THE DUKE TRIUMPHS ON DOWN BEAT POLL

GOSSIP OF THE MOVIE LOTS

Hollywood, Calif. (ANP)—Since a new year will have come by the time you my fellow gossipers read this I am now wishing for you the achievements of all your aspirations and wishes, health and happiness throughout 1949 and many more years to come.

The sweet short story contest which has interested so many of the faithful followers of the movies had to be postponed because of the dearness of the holidays but early in January to be exact. Application blanks will be sent to prospective contestants.

Events of 1948 will be principal topic of next week's column. Selections for the best actor, best actress, the most advancement of race relations, the most appreciative film player towards his race and the press (even though the guilty one patrons) the least appreciative. In fact the off kolumn will not be over and play shuteye to the goodeds and bad conduct of our folks in public life as he has been long.

When their misdoeds cast a bad reflection on the race they must be pointed out. To paraphrase an old proverb, Spare the pen and spoil the star.

REAL GONE GAL BACK

Nellie Lutcher has returned to the coast. Everybody is waiting to welcome her at the Million Dollar theater, Jan. 11. Mail will catch her at the Hotel Watkins, Cahuenga boulevard at Western.

The recent Christmas benefit show at the Lincoln theater staged by the Los Angeles Sentinel showed that show people of both races are willing to donate their talent for charity.

Sepia stars headed by Rochester and whites headed by Red Skelton along with the best band and combos put on a great vaudeville matinee to a full house.

Non perishable groceries paid the admissions.

Blue Lu Barker's new recording sensation, however, was one of a large number who did not appear. This was a disappointment, not only to her and her entire playing husband, but to composer, Jimmy, but many others who were anxious to hear her perform.

Lena Horne is rumored to have slipped into town for the holidays but neither production nor publicity officials at MGM is covered any notice from her. Incidentally, she has no immediate picture on schedule.

Billie Holiday who has been drawing well at Billy Berg's, drew a small crowd at her Shrine auditorium compared to her success in concerts in public.

Cecil B. DeMille's Samson and Delilah at Paramount has finished general shooting except for special effects and inserts featuring four of the picked to send athletes playing messengers and bodyguards.

Samson, played by Victor Mature, had a hard time for three days getting the temple walls to fall in a complete mass ruins. His tormentors Something would always go wrong with the trick beams and pillars, and some were always left standing. It cost the studio $200,000 in rebuilding expenses before the trick worked.

REX INGRAM (Trouble's own child), looks as if he could show that pipe to smithereens in the N. Y. newspapers where we've seen of him concerning his recent indictment. What's all muff Rex, what a mistake.— BILLY ESKSTINE one of the best singers alive, got a bit of favorable publicity from Robert Sylvester, N. Y. Daily News, who thinks Eckie, the very great melody singer cast for Mata in North West of Venus, planet.

MARION ANDERSON CITED FOR EFFORTS TOWARD DEMOCRACY

NEWARK, N. J. (ANP) — Marian Anderson's struggles for civil rights over a long period of time were honored at the recent opening of New Jersey's most powerful radio station WVNJ.

Mrs. Parker O. Griffith, president of Griffith Music Foundation and vice president of the Newark Broadcasting Corp., presented the great American artist with a citation.

The citation described Miss Anderson as a praise-worthy "citizen who through art of song and by her life has done more than any living person to advance the crusade for equal opportunity, freedom of expression and mutual cooperation in America."

In accepting the award graciously Miss Anderson demonstrated using the honesty in saying: "Accept my deep appreciation for this marvelous tribute. I have followed this station a long time of service through the years."

The artist, who had driven through a tremendous and unexpected snow storm from her home in Connecticut, was given a thunderous ovation. From the Mayor Murphy of Newark had other distinguished notables.

Todd Duncan, scheduled to be present at the formal opening of Station WVNJ, was unable to attend. His regrets reservations were cancelled due to the storm.

Dean Dixon of the American Youth orchestra, Giovanni Martinelli, Dorothy Illitch, along with Mr. A. V. Wechsler, Swing Time producer, were among the many notables on hand to greet Miss Anderson and to celebrate the formal opening of the station.

MARIAN ANDERSON

"World's Greatest Contralto"

Raleigh Memorial

AUDITORIUM

Thurs., Jan. 13th 8:30 P. M.

Presented by Marvin McDonald and Charlie Stephenson

ADMISSIONS:

ORCHESTRA

1st 20 rows $3.08
Next 22 rows 2.46
Mezzanine and side balconies
1st 3 rows $3.08
Next 3 rows 2.46
Rear balcony 1.85

Tickets for while on sale at

Stephenson Music Co.
121 Fayetteville St.

