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# Musical Express

Incorporating ACCORDION TIMES

No. 94      FRIDAY, JULY 23rd, 1948      PRICE FOURPENCE

## MUSICIANS STRIKE MAY BE ADVERTED

### M.U. BROADCASTING COMMITTEE at WORK

#### Action Musical Express Has Always Demanded!

(BY THE EDITOR)

FOR SOME TIME NOW "MUSICAL EXPRESS" HAS EXPOSED THE INACTIVITY OF THE BROADCASTING SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE MUSICIANS' UNION IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRESENT CRISIS. IN "THE VOICE," ON PAGE 2, OUR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OPENLY DEPLORES THE MANNER IN WHICH THE STRIKE HAS HITHERTO BEEN HANDLED. IT IS WITH PLEASURE THAT WE ANNOUNCE THIS WEEK THAT THE MUSICIANS' UNION HAS AT LAST ACTED UPON LINES SO STRONGLY ADVOCATED EXCLUSIVELY IN "MUSICAL EXPRESS." FOLLOWING AN ALL TOO PREMATURE MEETING OF THE PRESS CALLED BY MR. HARDIE RATCLIFFE AT WHICH THE BROADCASTING COMMITTEE WAS NOT PRESENT, A SUDDEN CHANGE IN THE UNION'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THIS CRISIS HAS SINCE BECOME APPARENT. AT THE PRESS MEETING MR. RATCLIFFE STATED THAT THE B.B.C. HAD SAID THE DOOR IS NOT CLOSED. THIS STATEMENT, AS READERS ARE AWARE, FORMED THE HEADLINES IN LAST WEEK'S ISSUE OF "MUSICAL EXPRESS."

The Broadcasting Sub-Committee which, as exclusively announced by us, had not met for approximately three weeks while this crisis was developing, has now been called into action and, in the view of this newspaper, it is not a moment too soon. The following statement was given to us by Mr. Hardie Ratcliffe on behalf of the Broadcasting Sub-Committee of the Union's Executive Committee:

"We are willing to meet the B.B.C. to discuss the matter in dispute provided the Corporation agrees that, in the event of failure to reach a settlement within one month, the fees for casual studio broadcasts shall be decided by arbitration.

If the B.B.C. accepts this procedure, we shall be willing to withdraw the ban on casual studio broadcasts, and to cooperate fully with the Corporation to restore, so far as possible, the programmes originally planned.

"We are informing the Minister of Labour of our attitude. We are also continuing our views to the Trades Union Congress and calling attention particularly to the implications of any refusal by the B.B.C.—a public Corporation—to accept the principle that disputes shall be settled by arbitration."

This statement emanated from very important meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. A further statement from the same source reads as follows:

"A meeting of broadcasting musicians will be held at Con-way Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, on Monday, July 26, at 2 p.m. when a full statement upon the broadcasting dispute will be made from the Broadcasting Sub-Committee."

Our readers will remember how we called for a meeting of

### WE SAID

MAY 7

"FOR about two years London Members of the Musicians' Union have been clamouring for increased rates for Casual Broadcasts. 'Musical Express' suggests that the Union might advantageously intimate to the B.B.C. that these increased rates are long overdue and that a deadline should be fixed 'unless...'"

JUNE 11

"It is with some gratification that we are able to announce that the Union has taken action."

JUNE 18

"All we want is a fair wage for the men that do the work, it is asking too much."

JUNE 25

"'Musical Express' feels that it would benefit the profession in view of the pending casual broadcasting strike, if the Musicians' Union were to call a General Meeting of members to advise them as to their standing regarding contract broadcasting and casual broadcasting work."

JULY 5

"The Musicians' Union appears to be observing the utmost secrecy regarding the broadcasting strike."

JULY 16

"The extreme urgency of this strike and its effect on broadcasting musicians has resulted in West Indian Band being fixed in the new deal film, 'Elizabeth G. Sedgwick,' now on the floor at Shepperton."

As Leslie Hutchinson was playing at Grimsby, Harry Dew contacted Frank Baker whose band is doing gig work in and out of town. The result was extremely successful. Baker and his band proved a great success, and besides some dummy effects are by Alan Dean.

WEST INDIAN BAND FOR NEAGLE FILM

A phone call from Herbert Wilcox Productions to Harry Dawson of New Century Artists Ltd., resulted in West Indian Band being fixed in the new deal film, 'Elizabeth G. Sedgwick,' now on the floor at Shepperton.

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QUICK RELEASE OF SHELTON RECORD

Recorded very recently by Anne Shelton was vocal accompaniment by the 'Keynotes.' 'The Woody Woodpecker Song' was released last Wednesday. The record has been quick to realise the selling power of a popular song. Orchestration by Roy Robertson and woodpecker effects are by Alan Dean.

STRIKE—See P. 4, Col. 3

Exclusive ★ **JACK BENNY**  
Rehearsal  
Pictures at ★ **PHIL HARRIS**  
The London **MARY LIVINGSTONE**  
Palladium ★ **MARILYN MAXWELL**



Left to right: Mary Livingstone, Jack Benny, Marilyn Maxwell and Val Parnell.



Jack Benny dining with the Skyrockets.



Phil Harris and Mary Livingstone      Marilyn Maxwell at the microphone.

### THE JACK BENNY SHOW

ANOTHER exciting first night last Monday at the London Palladium. Heading a star-studded bill was that suave, polished comedian of American radio and screen — Jack Benny, with his wife — Mary Livingstone, Marilyn Maxwell and band leader Phil Harris who is a great performer in his own right. Silk, polished material, put over with great artistry, made the show outstanding. Benny, as we all know, works slowly. For this reason the act should have finished upon one of Phil Harris's numbers which are fast and snappy. It was because the only thing the show needed was a finale.

