Met Head Overlooks Negroes In Search For New Talent

Women Weep As Singer Hamilton Croons

'AYE' FOR AN EYE — The famous Hanneh Faves, Jr. (left), who lost his left eye in an automobile accident last November, returned to the stage last week with a smash hit performance at a Las Vegas nightclub. Before the show, the capable performer removed his eye patch, and displayed the artificial eye for the first time. The one, which is attached to his eye muscles by a new method, moves with as much facility as his own. Grinning beside him backstage is his uncle, Will Mastin, who heads the act. (Newspress Photo)

Music By J. Kirby's Band?

NEW YORK — (ANP) — The Period Label has done it again. This time in what may well prove to be one of the most unusual jazz record sessions of the year, the entire personnel of the original John Kirby orchestra — except for Kirby himself, who died in 1952 — was reassembled for an LP label.

Leaderman on the session was Charlie Shavers, trumpeter and arranger with the Kirby band when it was one of the country's leading combos. Maxine Sullivan — who was Kirby's wife during the band's years of fame and who sang with the group on its weekly Wordcast — also participated in the LP.

The other Kirby alumni were Russell Procope, alto sax (now with Duke Ellington), Buster Bailey, clarinet, Billy Kyle, piano (now with Louis Armstrong), and Gordon "Spike" Powell, drums (Powell, for the past decade, has been on staff at CBS. It was the first time the six of them had worked together in 14 years.

Jack Walker of WOV acted as commentator on the record in the role the late Canada Lee used to play on Kirby's CBS Network shows. The album was written and produced by Leonard Feather.

Lionel Hampton Introduces Newest Talent To Public

NEW YORK — (ANP) — During his appearance at Harlem's Apollo Theater last week Lionel Hampton, world-renown bandleader, introduced a new batch of singing finds that he hopes will achieve stardom in show business.

Pretty, 19-year-old Patty Ann Messner, greatly impressed critics in her first appearance as Hampton's band vocalist. The daughter of a recording company executive, she showed unusual promise and a voice suited for ballad singing.

Displaying his same type of energy on stage that Hampton is noted for, the Hampton quartet kept things moving at a brisk tempo as they sang, danced and clowned. Discovered four years ago in Detroit by disc jockey Walton Barnett, they were brought to the vibe king for an audition. They impressed him so much that Hamp made them a featured attraction with his stage show.

Always on the lookout for top musicians, Hampton's latest boast-ly twenty-year-old — also participated in the LP.

The other Kirby alumni were Russell Procope, alto sax (now with Duke Ellington), Buster Bailey, clarinet, Billy Kyle, piano (now with Louis Armstrong), and Gordon "Spike" Powell, drums (Powell, for the past decade, has been on staff at CBS. It was the first time the six of them had worked together in 14 years.

Jack Walker of WOV acted as commentator on the record in the role the late Canada Lee used to play on Kirby's CBS Network shows. The album was written and produced by Leonard Feather.

A BIT OF CLASS — Famed bandleader Lionel Hampton (left) gets a sample of "educated music" from the French horn of his newest bandsman, Willie Ruff, a recent graduate of Yale university where he majored in music and law. Hamp predicts a brilliant future for the versatile youth, who has hopes of someday playing with the Philharmonic Symphony orchestra. (Newspress Photo)

ROY HAMILTON

BLUES SHOW PLAYS BEFORE SELLOUT CROWD

A CAROLINIAN reporter observed women weeping in the audience last Monday night as Roy Hamilton sang his currently popular "Unchained Melody" before an estimated 6,000 persons.

Hamilton was co-starred with LaVern (Precedle Dear Baby), The Drifters, Erskine Hawkins and his orchestra, Willie Mabon, Jimmy Reed, Julia Dean and many other acts in the Freedom Garden at the Fairgrounds Memorial Auditorium.