Hamlin Drug Co.
118 E. Hargett St.

Mail orders filled promptly.

BAND IS VOTED MOST POPULAR IN ANNUAL POLL

CHICAGO — (ANP) — Duke Ellington and his orchestra for the sixth consecutive year, was voted the most popular band in the country in the annual Down Beat poll, the results of which were released here last week. For the third time, the Ellington aggregation was voted the most popular band in the country.

The band has won a number of Down Beat polls in the past and as usual several of its members placed among the top three for their instruments in this year's survey.

In addition to this Duke himself was named favorite soloist category in which a musician is chosen regardless of instrument. This is significant, for while Ellington's key piano is well known to fans, he is best known as a conductor and composer, having made comparatively few solo records.

First, second and third place winners in the poll (members of the Ellington group indicated by an (X) in front of their name) are:

Favorite bands: Duke Ellington, Stan Kenton, Lionel Hampton.

Instrumental Combo (small group): Charlie Ventura, King Cole Trio, Joe Mooney.

Vocal Combo: Fred Waring Harmonies, Mills Brothers.

Male Singer (not with band): Sarah Vaughan, Dinah Shore, Doris Day.

Female Singer (not with band): Sarah Vaughan, Doris Jones, Gina Lombardo, Vaughn Monroe.

Favorite Soloist: X Duke Ellington, Stan Kenton, Lionel Hampton, Charlie Ventura, King Cole Trio, Joe Mooney.

Instrumental Combo (small group): Charlie Ventura, King Cole Trio, Joe Mooney.

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PLANS TOUR — Mabel Scott, dynamic, dazzling recording Star of Exclusive Records Company has recently sky-rocketed to a still gerater position in the glowing heights of stardom.

Mabel zoomed high on the wave of public acclaim following the release of her Exclusive Records Company recording "Elevator Boogie" and is more than holding this enviable spot with her latest disc "Boogie Woogie Santa Claus."

"Boogie Woogie Santa Claus" written especially for Mabel by Leon Benn, Chief Executive of Exclusive Records Company is proof enough that Mabel Scott is the National sweetheart of Boogie Woogie.

Mabel is planning a million wide tour starting February 1949, so watch your local theatres and clubs and when Mabel Scott appears treat yourself to an evening of wonderful, sparkling entertainment.

DUKE ELLINGTON

W. C. Handy Talks To Catholic Students

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — W. C. Handy, "Father of the Blues" and music publisher, spoke to the students at St. Augustine's school here recently. The author of the "Saint Louis Blues" Mr. Handy recounted various incidents from his own life.

St. Augustine's school, which is conducted by the Sisters of Charity, a Catholic Sisterhood, has more than 500 students enrolled.

DIZZY GILLESPIE TELLS THE ORIGIN OF BE-BOP

CHICAGO—(ANP)—Dizzy Gillespie who showed Chicagoans the intricacies of be-bop in a recent concert at the Civic Opera House, Sunday, revealed that the name of his music originated by accident.

According to Diz, the name for his music came out after the style had been originated by Charlie (Yardbird) Parker, Thelonious Monk and himself. One day he was trying to explain to a fellow trumpet ace how the last two notes of a phrase should be played.

'I finally relled to him,' Gillespie said, 'be-bop, be-bop, be-bop, that's the way it should go.' And from then on, it's called it be-bop, which now has been shortened to just bop.

Ideas for new bop sounds, grew out of musicians being tired of the old jazz riff. Musicians of today, he added,

'Man, that was fun. A couple of us who dated straight jazz used to get together at Minton's playhouse in New York and blow our brains out. We couldn't talk any sense of that New Orleans music. That was Uncle Tom music. It was for kids and the birds. We simply had to get away from that. It begets to the bar stuff.'

Explaining the difference between straight jazz, he pointed out, 'In that old jazz music you have four beats to the bar, but in bop the beats aren't important. They're there, but you just can't find them.'

This bop music has caused a rift in musicians ranks for those for and against. Of those against such as Louis Armstrong and Bunk Johnson, Dizzy said, 'They are squares. Man, how can you listen to that old fashioned bop?'

He admitted, however, that they call be-bop meaningless and a mass of discordant chords.

Louis and his crowd are considered right wingers and reactionaries in the ears of (bop) way, and the bopsters say the left wing progressives. On one thing the two groups seem to agree, however, the music has to be played from the soul.

Describing bop, he Dizzy, said, 'It is today what dixie and ragtime and swing music were in their day. Bop musicians don't have to be able to read music, but they must have a sincere feeling for what they play. They can't play mechanically. They must do it soulfully.'

