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BRITAIN'S LARGEST WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT NEWSPAPER

Musical Express

Incorporating ACCORDION TIMES

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25th 1949

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PRICE FOURPENCE

SO ENDS MY SEARCH FOR A DREAM MAN WHILE THE ANGEL WAS RINGING I LOVE YOU SO MUCH

AT APPEARS AT PALLADIUM? SENSATIONAL RUMOURS ABOUT 'SKYROCKETS' ORCH.

Will world famous band be affected?

THIS WEEK LONDON IS AGOG WITH THE MOST SENSATIONAL RUMOURS TO HIT THE TOWN FOR MANY A DAY. THE RUMOURS CONCERN THE RESIDENT ORCHESTRA AT THE LONDON PALLADIUM—THE SKYROCKETS.

Two weeks ago this newspaper was informed that Woolf Phillips, their conductor, would be leaving that orchestra, and we were then asked to hold up the story pending confirmation. This we did in spite of the fact that Phillips had already left.

New rumor has it that Phillips has been asked to form an orchestra to take the place of the Skyrockets at the Palladium. The Skyrockets have been resident at this theatre for nearly three years and their fame is widespread. They have been acclaimed by English and American artists alike as the finest all orchestra in the world. Although there is no definite confirmation at the time of going to press, we have heard from musicians who say they have been approached that a new orchestra is being considered with a view to commencing the pantomime season. Whether any members of the co-operative Skyrockets would stay with a new aggregation is a matter for conjecture.

BENSON, SQUADS WINSTONE FOR BUTLIN BALL

FAMOUS bands engaged for the 1950 British Festival of Remembrance include Vic Benson and her All-Girls Band, the Squad-rhythm and Eric Winstone. This will be the fifth of these events arranged by Butlin, and so great has been the demand for tickets in previous years that the 1950 Festival will last for a whole week. The Royal Albert Hall will be the centre of activities on Monday and Tuesday, February 2 and 3, and on Wednesday the fun moves to the Empire Hall, Earl's Court, for three nights.

ANOTHER SERIES FOR BENSON

Although the popular Ladies' Night ends this week, we understand that when Vic Benson returns from his tour of Germany in February his line-up will be reinforced.

VIC LEWIS REPRESENTING PROGRESSIVE MUSIC IN MUSIC-FOR-ALL WEEK

VIC LEWIS AND HIS ORCHESTRA HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO REPRESENT MODERN MUSIC, AT A SPECIAL CONCERT ORGANISED BY BATTERSEA'S TOWN COUNCIL AT THEIR TOWN HALL, ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29. ALL THE WEEK, FROM THE 25th, THE COUNCIL ARE ORGANISING CONCERTS OF VARYING NATURES WHICH THEY HOPE WILL APPEAL TO EVERYONE—HENCE THE TITLE "MUSIC FOR ALL."

Sanctioned in between a military band concert on Monday, and a light orchestral concert featuring Gerald Owen Cutler on the Wednesday, Vic Lewis will have a great deal resting on his shoulders, for it will be his job to prove to the Battersea Council that they have not chosen wrongly in including this type of modern music in their very progressive and ambitious venture. It is not yet decided whether this will become an annual.

DEATH OF JOE POVIE

This newspaper regrets to report that Joe Povie, twenty-year-old alto player, died last Sunday after a long and serious illness. On behalf of the profession we offer our sincere condolences to his bereaved family. Povie, who was a fine young musician, had played for Les Ayling and Teddy Foster.

BILLY REID PUBLICATIONS 156, Charing Cross Road London, W.C.2. (Temple Bar 3311)

TOO-WHOT TOO-WHO I've only just started But I'm on my way up!

Now watch me sweep the country! SNOWY WHITE SNOW AND JINGLE BELLS



LATIN-AMERICAN RESEARCH

Musical Express picture of Stanley Black with his producer Dennis Main Wilson preparing one of the programmes for "Tropical Magic."