"Little Walter" Willie and his orchestra really had the joint jumping. Willie was so pepped up that he came off of the stage and conducted his way into the balcony.

The Hearts, a girls singing group, drew a tremendous ovation from the audience.

Overlooked Such Talent As Williams, Addison, Winters And Dobbs

NEW YORK — (ANP) — When Rudolph Bing, general manager of the Metropolitan Opera, sailed for Europe last week he said he was searching for new singing talent. His requisites included "beautiful in appearance, have wonderful voices and be great actors. Also, they should not be money minded."

Why Mr. Bing overlooked (1) Camilla Williams, an experienced singer who qualifies on all three counts — not the last and won acclaim abroad; (2) Adele Addison, a youthful fresh voice who was grabbed up by City Center after a sensational debut in New York, and (3) Matilwilda Dobbs, who set New York on fire with her singing in her first appearance here last year and was equally sensational more recently at Town Hall. Either of these singers more than fills Bings requirements and what's more, they'd grace anybody's opera.

And if Bing wants a baritone, he need only look again to the City Center — there's Lawrence Winters, the LEADING baritone in that company who can sing any baritone role and sing it well. In his debut at the City Center Lawrence overwhelmed the critics last year. Winters sang seven roles at City. Miss Adrison demuted in "LaBoheme." Miss Dobbs' most famous role is in "Coq D'or."

There has been talk of revitalizing the Met with new presentations, new adaptations of old favorites, new stage directors, and new faces, and of course, new voices. This formula has been applied with smashing success at City Center.

Besides, City has not been afraid to try NEW operas and some of the less familiar works of famous composers. The results have built a new population of opera goers in New York and enabled the City Center to operate at reduced deficits each year.

Gossip Of The Movie Lots

By HARRY LEVETTE

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (ANP) — INK SPOTS opened at the Tiffany Club for another week with Slim Gaillard still going strong. RUBY LANE, just in from New York and Miami, opened at the Club Oasis, with Alund Dixon's Harlem Express. "The Red Hut," completely remodeled, at $100,000 cost.

PREVIEWS — Paramount's "Seven Little Foys" at Academy Award Theatre starring Bob Hope as Eddie Foy, co-starring Milly Vitale, with George Tobias, and Angelica Clarke — catchy music packed with entertainment. — "Land of The Pharoahs" Howard Hughes long awaited feature with a huge cast, starring Jack Hawkins, Joan Collins, Dewey Martin and Alexis Minotis. A Continental Co.

NEW PICTURES JUST STARTING — "The Benny Goodman Story" at Uptown, International; MGM's "I'll Cry Tomorrow" and News is Made at Night" Columbia's "Inside Detroit," 20th Century-Fox's "Good Morning Miss Dove," and Allied Artist's "Operation Uranium." Just in case the handle wasn't on this news basket. This is your personal news gatherer, and confidant — Harry Nevette, 4266 S. Central Ave., Los Angeles 11, Calif.

ETHEL WATERS, long one of the greatest names in motion pictures, will be seen and heard in a new television feature June 30. She was signed last week by producer Martin Manulis to co-star, with Janet Blair, in "The Dance," a segment of Chrysler's "Climax" series over CBS-TV. Allen directed the James P. Cavenaugh teleplay.

JOYCE BRYANT, always popular here, opened at the Macambo last week for a two-week stint. All liked her song stylings, pretty costumes and winning personality. Carl Razaz was held over for an additional night, then went on to "365" Club in Frisco.

LIONEL HAMPTON at 1956 knows when he will come "Flying Home to the tune of that hot swing number of his that had the fans young and old dancing in the aisles of the Lincoln and the Paramount theatres here the first time they heard it. He told Ed Barron, who visited him back stage at the Apollo, during his recent capacity run there.

THEATRICALS...