FEATURED IN CHICAGO — Joseph Cole, outstanding baritone of the concert stage, is a guest entertainer at Hotel Sherman's fashionable night club, College Inn, in Chicago. Mr. Cole has appeared as a concert artist in many cities. His classical numbers are applauded at the nationally known College Inn. (ANP)

IN CHRISTMAS CONCERT — The Choral Ensemble of Pioneer Institute Business College and School of Music, (Philadelphia) under the direction of Dr. W. Franklin Hoxter, head of Music Department sang carols over WEIC Christmas Eve night. Members of the glee club hail from various sections.

They are: reading left to right front row, Lenese Stewart, Asheville, N. C., Jacquelilyn Gray, Charlotte, N. C., Myrtlye Wilcher, Charleston, S. C., Onida Stabler, Birmingham, Ala., and Minnie Allen, Philadelphia, Pa. Second row: Jessie Barksdale, Danville, Va., Clarence Fisher, Philadelphia, Pa., John Brown, Baltimore, Md., Eddie Chatham, Albany, Ga., Ernest Green, Nashville, Tenn., Leonard Stewart, Asheville, N. C., Richard Lawhorn, Philadelphia, Pa., Evelyn Lesurec, Philadelphia, Pa. Back row: Dithonia Anthony, Montgomery, Ala., Rosalie Carlye, Sebring, Fla., Dorothy Evans, Lima, Ohio, and Pennie Fields, Kinson, N. C.

HAMP KNOWS HIS BUSINESS WELL AS SWING

New York (ANP) — Lionel Hampton, the vibrating vibraphonist, who tosses his head as well as his drumsticks, his fingers and mallets recently to the ground where business is concerned.

When the biz for show biz caused other large bands to cut out their music activities, but 3 man combos, Tommy Dorsey boys, are two bands, Benny Goodman broke up two bands, Stan Kenton broke up large. Many other events in music either broke up their bands or made some drastic cuts.

But the Negro owned, Negro managed Hampton band, the only NAMB band which did not curtail its music activities, but its fingers on the pulse of music lovers throughout the nation caught its cue from the heart beat of America and expanded his aggregation.

SARAH VAUGHAN TO DO WEEK'S STAND IN HER HOMETOWN

NEWARK, N. J. — Winding up a record-breaking five-week stay at the Cirque Club on New York's Broadway, Sarah Vaughan, the nation's No. 1 band singer, will return to her home town of Newark to play a week's engagement on stage of the Adams Theater starting Thursday, January 13.

Miss Vaughan who launched her singing career in Newark as a member of the Mount Zion Baptist Church choir, played the Adams a year ago when her star was just starting to soar across the musical horizon. Since that time she has definitely arrived as a top-ranking star and will take $4500 for her week at the Adams.

Miss Vaughan will make her one more eastern appearance at the Apollo Theater in New York starting January 21, before leaving for engagements in Chicago, Milwaukee and Hollywood.

ORIOLES SIGN TO RECORD FOR JUBILEE DISCS

NEW YORK — The "Orioles," who have achieved fantastic success in the last few months via the jukebox circuit, have signed a new long-term contract to record exclusively for the Jubilee label, it was announced this week by Jerry Blaine, president of the Jubilee firm, who originally discovered the group in a Baltimore night club.

Concurrent with the termination of the recording ban, the "Orioles" waxed eight new sides in two recent sessions. Their next release on the Jubilee label will pair a beautiful new ballad, "Dare To Dream," with "To Be To You," which originally was released on the flipside of their platter of "Lonely Christmas."

The Jubilee firm is planning a powerful campaign on the "Orioles," who soared to overnight fame via their disc of "It's Too Soon To Know," which is now nearing the million mark in sales.

DUNCAN AND LEE PRESENTED IN TOWN HALL CONCERT

New York—(ANP)—Last Sunday's concert at Town Hall was a nice Christmas gift to the cultural growth of symphonic music on a small scale within this metropolis.

Everett Lee, a rapidly rising young conductor, and the Cosmopolitan Little Symphony were the donors, with Todd Duncan, much publicized baritone, assisting.

It was an interesting evening. The little orchestra fairly bristled with democracy for it comprised young and old, male and female and Negro representatives in all sections alike — string, woodwind, brass and percussion.

It is, of course, distasteful to bring in the eternal or bad we rather say internal race question. But it is, as we all know well, important to stress the fact that such events portray great progress in Negro cultural growth and in the improvement of race relations, both of which are mutually essential to that national happiness which is bound to attain perfection some day.