AMATEUR BROADCAST "Spot the Winner"

A NEW amateur talent contest, under the title "Spot the Winner," will be heard for the first time on the Light Programme on November 28. Kenneth Horne will act as M.C. and the music will be provided by Charles Shaw and the B.B.C. Theatre Orchestra, who will play two numbers in each show in addition to accompanying the performers. Alfred Dunning is to produce "Spot the Winner," in association with Carroll Lewis Productions, who will assist in finding talent spots of which has already been discovered. The emphasis in this new programme is on amateur talent; no professionals or semi-professionals will be invited. The judging will be done by a jury of twelve volunteers from the audience, who will not actually watch the performance, but will judge from a separate listening room and announce their verdict at the end of the programme. It is hoped to present five contestants in each programme, with an all-winners broadcast every sixth week.

POSTER CAMPAIGN FOR DEREK ROY

NATIONAL Advertising Corporation Limited are planning a poster campaign for Derek Roy, stage and radio comedian. Bookings have been made on Underground Stations and Main Line Stations in the London Area. This scheme will later be extended to the Provinces with special emphasis on areas where Roy is making stage appearances. Double Crowns have been used in "teaser" style, 50 per cent of the bill being covered by the words "Derek Roy, makes millions" and in very small print at the bottom of "people laugh every week in 'Hip Hip Hoo Roy' Light Programme, Wednesday, 7.30. Several other bills with a similar teaser idea will follow in the campaign which has been planned to run for nine months. The scheme is to keep Derek Roy's name before the public during the period that heavy broadcasting commitments prevent him accepting stage contracts and was planned by J. J. Hindle-Briscoe.

A BORN LEADER

The busy young man at the desk is Andrew Leader, son of Harry Leader. At the age of four this amazing child can sign any popular number and tell you the name of its publisher. In the top picture Andrew deals with his father's business and in the lower picture is seen conducting his father's band.



HENRY HALL'S GUEST NIGHT Big Break for Penny Nicholls

AS SOON AS THE WORD WENT ROUND THAT HENRY HALL WAS TO BRING BACK HIS FAMOUS "GUEST NIGHT" TO REPLACE "FAMILY HOUR" AT THE PEAK TIME OF EIGHT TO NINE, COMMENCING ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, A TWITTER OF EXCITEMENT RAN ROUND THE WHOLE BOULDER AND THE QUESTIONS ON EVERYBODY'S LIPS WERE: WHO'S GOING TO BE IN THE BAND AND WHO WILL HENRY CHOOSE FOR HIS SINGER?

ZITHER PLAYER IS RE-ENGAGED

ZITHER player Ernest Nasser who opened at Quagline's Allegro Room last week, has proved such a big attraction that the management have retained him for a further week. Wearing a mauve velvet waistcoat and dark blue trousers, Nasser makes a very effective entrance playing the "Harry Lime Theme" from the "Third Man" film. His programme includes selections of Viennese waltzes and Austrian folk songs. Patrons of Quagline's may be interested to know that he is appearing three times nightly—twice in the Allegro Room at 10.30 and 12.15, and once in the restaurant at 11.0 p.m.



Penny Nicholls

Henry and Bert Martland and Leonard several singers and we can now disclose that the lucky break goes to Clapham born Penny Nicholls. Starting at the age of seven, Penny has made the grade in the hard school of experience. Entering the ages of seven and nine she had won nine prizes for singing and dancing. After winning a children's singing competition at Harrogate in 1936 she toured variety theatres and toured in pantomime until war broke out. During the war she sang with various bands and from D-day entertained at British and American Army hospitals. Recently she had her own radio series "Penny Sevencade" on M.14 and Reg. and now after three hard weeks, Penny Nicholls has a big break.

ELLINGTON FOR DECCA



Exuberance in the Ellington Quartet after the contract was signed.

IT CAN NOW BE ANNOUNCED THAT THE RAY ELLINGTON QUARTET HAVE SIGNED AN IMPORTANT CONTRACT WITH THE DECCA RECORD CO. WHICH WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE AS FROM DECEMBER 1 AND LAST FOR ONE YEAR WITH AN OPTION. THE CONTRACT WILL ENABLE THE QUARTET TO RECORD FOR "LONDON" LABEL RELEASE IN THE STATES, AND WILL GUARANTEE DISTRIBUTION IN COUNTRIES ALL OVER THE WORLD, BESIDES BRITAIN.

