

OPERA SINGER SCORES BIG HIT IN WINDY CITY

Robert L. Williams:

Young Tenor Scores In Concert

BY CHARLES J. LIVINGSTON
CHICAGO (ANP)—A singer of considerable ability and with a facile mind to express his musical ideas... this description apply applies to Robert L. Williams, fast rising and talented young tenor. Williams, who recently returned from a successful tour of Europe, delighted an audience singing a program of Italian, German, English (including

Old English) songs and Negro spirituals in a concert in the Little Theatre at McCormick Place last Sunday afternoon. A graduate of the Boston Conservatory of Music, he also studied voice in Italy and is conversant in five foreign languages, including Latin. VOICE CLEAR, FLEXIBLE In the concert Sunday, Williams, possessor of a clear, flexible voice

embellished by several tonal qualities, dealt expertly with such difficult compositions as "Ruglioso, Odrasso (Scarlatti), "Widmung (Franz)" and "Zueignung (Strauss)." His range and pitch on "Caro Mio Bene (Gardini)" and the spiritual "Anchored in De Lord (arr. by Price)," were also excellent. He was accompanied by pianist John Martin.

★ Theatricals ★

GOSSIP OF THE MOVIE LOT

BY CALLA SCRIVNER
(For Associated Negro Press)
"AFRICANA" AT WILSHIRE EBELL
HOLLYWOOD — "Africana, a new stage revue introducing the rhythm of the Congo, Ghana, Kenya and Guinea, is now playing at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre. Staged by Victor Ushaw, it features Gautho Van Dor Hens, Lakula, Graham Johnson, Tomi Edwards and a company of 20. November performances are also scheduled for the Pasadena Playhouse and the Lobero Theatre in Santa Barbara. A December premiere in Las Vegas is planned. Voodoo, drum rituals, songs and dances will be featured. ELLA FITZGERALD AT TAHOE HARRAH'S
Ella Fitzgerald is the current sensation at Lake Tahoe's Harrah's. Also featured on the exciting show is the Paul Smith Trio, Rowan and Martin, the Dorothy Doren Singers and Dancers and Leighton Noble's Orchestra. Russ Hall is producer. Famous comic Dien Gregory is amusing the crowds at the Crescento while comic Redd Foxx continues to hold his popular spot at the Summit, along with Val

Martinez, dancer Paul Kips and the Lorenzo Holden orchestra. Louis Prima and his all-star revue are featuring 20 of the world's most beautiful girls at Frank Senn's Moulin Rouge. Also on the sensational bill are Sam Butera and the Witnesses, Dick Humphreys, Tommy Roberts and Evelyn Freeman.
GREEN TO CONDUCT '62 SHOW
Johnny Green, a three-time "Oscar" winner and ten-time Awardee nominee, was chosen Musical director for the 34th annual "Oscar" show of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences last week. Green was musical director of the 1945, 1948, 1951 and 1956 Awardee shows. He also served as its general director in 1949 and producer-director in 1952. The 34th Academy Presentation will be televised and broadcast nationally over the ABC network from the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium April 9. EMMY WINNERS HONORED AT PALLADIUM
The untelevised presentation of the Hollywood Area Emmy Awards of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences last week at the Palladium came as a

surprise to many Angelenos, who were expecting a telecast. The informal but highly entertaining program had genial Steve Allen as emcee. KRCA received 41 Awards: Most Outstanding Single Program Alcoholism—The Hidden City and The Cure; Most Outstanding Musical or Variety Series (Curt Massey Show); Most Outstanding Female Personality (Martha Tilton); Best News Program (Jack Latham) and the Station Achievement Award for Outstanding Service to the Community, also received by KTTV and KNXT. KTTV's "Dodger Baseball" received an award for Most Outstanding Coverage of a Sports Event and "Great Churches of the Golden West," another KTTV feature was another award-winner. Most Outstanding Series in the Field of Discussion, Documentary or Educational, was KNXT KHJ's "Engineer Bill" (Bill Stulla) was chosen the Most Outstanding Personality in the field of Children's Programming, and Clete Roberts of KTLA the Most Outstanding Male Personality. Participating on the program were Jim Backus, Mel Blanc, Bill Dana, Bob Newhart, Alan Young and Pat Buttrick.



SCORING A GOAL — Hoping to add a fourth B to the musical trio of Bach, Beethoven and Brahms, orchestra leader Louis Bellson checks the score of his Symphony in Jazz, performed for the first time at Las Vegas Nev. Bellson conducted a 57-piece orchestra in a Flamingo Hotel performance of his symphony, which he spent four years in composing. Bellson's wife, singer Pearl Bailey, who was appearing at the hotel, was mistress of ceremonies and provided a running commentary on the concert. (UPI PHOTO).