The list of works performed appeared in the following order: CPE Bach's Concerto for Orchestra in D major, Allegro moderato, Andante lento molto, Allegro; Mozart's Symphony No. 33, also in D major (Prague); Adagio, Allegro, Andante, Presto; Jan Meyerowitz' Spectral music for Strings (first American performances) and Stravinsky's humorous Suite, No. 2, March, Waltz, Polka, Galop.

It cannot be said that Mr. Lee projects a dominating personality on an orchestra but he is certainly an admirable little leader. His readings were quite worthy last evening and although his baton technique lacks complete finish he has no compunction to preserve a gentle grace and balance.

The orchestra played well, too, bringing a surprising richness of tone in the Stra-Galop.

Todd Duncan, baritone, who first came into popularity in the creation of Porgy in Gershwin's immortal Porgy and Bess, was the assisting artist in the presentation of Saint-Saens' Qui Dans Commande (from Henri VIII) and the same composer's famous Danse Macabre.

Mr. Duncan has never sung better here. Although his voice shows wear, necessitating his utmost discretion in the approach of technical problems, we doubt very much that there has ever been a Negro baritone to approach him in style, diction and authority, at least in his two recitals last night. Great has been the progress in these matters within recent months.

Perhaps the fatigue of holiday preparation is the answer to the lack of public patronage at this concert. Whatever the reason it was a thoroughly enjoyable program even to the first performance of Meyerowitz' impressive work.

JOHNSON LISTS THEATER DATES IN THREE CITIES

NEW YORK — Buddy Johnson the youthful creator of "Walk 'Em Rhythm" and glorifier of the "Fine Brown Frame," will depart from his usual routine on the one-niter circuit to bring his blockbusting band and vocalists Arthur Prysock and Ella Johnson to the stages of three leading eastern theaters beginning off with the week beginning Friday, January 14 at the 125th Street Apollo Theater in Harlem.

Following their Apollo stand, the Johnson crew will play the week of January 23 at the Royal Theater in Washington, and the week of January 28 at the Roya Theater in Baltimore.

WINGS OVER JORDAN WILL RESUME RADIO PROGRAM SATURDAY

NEW YORK—Wings Over Jordan will resume their weekly radio network broadcasting on January 8, marking their 510th coast-to-coast radio program. The current series of broadcasts follows a brief hiatus and will be sponsored by the United States Treasury Department on behalf of the Savings Bonds program.

These programs will be broadcast over the world's largest radio network—the Mutual Broadcasting System, which has more than 500 stations.

A novel feature of the current series of broadcasts will be a portrayal, in words and songs, of the life of a prominent American Negro. The first personality to be portrayed will be Miss Mildred Buxton, Chief Dietician of Freedman's Hospital in Washington, D. C. Reverend Glynn T. Settle, founder and director of Wings Over Jordan, will select all personalities to be thus honored.

The January 8th and 15th programs will be broadcast on Saturdays from 4:00 to 4:30 EST. The third program will originate in Dallas, Texas, on January 23rd. Thus, and all subsequent programs, will be broadcast over the Mutual Broadcasting System's coast to coast radio network from 12:00 noon to 12:30 p. m. on Sundays.

Wings Over Jordan will be picked up from the studios of various stations on the Mutual Broadcasting System, depending upon where they are booked for their concert appearances. Their booking representative, Benjamin Zucker of International Artists Corporation, 420 Madison Avenue, New York City, just announced the booking of their 900th concert in 33 months.

In an exclusive interview in NewYork, Mr. Zucker said: "We cannot fill all requests for dates on Wings Over Jordan because this is the greatest attraction ever to have been offered to sponsors. We file our requests on a first come, first served basis and the choir keeps rolling along — like the river Jordan."

AMBASSADOR

NOW PLAYING!

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GENE TIERNEY

"THAT WONDERFUL URGE"

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WALTER PIDGEON
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IN
IF WINTER COMES

Plus Extra Added Attraction

WOODY HERMAN AND HIS ORCHESTRA

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Dan Dailey, Jeanne Crain
IN
YOU WERE MEANT FOR ME

On The Same Program
THE HARLEM HOTSHOTS
IN
Rhythm On The Run

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DAUGHTER OF DON Q
NEWS OF DAY

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JANUARY 14-15
DOUBLE FEATURE!!!

"TEX" RITTER
IN
Oklahoma Raiders

AND

Zachary Scott, Fay Emerson
IN
Danger Signal

ALSO CHAPTER No. 6
KING OF THE FOREST RANGERS