In discussing their previous contract with Parlophone, with whom they have been associated practically since the group's formation, Ray Ellington said: "I would like to make known our grateful thanks to Parlophone, for taking such a keen interest in us from the beginning, and in fact for giving us our first chance to record. The new contract with Decca is, however, such a remarkably good one, and offers all that we have always wanted with regard to records, that we just found it impossible to turn it down." As soon as Harry Barton returns from the Continent, the details of the deal regarding the first record session, and news concerning release dates, etc., will then be given out. It is interesting to note that when Tuti Camarata was last in England, it was the Editor of Musical Express who brought this group to his notice. An interesting new arrangement has been arrived at with regard to the Quartet's agents. They will, after January 1, not only be handled by the Ted Heath Office, but by Foster's Agency as well. In announcing this, Ray and the boys would like to stress the fact that this is an amicable arrangement between all parties. Heath himself is in fact being largely instrumental in making several introductions

"DEEPS" AS GUESTS OF TED HEATH

THE Deep River Boys will be the guest stars at the Ted Heath Swing Session at the Palladium on December 4. "Deeps" expressed the desire to sing for a purely fan audience and this will be their first appearance at such a concert. Ted Heath informs us that he is delighted to have them at his guests.

DETAILS OF COLEMAN HAWKINS' CONCERT

AS ANNOUNCED IN THESE COLUMNS LAST WEEK, COLEMAN HAWKINS WILL BE VISITING LONDON ON DECEMBER 11, AND WILL BE INTRODUCED AS GUEST OF HONOUR AT THAT EVENING'S CONCERT IN THE WYNDHAM GARDENS THEATRE. THE SHOW IS BEING COMPILED BY BIX CURTIS, AND INCLUDES THE RALPH SHARON QUINTET, THE MUSIC MAKERS (WITH BOB BURNS), DIANA COULAND, AND AN ALL-STAR GROUP COMPRISING, AMONG OTHERS, KENNY BAKER, JOHNNY DAN K WORTH, STEVE RACE, DEREK NEVILLE AND JOE MEDDEL. We have been asked by the organisers to make it clear that Hawkins' appearance is not in the nature of an engagement, but he will be coming to England that week-end to act as Godfather to Tony Hughes' baby and to make it clear that in the event of any incapacity, he will be introduced as guest of honour at the evening's concert.

SCOTT CRUISING

RONNIE SCOTT and Jack Scott and his band will be sailing on the S.S. Corona on December 7 for New York, after which they will be making an 18 day tour of the Bahamas and then once again back to New York for a short stay, and then off again on an 8-day cruise of the West Indies, S. America, S. Africa, E. Africa, South China, Palestine, N. Africa, South of France, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Chersonese, and back home again to arrive in Southampton on March 26.

A farewell party for Ronnie Scott who will travel with his father's band, will be held at the Palladium Club on Sunday, December 4, which will be the last chance his many fans will have of seeing him.

BROOKES WITH PARRY

As we printed last week, Joan Brookes has left the Ken Mackintosh band to come to London. She joined the Harry Parry band last week at Warrington.

Advertisement for AL MORGAN's 'Jealous Heart' record, featuring a photo of Morgan and the text 'LONDON RECORDS make their Bow with the fabulous AL MORGAN'.

ALLEN'S FILM SHOW

NAT ALLEN and his orchestra were featured throughout the proceedings at a replica of the Film Command Performance last night when the "Fury" Suite was shown at the His Theatre Birkbeck with such famous stars as Margaret Lockwood, Bebe Daniels, Ben Lyon, John MacCallum, Valerie Hobson, Richard Todd and Charles Norton present. The theatre was packed to capacity and 2,000 people waited outside to see the stars.

U.S. Sales of Al Morgan's Jealous Heart already exceed 400,000! Other big hits in LONDON'S first release, details of which will be sent free on request, include the sensational Johnny Ray by the Jack Tyler Trio and Charlie Spivak's brilliant recording of Don't cry Joe. Price: 4/-, plus P.T. and 15d. LONDON RECORDS, made by The Decca Record Co. Ltd., 1-3 Brixton Road, London, S.W.9

SONGMEN (M.P.C.P.A.) HAVE MEMBERS AND PRESS

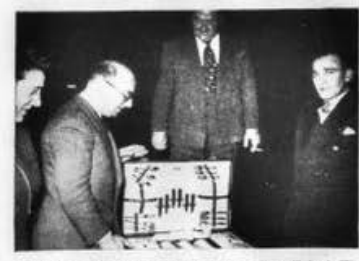
Handsome Presentations

(Musical Express Pictures)