Assault Charge Against Dinah Washington Reduced; Not Sure Blues Singer Had A Gun

NEW YORK (ANP)—A felonious assault charge against blues queen Dinah Washington was reduced last

week in Felony Court here to third-degree assault after the complainant testified that she was not sure

the singer actually had a pistol. As a result of the testimony of the uncertainty of the gun by Miss Lois Green, Magistrate David L. Malbin reduced the charge. He also continued Miss Washington in \$500 bail and assigned the case for trial in the Court of Special Sessions. Miss Green brought the original assault charge against Dinah recently when she accused Miss Washington of pulling a pistol on her when she tried to collect a \$700 dress designing debt. Dinah denied the charge. Miss Green, of Harrisburg, Pa., said she had been living in Miss Washington's apartment when the dispute occurred.

At Annual Ball:

Artists And Models Have Gay 'Ole' Time

LOS ANGELES (ANP) — Thousands of guests frolicked at the annual Artists and Models Ball held at the spacious Hollywood Palladium last week.

The press came in for their share of honors. Plaques were presented to the members for coverage of the exciting event.

The fantastically garbed merry-makers included every creature which could be dreamed up in and out of this world. Unusually apt, slinky serpents and fancy poodles mixed with gay caballeros and beautiful ballerinas. Even TV sets, satellites and "lost week-ends" were represented. On the whole, the Angel City went all out to prove it could vie with Chicago, New York and Paris in originality. Prizes were given for the most original costumes.



ART FOR ART'S SAKE—These two Bennett College freshmen admire touring exhibit of small American paintings on display in the Fine Arts Building of the Greensboro, N. C. College. Left to rights Misses Linda Pearson, of Jacksonville, Florida, and Elizabeth Jetties, of Guilford College.

WEEK IN RECORDS

BY ALBERT ANDERSON FOR ASSOCIATED NEGRO PRESS

VERY SPECIAL ENTRIES

Pianist Ahmad Jamal, composer-conductor Andre Kostelanetz and concert Byron Janis all share the spotlight in this week's column. Three of the most prolific musicians, the trio are heard on recently released long-playing records. The fare follows: "Alhambra (Argo)." Tunes: "We Kiss in a Shadow," "Sweet and Lovely," "The Party's Over," "Love for Sale," and "Snow Fall" on side 1, and "Broadway," "Willow Weep for Me," "Autumn Leaves," "Isn't It Romantic," and "The Breeze And I."

The setting (the LP was recorded live in Ahmad's recently established Chicago supper club), and tunes were all made to order for Jamal's tinkling piano. There were no traces of overplay or artificiality, only the pleasing and subtle interpretation of an artist who is so much "at home" with the love ballads... The disk also features fine supporting music by accompanists Israel Crosby, on bass, and Vernell Fournier, on drums and percussion. "Nutcracker Suite" and "Between Birthdays (Columbia)." Kostelanetz, Ogden Nash and Peter Ustinov featured in varied roles.

Kostelanetz, who has been responsible for several innovations in music, including opera for orchestra with instruments playing the role of singers, is presented here in another unique setting. While Nash and Ustinov recite short passages from the program, Kostelanetz takes turn at playing the piano and harpsicord and directing the studio orchestra... The "Nutcracker Suite" is always delightful when treated properly. However, this particular tract appears to be more of a showcasing of Kostelanetz's talent... "Rachmaninoff, Piano, Concerto No. 3 (Mercury)." Byron Janis, pianist, Antal Dorati conducts the London Symphony Orchestra.

Young Janis shows considerable skill in expertly handling some difficult passages in this beautiful but somewhat intricate composition by the late Russian composer... Significantly, this concerto, a follow-up to Rachmaninoff's Concerto No. 2, was composed for his American tour in 1959... Janis' interpretation of the three themes is artful. And adding to the quality of the recording is the fine work of the orchestra under the skillful baton of Dorati.

Sammy Davis To Guest Star On TV

HOLLYWOOD (ANP) — Entertainer Sammy Davis Jr., currently appearing at the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas, has been signed for a guest starring role in the "Coals Affire" episode of the "Frontier Circus" television series, it was reported. During his engagement at the Sands, Davis is having his wife, former movie starlet Mai Britt, and his daughter, Tracey, as his special guests.

HOW OLD HEADS nodded in agreement when the Afro newspaper editorialized that producer Otto Preminger could make a more "positive statement to the world about democracy in our country" by not having Martin Luther King play the role of a Georgia senator in "Advise and Consent" and give the part, instead, to such experienced professional actors as Sidney Poitier, Juano Hernandez, Frederick O'Neal or James Edwards.

THE QUICK RISE in popularity for singer Nina Bundy, the tall and shapely Philly cutie whose tallest fan is probably Wilt Chamberlain, who shows up wherever she appears.

