

PBS in the spotlight



Hampton jazzes up 'Evening at Pops'

Lionel Hampton, who pioneered the use of vibes as a jazz instrument and whose innovations in the world of jazz span more than four decades, teams up with Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops Orchestra on 'Evening at Pops,' July 15 on PBS.*

Hampton works his magic when he plays his arrangements of 'Misty,' 'Hamp's Boogie Woogie,' and 'Air Mail Special.' His symphonic piece, *King David Suite*, is a melodic collaboration of vibes and symphony orchestra.

Hampton, an innovator on the music scene for more than four decades, was the first to bring the sound of the vibes into the world of jazz when Louis Armstrong asked him to play vibes during a recording session in Los Angeles in 1930.

Hampton liked the way it sounded—and he wasn't alone. The jazz masters of the thirties took to the idea immediately, and his prominence and influence quickly grew.

Nurturing other musicians along the way, Hampton has assembled many bands over the decades, playing his vibes in a variety of musical styles.

He has performed at the White House for four Presidents, has travelled around the world to showcase his talent, and still performs regularly.

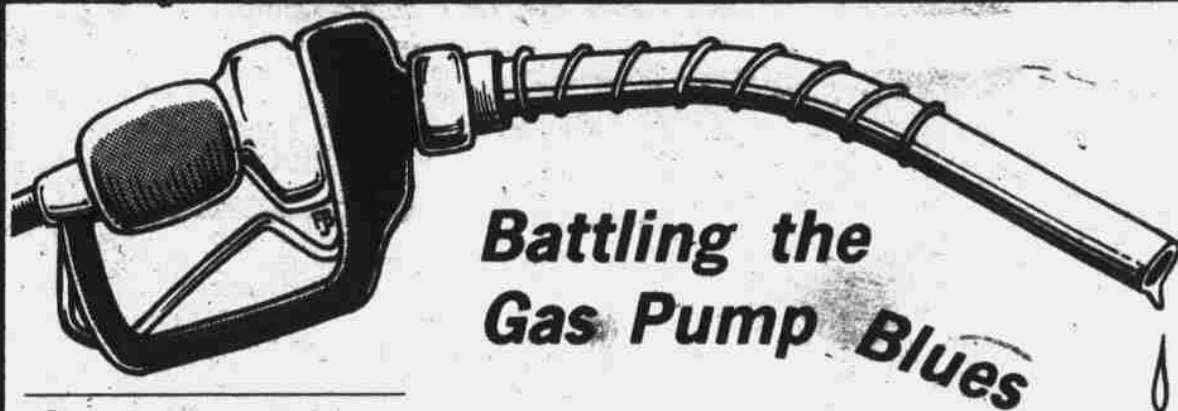
"It's not that I don't appreciate the old things," Hampton says, "but I also create and play a lot of new musical things. After all, this helps you to grow. I just keep on developing myself and, as the boys say, 'relate to what's happening today.'"

Fiedler and the Pops also perform Mendelssohn's 'Wedding March,' from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Ibert's *Divertissement*.

'Evening at Pops' is a joint production of WGBH/Boston and the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Inc.

* Check listings for exact time and station.

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a, cute observations

by Chuck Bins

Who would have believed in 1969 that ten years later Americans would be selling out George Washington for a gallon of gas?

The late sixties. Those were the days when you could get your oil checked, your windows washed and a tiger in your tank for five bucks. The gas retailers believed in competition and gas wars rather than gas lines and limits. You could drive home from the service station with a string of S&H green stamps, a free Disney glass, or even win a trip to Jamaica playing Gas Bingo Sweepstakes.

So much for the fun and games, and the endless fleet of Getty truckers whistling their way across the countryside to the tune of 'Bridge Over the River Kwai.' Somebody out there (OPEC?, the oil companies?, the retailers?—all three?) mean business and they have some desperate gas junkies for clients.

In the New York metropolitan area, as elsewhere in the country, the service stations seem like giant slaughtering houses. Motorists queue up to the pumps waiting to have their tanks topped and their wallets drained. You get the feeling that some drivers would rather

sacrifice their first-born son than be caught without gas on the weekend. Some of them even have cute little bumper stickers that proclaim "Friends of OPEC" and "Jimmy Carter says 'Use peanut oil.'"