LAST MONDAY IN A PRIVATE ROOM AT THE HORSESHOE, TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD, THE COMMITTEE OF THE M.P.C.P.A. THREW A DELIGHTFUL INFORMAL PARTY TO THANK MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND THE ORGANISATION ITSELF FOR CO-OPERATION ON THEIR FESTIVAL ALLEY BALL. THIS EXCELLENT ORGANIZATION RAISED APPROXIMATELY £1,000 FOR ITS FUNDS WHICH GO TO HELP THE NEEDY IN THE POPULAR MUSIC INDUSTRY.

To Hubert David who so ably handled the publicity campaign for the party, President Reg Evans presented a beautiful picnic hamper, to Freddie Goubert for his expert handling of tickets and table arrangements, the committee presented every one with a switch, and to George Seymour, who organised the raffish, a cheque for £50 for the funds of the newly formed Trades Music Guild of which he is a member.

This newspaper offers its congratulations with the report of the excellent work which has been done in the voluntary spirit of the M.P.C.P.A. who are also Trade Music Guild of which he is a member.



President Reg Evans in flesh presenting Hubert W. David with a picnic hamper.



Freddie Goubert receiving riding crop and hunting switch from Perry Hiroos.



Hubert David, Les Osborne, Reg Evans, Sall Lobel and her husband Norton Cobble, look at the Press Cutting Book.

This group shows Harry Phillips, J. E. Liddell, Managing Director of Ronson Lighters, Reg Evans and Hubert David.

RED BARN RE-OPENING BIG SUCCESS

The re-opening meeting of the Red Barn, Rhythmic Club at Barnhurst on Monday night can be described as a great success, the atmosphere of the famous jazz band being present from the very start. Following the opening announcement by the leader of the resident band Reg Higden, came a record session by Ken Lindsay, a pioneer of jazz concerts in this county and one of the chiefs of Melodic records, who have just recorded Dancy Hovett.

Next came the Original Dixieland who were the resident group who were re-opened all the old time standards with the Red Barn of three years ago when their 'Red Barn' dancers were the resident group.

The Original Dixieland also play at Wood Green Jazz Club every Tuesday evening, and from the New Year it is rumored that they will alternate with the Friday Standard Band. Other dates include December 3 and Royal Forest Hotel, Chelmsford on New Year's night. A broadcast on BBC Jazz Club is being arranged.

ERIC LAWE FOR BEDFORD

ERIC LAWE and his Orchestra are still pulling in record attendances at the Lion de Dance, Northampton, and also in many other night stands in the Midlands. This is possibly due to the excellent arrangements by Lawe himself and the first-class presentation of the band. Their many Bedford fans will be able to hear them when they appear there on December 3 and other one nighters include Rugby, Evesham, Stamford, Peterborough, Burton-on-Trent, Wolverhampton and Keating, etc. As well as singer Gill Hall, The Lion de Dance will have the opportunity of hearing newcomer Linda.

CLUB II BOP CONCERT

THE Club Eleven will be holding the first full scale Bop concert in Manchester at the Grosvenor Hall, Deansgate, on Tuesday, December 15. More details of this concert will be given in next week's issue.

WELITSCH STEALS ALL THE HONOURS

Salome at Covent Garden

MUCH has already been written about the new production of Salome at Covent Garden. Metaphorical bows have been hurled, but mostly at Salvador Dali, who is responsible for the scenery, costumes and 'special effects,' and at the producer, Peter Brook. It is surprising that Dali's efforts should have caused so much of an outcry, for, in the whole, they are not very significant. This, I submit, may be because he made her appearance on the stage. Dali's scenery and effects became of no consequence.

It was not so easy to ignore his costumes, particularly those of Salome, Herodias and the silent excelsior. The former has a quadruple the number of the orchestra at least, was army, and understandably, contained the movements, and hence the acting ability of those confined within them, and the under chattering up of the stage. Dali's work is ineffective, and indeed, has moments of effectiveness, such as the 'ponchick' wings that cover up the moon. The setting is seen when the curtain is up, and the 'ponchick' wings, supported a contraption that is similar to the pole which connects a train to the overhead wires, suggests that it might be propelled by electricity.