DELORES BRANHAM, the pretty Kim Novak-like east coaster who now prefers the west coast, and is about to march down the aisle.



WINNER OF "KING-QUEEN" CONTEST — Shown riding in a recent parade are winners and attendants in a "King-Queen" contest, sponsored by the PTA of the Raleigh Day Nursery. At top of photo are James "Chip" Thomas and Deborah Williams, winners. Attendants, left to right are: Marshall Butler, Jr., Andraedes Smith, Vanessa Birdsong, and William McDonald. The children represented the nursery school in the homecoming parade of Ligon Jr.-Sr. High School and St. Augustine's College.

Richard B. Harrison Players To Stage "Mouse Trap" Soon

GREENSBORO — "The Mouse Trap," a three-act drama by Aca-thea Christie, will be staged by the Richard B. Harrison Players of AT College here in two performances on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 15 and 16. Curtain time has been announced for 8:00 p. m. on each day. Among the lead roles and their actors are: Trotter—Gaston Little, Winston-Salem, and James Allen, Shelby; Giles — Bobby Spencer, Henderson; Christopher — James Wilder, Wilmington; Paravincini—Claude Barrant, Jamaica, West Indies, and Lavern Madisin, Florence, S. C.; Molly—Cornelia Bass, Roxboro; Major Melcalf—James Woods, Winston-

Salem, and Raymond Cook, War-Maxine Murray, New Bern. Renton; Mrs. Boyle — LeVerne The Harrison Players are directed by Mrs. Sandra Motz, di-Pattie Cotten, Greensboro, and rector of drama.

Comic Dick Gregory Returns To Alma Mater For Homecoming

CARBONDALE, Ill. (ANP) — Comic Dick Gregory jinxed the Southern Illinois university football team in reverse recently when he returned to his Alma Mater and helped cheer the hometowners to a 33-6 victory over Eastern Illinois. A graduate of Southern Illinois, Gregory was entertained at the game by the university's president, Delyte Morris. Only a few months ago Gregory, who graduated from the saturs of a car hop in Chicago to one of the nation's hottest comedians, was a forgotten grad, and would have returned to the campus unnoticed. But things have changed tremendously for clever Dick, who has

capitalized on jokes dealing with the race question. He stopped off at Southern Illinois on his way to Chicago, where he lives (between engagements) with his wife and daughter.

Johnny Mathis Sets Records

HOLLYWOOD (ANP) — Singer Johnny Mathis, one of the most popular and richest entertainers, is reported to be playing to record crowds in a cross-country series of one nighters at colleges and universities. Among other stops, Johnny has played the campuses of Indiana university and Wisconsin. He also played a special engagement in Pittsburgh on Oct. 31, before opening at Rochester's Eastman Theatre, Nov. 1. Mathis is scheduled to guest star on The Ed Sullivan Show, Nov. 26.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has warned that burley tobacco tied with rubber bands will not be eligible for price support loans. Rub-r bands are considered "foreign matter" under the Official Standard Grades for Burley. The rubber bands with primed, rather than stalk-cut burley. Milk production on American dairy farms in 1960 averaged above if an executive says he positively must have a report before he departs at 4 o'clock, the office will present the papers at 8:30, and not one minute before.

Masco Young's Notebook

HOW ROCK 'N ROLL SINGER Hank Ballard's popularity has taken a big nose-dive in the past few months. Once the hottest new star on the showbiz horizon, Hank hasn't been able to come up with a hit waxing since "Let's Go, Let's Go, Let's Go." One associate observed, "Hank's badly in need of a personal manager for advice. He refused to cover any of the tunes several other artists waxed that were carbon copies of his own compositions. And Chubby Checker's running away with "The Twist", which Hank wrote and first recorded.

THE RUMOR that organist Bill Doggett might pack up his combo and head for another label since there has been some grumbling about lack of promotion behind Doggett waxings on the Warner Bros. disk. Biggest dent that Bill made on the chart since joining Warner was when his King Records released "Honky Tonk" climbed to the middle slot several months ago.

THE EXCITEMENT at the Orchild Ballroom in Philly when new singing discovery Brooks O'Dell sang "Daddy's Home." An excited girl started crawling onto the stage, and a cop grabbed her by the leg and began pulling her back. She screamed, as he hauled her to her seat. "That's all right, Daddy, I'll get you yet!"

HOW FATS DOMINO is flopping miserably as a box office attraction in different spots. In places that normally held several thousand, Fats has been able to lure only several hundred.

THE FAST SALES ACTION the Impressions' "Gypsy Woman" is getting around the nation, from deejays and retail stores. "Gypsy Woman" was predicted as headed for the top of the charts by this columnist several months ago, when Curtis Mayfield first played it for us.



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