THEATRE — MOVIE — STAGE — SCREEN

Dot Dandrige Denies Gambling Reports

BY HARRY LEVETTE

HOLLYWOOD — (ANP) — Contrary to a story that appeared in Jet magazine last week, screen star Dorothy Dandridge did not lose a large sum of money at the gambling casino while at Cannes, France. In fact she laughingly told her mother, Ruby, over the telephone, that she had not gone into any of them during her appearance as a guest at the motion picture convention.

She now is back at the Waldorf-Astoria, from which she had gotten a five day leave to make the trip.

Earl Mills here, Dorothy's agent, also verified the fact that the internationally noted star did not gamble while abroad. He had also phoned to New York, and asked her when the story appeared. However, Dot was not angry about the false report. She said: "No harm done, I suppose the reporter just wanted something to write about."

Broadway Plays Dwindling

NEW YORK — (ANP) — Over the years, Broadway has decreed that the current year shall end on the last day of May, when Actors Equity runs the play concession scare. The new season's activities will not start in earnest until September.

Tell that to any three fewer shows than the previous year, in other words, the 1955-54 season saw 73 productions against 70 for the 1954-55 season. Of the 70 productions that hit Broadway, two were what is commonly called Negro shows. Eartha Kitt's ill fated "Mrs. Patterson" lasted 101 performances and Truman Capote's "House of Flowers" managed to squeeze in 165, the third longest run on Broadway.

Both productions lost money in spite of names that were featured in the productions. Eartha Kitt failed to lure the customers although the critics raved over her performance.

The Pearl Bailey-Juanita Hall combo, backed by Fred O'Neal, Rawn Spearman in the male roles and lovely Carmen DeLavallade doing the dance leads, couldn't carry the weak plot in spite of the new sensational find Diharnne Carroll — the most talked about youngster since the early days of Lena Horne.

Theatrically Yours

LARRY DOUGLAS

By LARRY DOUGLAS

NEW YORK (Global) — Joni James clicking at Monte Proser's new La Vie En Rose, especially with her smash hit, "Is This The End of the Line?" . . . Al Hibbler clicking at Broadway's Birdland with his "Unchained Melody" . . . Betty Madigan's MGM platter of "Wonderful Words" getting good reaction.

Art Mooney's recording of "Honey Babe" is already a hit, and it looks like Mooney has another one in his new platter of "Alabama Jubilee" backed with "Paddlin' Madelin Home" . . . Billy Eckstine is still going over big in Europe while his platter of "Only You" is working for him over here. It is really a powerful seller . . . Count Basie pulled 'em in at Chicago's Trinon Ballroom recently . . . The Platters opened at the Moulin Range in Las Vegas on May 28 for an extended engagement.

Sarah Vaughan is slated for a great appearance on the Colgate Comedy Hour . . . Ditto Ella Fitzgerald . . . Chuck Higgins and The Jewels shared the spotlight at the Five Four Ballroom June 3 and 5 at Los Angeles . . . Bo Diddley clicked at Vigueroa Ballroom in Los Angeles.

Leroy Holmes' MGM platter of "Just For The Bride and Groom" becoming bigger and bigger in sales.

Joe Turner, Joe Morris Show Headed For Raleigh Memorial Auditorium Monday Night 20th

RALEIGH MEM AUD.
JUNE 20
MONDAY
Adv. Sale $1.50 — At Door $2.00

Cavern - mouthed BIG JOE TURNER, who has a voice to fit his size, will be co-starred with that Rhythm and Blues man JOE MORRIS and his orchestra in a BIG FIVE STAR RHYTHM AND BLUES SHOW at the RALEIGH MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM on Monday night, June 20th. JOE, the Boss of the Blues, will be making his second appearance in the capitol city this year having played here in the TOP TEN REVIEW.

Known as that "Shake, Rattle and Roll" man, BIG JOE TURNER is the top ranking man among the nation's blues singers. When he bellows a blues a microphone is strictly superfluous equipment. Weighing 250 pounds and standing 6 feet, 2 inches, TURNER is known from coast to coast for his unique manner of presentation. At times during his shows women have been known to weep madly and even throw their pocketbooks on the stage to him during those frantic moments.