Apart from these costumes, which must have severely restricted the movements, and hence the acting ability of those confined within them, and the under chattering up of the stage, Dali's work is ineffective, and indeed, has moments of effectiveness, such as the 'ponchick' wings that cover up the moon. The setting is seen when the curtain is up, and the 'ponchick' wings, supported a contraption that is similar to the pole which connects a train to the overhead wires, suggests that it might be propelled by electricity.

CELEBRITIES AT KAYE FILM SHOW

Birmingham musical celebrities pictured at the showing of the latest Dorey Rogers film. In L. R. Len Putman (Manager), Guinness (Casino Handleder), Wenny Rose, George Lewis and Jane for which the broadcasting organ of the Guinness and Healey Ward.



Accordions Times

Edited by J. J. BLACK

Executive Council over the past six months, and to lay down the basic principles of policy for the six months to come. Naturally, consideration was given to the present situation created by the existence of two accordion associations in the country, and decisions were taken on the line and policy to be adopted by N.A.O. in this connection also.

It was clear that members of the Committee were well satisfied with the work of their Council, and the general progress made by their organization during the last half-year. Further expansion will continue to be the keynote of N.A.O. policy for the future, and all members are invited to do so, and to help in furthering the development of our movement. And here a word of good advice: Write for your enrolment forms without delay and return it as quickly as you can. The annual subscription is best done on January 1, 1950.

AN APPEAL to the North Midlands Area Council of the N.A.O. held at Birmingham on September 25. The following statement has been issued by the Council: 'Statements have been made to us and to other organizations and people maintaining that the Birmingham Council, under the auspices of the N.A.O., was not fair, properly and fairly and biased.'

VIC LEWIS

(Continued from Page 1) 'week,' but providing it turns out to be a success it certainly promises to be a great event, and will possibly include other Town Councils to similar endeavors. Other performances that week will be the 'Messiah' at the Town Hall, and the concert on the Fryday. Truly the Vic Lewis Orchestra finds itself in a splendid company. The terms fans of the progressive will doubtless applaud their undertaking. Vic's own music is planning some of his most modernistic offerings for this month's concert.

RADIO DIARY

(Continued from Page 2) A list of the interesting broadcast, worthy of repeats. THED RAY and Derek Roy jointly pulled last week's 'Music Hall' here monthly. Roy's multi-voiced od operas was excellent. A bit more of the interesting music that he brings along will be most welcome. ROSENKAVALIER (Continued from Page 3) occurs every time Constance Brough has her monthly sing. As an Octavian (the Rose Kavalier) she has set the tempo for the night. The rest of the cast, and it is in comparison with her that their present setting are thrown into greater relief.

BEETHOVEN IN RECORD TIME

(From Malcolm Royment)

LAST Sunday evening at the Albert Hall, Northampton, the Deeley Orchestra and Chorus through Beethoven's 'Choral' Symphony in minutes of ten after the hour. Even allowing that the repeats in the principal section of the Beethoven were the fastest performance of this work heard in London for many years. But for some very ragged playing amongst the violins, it was also one of the best ever heard in this city.

Melko did what his other conductors have done. He respected those metronome marks of the composer which are not to be tampered with. The first movement is marked to be played at forty-four to the minute, and at the speed it was played, for once it was played as a two-by-two, and not a four-by-four movement.

YOUNG IRAQI COMPOSER

On Monday November 14, a concert of Edward Michael's works was given at Hampton Court, Twickenham. Edward Michael is a promising young Iraqi composer who writes music in a very original and modern style. He played first violin in his string quartet and also conducted in the orchestra. The concert was a success and the program included a recent composition, the Sonata for Violin and Piano, played by Edward Michael and Tamara Osborne. This work was more suitable for practice than art, and proved the lead playing item on an otherwise highly interesting program. M.V.

TOP TEN

1. You're Breaking My Heart
2. Starting
3. Confidentially, New World
4. How Can I Love You Like This
5. Any More, C. & C.
6. Forever & Ever, P.D. & J.
7. My Heart Belongs to You
8. I'm Gonna Get You Where I Live
9. I'm Gonna Get You Where I Live
10. I'm Gonna Get You Where I Live

CLASSIFIED ANNOUNCEMENTS