

Accordion Times and Musical Express
Editorial and Advertising Offices
33, King Street, London, W.C.2.
Telephones: TEMple Bar 4998-9

You may like "Musical Express" or you may dislike it, but there's one thing you can't do—ignore it!

THE VOICE

THE PROVINCIAL PRODUCT

When Jim Davidson took over matters musical at the B.B.C. it was reported in this newspaper that the provincial product would be getting a bad deal. That is all that has been said since. Davidson's policy was so popular. People in the profession felt that this was giving a chance to budding stars outside the metropoles who would never have got such a break otherwise. Now this has been done, and now, everything "clean" it would have been an excellent diplomatic policy as the last from Dover Under took over. But now that we have had an opportunity to hear these provincial musicians more closely, we must say that there was great wisdom in Davidson's decision. By adopting this policy he has unearthed some of the best musical talent ever heard on radio. This is not only an achievement for B.B.C., but it has caused many of us to wonder what efforts are to be put into the work up by comparison with the newly established provincial talent.

SORTING OUT THE WINNERS

It cannot have been an easy task to sort out the winners. There is a glut of good music in the provinces which, although good, does not constitute top-of-the-hill fare. There were many in this business who were not too satisfied with the new record companies, preferring something better than charity broadcasts for the mediocre. The sceptics were, fortunately, surprised at the subsequent results. As it is the policy of Musical Express to leave criticism to the critics, it is left to them to make comparisons. To do so would be to make comparisons. But I may perhaps be forgiven if the name of the Huddersfield Trio crops up. They are an example of brilliant provincial talent now heard over the most distant wavebands thanks to the policy of Jim Davidson.

THE PROVINCIAL EXODUS

Every decade, since jazz was adopted in Britain, has seen a provincial exodus. Add to this an important Scottish exodus. It seems that the new stars of the age migrate from Scotland to the south. The same applies to the north where also has important and talented players born within the sound of Bow Bells who still hold their coveted places in the sun. But for the most part the key men in the top line bands in this country are now to be found in the provincial cities of England. One does not have to relocate this curious situation exclusively to dance orchestras. The world famous Halle Orchestra with Manchester as its proud birthplace and the Liverpool Philharmonic are examples of perforce migration. This is the exception to the rule. The exception to the old saying that a prophet is without honour in his own country. Barbicoff had opportunities that he refused because he would not leave his native Moscow, but he did not leave his native city of St. Petersburg. These facts which prove that all the talent is not here in London. It took an Ausie to come here from the other side of the earth to discover it for us.

SHOW BUSINESS

Unhappily the position of variety acts and actors is very different to that of the musicals. To get the air a vaudeville act must apply for an audition. Having secured that audition before a "panel" of judges (who have ever tried doing a vaudeville act stand bold!) the art must, if they pass muster, go through a further round of auditions before a judge (if repeat, if you have ever done a vaudeville act stand bold!). Then, if they get past that (who could?), they must wait for the possibility of getting a date. The B.B.C. admits that it is a tremendous task to date. On writing our column Lee Conway has had such disparaging things to say about Music Hall in the past.

GETTING THE ACTS

In vaudeville established acts do not audition. They would be insulted if you asked them to do so. The procedure is for agents and managers to see the acts when and where they are playing. This facilitates means of finding and categorizing these acts in terms of ability, drawing power and price. That's the way it is done. If the B.B.C. want good material for their variety shows they must make a long and tedious search for acts. They will find there is a great deal of talent floating about in the provinces most suitable to radio the world over. These panels are capable of recognizing talents. It's time to be bold. But how to be discovered by two auditions before two "panels" and the prospect of a date in the long-distance future. Even vaudeville must end. Planners, please note!

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NO FIXED ABODE *See 23*

THE "MAGIC VOICE" AGAIN

Sarah Vaughan in a new C.B.S. plan



Sarah Vaughan, winner of all popularity polls—America's No. 1 girl singer, is shown making her first appearance on television after the successful tour of her liaison with CBS. With Sarah are Mandy Nacha, vice-president and recording director of Columbia, Joe Lipman (Sarah's manager and conductor), a vocal group and part of the orchestra that backed the incomparable singer.

THE "Magic Voice" of the incomparable singing star Sarah Vaughan may become a new feature on the Columbia Broadcasting System's own television network. It is said that she has been quietly discussed for the past month between CBS officials and Miss Vaughan's representatives and now appears near conclusion.

The broadcasting network's plans call for Miss Vaughan to be featured in a special program on CBS next month. She will sing a solo, accompanied by an orchestra under the direction of her husband, George Treadwell. If successfully concluded, the series will get underway when Sarah returns to New York on June 14 to open a special engagement at the Hotel Bay City, Bay City.

It is understood that Miss Vaughan's affiliation with CBS will be one step in an all-out effort to bring her to America, behalf by the Columbia Recording Corporation, subsidiary firm of the broadcasting network. Miss Vaughan's contract with the Columbia recording contract, the terms of which guarantee her one of the biggest salaries in the history of the recording industry.

Miss Vaughan's contemplated CBS program series would in no way conflict her present appearance on the stage of the Hotel Bay City, Bay City.

DICK HAYNES will guest on the Milton Berle television program while appearing at the New York Rose Ball.

He will introduce his radio partners, Martha Tilson and Frank DeVil, to head up the entertainment.

MARGARET WHITING is set to sing Transcriptions to platter a new series of musicals on the 15-minute "Music Box" format as follows to her first Bay City show with Barry Wood.

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TRANSATLANTIC American Commentary

by CHICK MADISON

Service. Howard has just signed a lucrative contract with the radio program service that will broadcast his program, "Howard Show". The show will feature special vocal tracks of the maestro and his orchestra members, commercial members, and his distinctive identification against theme, etc., and, of course, Howard's vocal plus.

Howard has already recorded more than 100 songs for the first series of programs and he expects to record a second series of 50 records in order to meet the formal requirements for variety.

Howard will appear in New York next month to celebrate the broadcast of his first World Transcription show on the radio. He will sing to the Gothic Radio executives and music business topers. Howard is whipping up a new half-hour radio series, particularly designed for Fall entry into network air, showcasing maestro and his band.

PETER DEVLIN invited to conduct the "Music Box" in May and June to disk jockey guesstions to promote his Capitol Records and Transcriptions and he will play records and talk to fans from Portland, Corvallis, Eugene, etc.

JACK SMITH set to headline the Police Benefit at the Shrine Auditorium, May 12, and will bring along his radio partners, Martha Tilson and Frank DeVil, to head up the entertainment.

CLAUDE DENNIS and manager Tom Shultz mailing offers for both a CAP tour of theatres in 10 key cities plus engagements in British Isles provinces during the summer months when he is off his airshow for the hot weather period.

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BANDLEADER Eddy Arnold has come to make a name with his over two million copy record hit of "To Each His Own," is due for a radio appearance on a radio station as follows to her first Bay City show with Barry Wood.

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