold, Fellow" was sung (Sir Thomas good-humouredly turned round and conducted it), followed by three curtain calls. The upsurge lasted many minutes, and the "Trojan March" had to be repeated.

Sir Thomas began his speech by saying he did not know whether we were glad to see him, but he was devilish glad to see us. The audience answered in no uncertain terms.

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PAUL FENOULHET FOR PALLADIUM

PAUL ADAM RECORDING ON REGAL

TODAY Friday May 6 Paul Adam and his Margot Music will make their first recording for Regal Zonophone. Vocalists for this occasion will be Ruth Roberts and Frank Holmes and that excellent new vocal group led by Rita Williams. The Bobino orchestra will be led by "Portrait Of Jeanie," "Put Your Should On Lucy," "Red Roses For A Blue Lady" and "The Girl I Left Behind Me." Paul Adam recorded a session for Radio Luxembourg and last Monday he will arrive in Paris at the Adelphi to celebrate the day he met his beautiful wife. Ruth started Zena Marshall. Many film celebrities were present for the happy occasion.

TEDDY FOSTER BAND BOOKED FOR NEW FILM

TEDDY FOSTER and his Band, who are proving so successful as the resident outfit at the Wimbledon Palais, have just commenced recording for a new film. This contract is due to Gerry Mitchell, Production Manager for A.H.C. Film Co., searching for the ideal band for his new film, "Land Fall." He listened to the radio for some considerable time until he heard one of Foster's all too rare programmes. He immediately booked the band for the picture, in which Michael Denison and Patricia Plunkett will appear.

The band will commence filming next week and will be in the studio half playing three numbers. One of these will feature Ruth Ritchie on drums, and we hope to hear her in the picture. Foster and his New Moon will be seen again give a first-class performance.

NEW SINGER FOR RABIN



Marjorie Daw

SAMPSON BOOKS RETURN DATES AT HAMMERSMITH

TOMMY SAMPSON, WHO LAST WEEK TOOK OVER FROM LOU FREYERER FOR A WEEK AT HAMMERSMITH PALAIS, PLAYING HIS FIRST RESIDENT WEEKLY ENGAGEMENT, HAS BEEN BOOKED FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS TO DEPUTISE FOR LOU FREYERER WHEN THE LATTER TAKES HIS ANNUAL HOLIDAY THE LAST TWO WEEKS IN JULY.

Sampson is naturally delighted with this booking as he feels it proves to other management that he and his orchestra have given the critical dressing public what they want. He says: "I am going right ahead with the dance tempo policy as it is certainly paying big dividends, for the public are responding to what any of the management who have been doing as to whether they book me or not. I am sure you'll agree that the dancers will get what they want."

The band is currently playing in Scotland and two weeks will be spent at Aberdeen on Sunday and Monday, May 8 and 9; Edinburgh, May 10 and 11; and 12 and 13. They will play at the Empire, Kirkcaldy, on Saturday, May 13, and at the City Hall, Perth, on May 15.

Further news from the Sampson and Orchestra is that the vocalists have been with the band since their place having been taken by a brand-new Red, Green, Duvet, who gave great satisfaction.

Alfred Freyger also informs us that Hammersmith Palais have given a big break to none other than Hector Davies and his orchestra, who have been associated with the Cheltenham and Southport Corporations as musical director. Davies, who has been appearing on many occasions, should be a great success with the dancers at the Palais.

HALLE PACKS THE ALBERT HALL

THEatre was a packed Albert Hall on Friday April 29 for the opening of the Hall's Orchestra under their conductor John Barbirolli. From the very beginning the orchestra showed its usual magnificence. The playing was with precision, vitality and brilliance. The delicate, intricate movements were played with extreme tightness. The drum player, in particular, deserved a medal for his unfailing accuracy. The orchestra in the question of quiet parts. At times, perhaps, were, if anything, even more pronounced in the orchestra than in the orchestra.

Clifford Curzon played the solo part in Brahms' Second Piano Concerto superbly. There was an excellent contrast of personality between conductor and soloist, and to say conductor and composer. Certainly the conductor's interpretation is most questionable whether the brilliance wins or the rightness. The concert opened with the Philharmonic Symphony of which I only heard the first movement. There is no doubt that the concert was a great success with the audience.

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WEST END STARS FOR THE LEEDS N.D.B.C.

IN connection with the Central Yorkshire Society's 1949 season, Harry Gold and his Pieces of Eight will be at the Astoria Ballroom, Leeds, adjudicators are Keith Head (Lead tenor soprano); Eddie Goss (Baritone); Fred Clayton (Tenor); and Freddie Clayton (Tenor-Gerlach). Maurice Wimble Ambrose, trumpet star now conducting his own school for amateur players.

After which engagement a very busy year is already booked until the end of May, 1950. Once again this will include Mondays at the Civic Hall, Wakefield, Tuesdays at the Victoria Hall, Bradford, and Saturdays at the Town Hall, Walsall.

The personnel has seen a number of changes since the summer engagement, but has now settled down to the following: Jackie Nunn, Jack Hay (trumpet); Leo Smith (trumpet); Eddie Goss (Baritone); Sid Heathcoat (alto); Hugh Bettinson, Bernard Parry (tenor); Aly Guard (piano); Eddie Goss (drums); Norman Edmonds (vocals and piano).

A high standard list has been secured, and a keenly fought contest is anticipated. The first engagement will be at the Victoria Hall, Bradford, on Saturday, May 6.

On the following day, May 7, Harry Gold and his Pieces of Eight make a welcome return to the Victoria Hall, Bradford, and on Saturday, May 13, to the Victoria Hall, Leicester, for a Sunday evening concert, commencing at 8.30 p.m. Both these events have been arranged by Mr. M. J. Edwards, bandmaster.

Star Bands for the Midlands

ON Saturday, May 7, Oscar Bates and his Band will play for the first time at the Victoria Hall, Hinckley. Playing on pieces of Bates' own composition he is the resident band. The Victoria Hall, Hinckley, will have the opportunity of seeing them at Hammersmith Palais, followed by the Olympia, Birmingham, and by Stoke and Manchester respectively. On May 21 they will be heard in "Jazz Club," and this will be followed by Watford in the evening.

AL FERDMAN LEAVING LEWIS

Al Ferdmann, guitarist with the Lewish Orchestra, informs us that after about a half year he has decided to leave the outfit. He can be contacted at Hounds Head and will be available in a fortnight.

A Correction

Denny Denner's appearance in Birmingham will be on May 25 and May 26, as printed in last week's issue.

DON SMITH AT LOWESTOFT FOR SUMMER SEASON

Geffrey Walling, owner of the Sunbeam and Hercules Ballrooms, Norwich, has recently purchased the building in Lowestoft. Don Smith, resident bandleader at Norwich, will be taking his band to Lowestoft commencing Whit Saturday, June 4, for the summer season. The Sunbeam and Hercules Ballrooms are Trevor Brooks and his band. The Sunbeam and his band will be the resident outfit at the Coronation Ballroom, Lowestoft, throughout the summer season. All three bands and ballrooms will be managed and promoted by the Hinds-Davis Agency.

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