Joe Morris is also well known for his smooth brand of music and the music and dance fans will be in for an evening of fine entertainment from Morris and his band.

Other artists who will appear in this BIG FIVE STAR THYTHM and BLUES SHOW are: GENE and EUNICE, known for the outstanding recording of "This is My Story." They have many other great recordings including "Move It Over Baby" and "KoKoMo." Al Savage, the Terror of Rhythm & Blues singers; and last but not least URSULA REED, that new girl singer with the big Rhythm and Blues voice. She is great and a show stopper in her own right.

The BIG FIVE STAR RHYTHM & BLUES SHOW will be a Show and Dance date with the doors open at 7:30 with the show starting at 8:30 and dancing after the show. Mail orders and ticket sales will be filled by THIEMS RECORD SHOP and HAMLIN DRUG COMPANY.

Al Hibbler's Latest Recording Named Sleeper of the Week

CHICAGO (ANP) — Now that Al Hibbler is sitting on top of the hit parade with the nation's Number One tune, "Unchained Melody," to his credit, Decca has issued a tremendous follow-up that could make it two top sellers in a row for the star. This time it's a great new tune dubbed "They Say You're Laughing At Me."

"Cash Box" which rated Hibbler's latest effort, "Sleeper of the Week," in reviewing the record said:

"In addition to the song's being an excellent composition, Hibbler's great feel for a love song makes this deck a masterpiece. A smash.

"Flip, "I Can't Put My Arms Around a Memory," is an old Ellington composition which was never before recorded. An inviting liter. Watch the top half take off."

Joseph Makel of Calvert Distillers Company presents "best singer" trophy to Brock Peters (left) who appeared in "Carmen Jones." He accepts for singer Roy Hamilton, William L. Rowe, former Deputy Police Commissioner of New York City Police Department looks on approvingly.

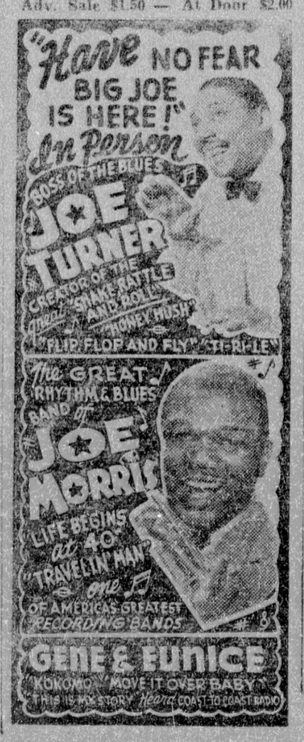
ELLINGTON'S SON WITH MOULIN ROUGE SHOW

LAS VEGAS — (ANP) — Mercer Ellington, son of the famed bandleader, is the composer of the original music for the Tropi-Can Can revue at the Moulin Rouge hotel. He was brought to the newly opened luxury hotel by Clarence Robinson, the show producer, from his home in New York.

No newcomer to the music business, Mercer has been a bandleader, road manager, songwriter and music publisher. However, this was his first big chance to prove the skeptics that he could make it on his own without having to depend upon his illustrious father's name to get the breaks. And, after hearing the torrid music he wrote for the main chorus production number, ringside audiences were in complete agreement that hotel management could not have chosen a better man for the job.

Already the bosses of the Moulin Rouge have consulted Mercer about staying on as permanent musical director of this fabulous desert gambling spa. He has promised to consider their offer if he can terminate several business commitments he has back east.

LITTLE JUNE GERMON
BIG SHOW AND DANCE



94.4 Proof

$2.00 PINT

Gordon's Gin

100% NEUTRAL SPIRITS DISTILLED FROM GRAIN • GORDON'S DRY GIN CO., LTD., LINDEN, N. J.