At the office and on the highways, the mood is clear: car pooling and the 55 mph speed limit are for old ladies.

Aunt Martha's stew

So what's a serious consumer to do—sit at home all summer watering the plants and watching re-runs of 'The Gong Show'? You gotta get to work, to the shopping center, to the movies, to the baseball game, to Aunt Martha's for dinner Saturday nights and to the bowling alley on Wednesdays, right? And letting Jimmy Carter and Congress come up with an energy package is a little bit like eating Aunt Martha's hodgepodge stew—there are so many ingredients in it, everyone finds something they don't like.

Ralph Nader, a staunch believer in the power of the consumer, once offered some advice that strikes a more palatable note in the face of the current gas crunch. The consumer, he said, doesn't have to be at the mercy of large corporations, if as individuals, we could connect up with one another in large enough groups to effectively do battle.

Smart guy, that Nader is.

Building on the concept that numbers mean power, one angry consumer used Nader's idea to circulate a chain letter calling for an all-out boycott against one of the major oil companies. The letter reads, in part: "No one in the world understands the first law of economics better than a major oil company; 'charge what the traffic will bear.' They know if they create a large enough 'shortage,' as long as we have a buck, we'll pay for gas... We feel if (this particular oil company) wants to withhold gasoline, we think it is our duty to help them."

Three-headed monster

To what extent the current gas crisis is actually contrived by the oil companies is still a subject of debate. One government survey concluded that the blame for the current jump in gas prices rests evenly between the OPEC countries, the oil companies and the gas retailers. But if this three-headed monster is at fault, blackballing one oil company seems to fall something short of fair play.

Consumer advisor David Horowitz suggested a more even-handed approach. On a recent episode of 'The Tonight Show,' he told Carson and his nationwide audience that if everyone would cut their consumption by just three to five gallons a week, "We would save enough gasoline to create a surplus and in turn other nations would be backed up with gasoline..."

Squeezing OPEC by as little as five million barrels a day (a tenth of the non-communist nations' consumption and a sixth of OPEC's current output) would go a long way to stalling the upsurge in prices.

So if you're sick and tired of it and can't take driving past the gas pump and seeing the numbers change faster than you can say "gas rationing," perhaps you should give it a try. Three to five gallons a week. If it doesn't work, we could be under, rather than just over, that proverbial barrel of oil.

So much for Aunt Martha's stew this weekend.

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Star-lets—Look for Denise DuBarry, a well-endowed actress who starred in NBC's ill-fated 'Black Sheep Squadron' series, to reappear in a big way on the tube and on the big screen in the next six months. Lorimar Productions inked the sexy thespian to star in 'Being There,' a flick in which Denise attempts to steal wacky Peter Sellers from his wife. For TV she is cast as a sultry super-skier in 'Top of the Hill,' the Olympic themed four-hour Operation Prime Time miniseries set to air sometime later this year. Ms. DuBarry had several cameo roles in such TV flicks as 'Crisis In Mid-Air,' 'The Clones,' 'The Darker Side of Terror' and most recently 'Fast Friends'.



Denise DuBarry

Star Photo Exclusive—In case you're wondering whatever happened to Art Garfunkel, the frizzy-haired songster who along with Paul Simon became one of the most revered groups of the early '70s, he is anxiously pursuing a movie career. Currently he is lensing Rank Film Productions' 'Illusions' in Europe with 21-year-old co-star Theresa Russell, who gave a vivid portrayal of Mo Dean in CBS's recent 'Blind Ambition' miniseries. In the movie, Garfunkel has an all-consuming love affair with Ms. Russell against the backdrop of Europe and Africa.



Art Garfunkel and Theresa Russell in 'Illusions' from Rank Film



The phrase "minutes of a meeting" does not refer to the time. It stems from the Latin "minutus" meaning "small," since records of proceedings were generally taken down in miniature, to be transcribed later.