The Skyrockets proved more than adequate as a deputy for Harris's own band left behind in America. This occasion was noteworthy for the Skyrockets appearing in brand new rust coloured tunics, all very smart in the Palladium tradition, and playing on the

### ANDREWS SISTERS HAVE ARRIVED

AS we close for press the fabulous Andrews Sisters have arrived in England tonight. Lou Levy, president of Leeds Music and personal manager to the girls. They have brought their own special arrangements with them and we understand their own arrangers and several musicians who are part of their act.

### BENNY LEE PLAYS LEAD

Benny Lee, popular vocalist will play the lead in a radio production of "Gay Divorce" to be heard in the Midland Regional programme this Friday July 23. "Woody Woodpecker" Musical Express foresees the Andrews Sisters packing the Palladium to capacity during their four weeks engagement which commences on August 2.

### SKYROCKETS APPEAR IN FILM PRODUCTION

THE SKYROCKETS ORCHESTRA ARE TO APPEAR IN A ROADHOUSE SEQUENCE IN THE CURRENT BETTY BOX PRODUCTION BEING MADE AT ISLINGTON STUDIOS — "VOTE FOR HUGGETT." THE RECORDING SESSION HAS ALREADY TAKEN PLACE AND ONE OF THE THREE NUMBERS BEING USED JILL ALLAN, WHO IS VOCALIST WITH SID PHILLIPS, IS FEATURED. ALL THE NUMBERS WERE WRITTEN AND ARRANGED BY WOOLFE PHILIPPS FOR THE FILM AND JILL'S VOCAL IS ENTITLED "COMPLIMENTS WILL GET YOU NOWHERE." OF THE OTHER TWO NUMBERS ONE HAS TENTATIVELY BEEN TITLED "ONE IN A MILLION," THE OTHER AS YET UNNAMED IS A REGUINE.

### LEN CAMBER SAILS FOR U.S.

AFTER a highly successful but all too brief visit to this country, which culminated in his broadcast "Show Time" last night, Len Camber sailed back to the United States aboard the Queen Mary today, taking with him the best wishes of "Musical Express" and his many fans and friends in the entertainment profession.

### JAZZ INTERLUDE FOR TITO BURNS

TITO BURNS and his Sextet will appear in "Jazz Interlude" this Saturday, July 24. After this broadcast they will fly to Ramsgate to enable them to reach the Grand Hotel Cliffton where they are resident for five weeks, in time for their evening session.

In his last article for this newspaper prior to leaving for America, Denis Preston inadvertently listed a record of the American outfit Tito's Swingtette as Tito Burns' outfit. This of course was incorrect.

### "You won't best seats!"

SCENE was the Performing Rights Society's Luncheon. Guest of honour was Mr. Harold Wilson, President of the Board of Trade. The Chairman of the P.R.S., Mr. Leslie Boosey, told the company that they were replaced one of their members with a British singer, Clive Erard, who needs no introduction to "Musical Express" readers. He fits in with the quartet perfectly, just as though he had always been in the act. In fact I would say it is the perfect choice for this great distinction.

Also on the bill again, held over by popular demand, is the greatest of all America's crazy comedians, Frank Marlowe, who continues to destroy himself at all costs. On Monday night he almost stopped the bill again. I foresee capacity business again for this coming fortnight at the Palladium.

Put "DASH" in your programmes!

"RAMBLING ROSE"  
(BOUNCY FOX-TROT)

"LAROO LAROO LILLI BOLERO"  
(WALTZ)

"OCTOBER TWILIGHT"  
(BALLAD FOX-TROT)

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THE VOICE

FULL RESPONSIBILITY I take full responsibility for the opinions voiced through the columns of this newspaper, particularly for the suggestion we made to the Musicians' Union to give the B.B.C. a deadline for finalising the dispute on salaries (millions) for Christmas Broadcasts.

LET US BE CONSTITUTIONAL

Since these rapid developments have taken place, I regret to report that I have noticed that some elements in the Union actually HOPE there WILL be a strike. I make this statement since such views are not those of the Editor of Musical Express.

THE PRESS CONFERENCE

I have always been one to deplore the lack (in the past) of a responsible Press Liaison Officer in the Musicians' Union. Now, I am glad to say, attention has been given to making certain the Press Liaison Officer is going on.

YOU SHALL BE THE JUDGE

You, my readers, should be the judge of the situation. Is all well within the Union? Quite apart from the foregoing remarks I begin to suspect some of the shock-tactics in some directions that have been followed by the industrial Unions.

THE NO. 1 BALLROOM FAVOURITE TIME MAY CHANGE OUR REPUTATION FOR WALTZ HITS IS UNIVERSAL

THE MOVED HOUSE FOR REAL BARGAINS SECOND-HAND PIANO ACCORDIONS

MUSIC FOR THE ACCORDION "FAVOURITE PIECES" ALBUMS

By Lee Conway

I HAVE words of wisdom for those who are in the music business. I have analysed his last radio programme and have come to a very definite conclusion. If Tommy will listen to me, he has the chance of conducting one of the great bands of the generation.

HAVE you any idea what a picture Tommy took like a one artist painted it with only one brush? Well that is precisely what is happening with the Sampson Band.

always does capacity business in the summer months without the aid of a game musical attraction, but come the colder days in October and the operators figure out a further few weeks must not be over by the time Barron has been booked for four weeks from October 13.

THE Chestfield Supper Club show is to retain the Sammy Kaye band for a further two weeks this summer since Perry Como's picture work at MGM will not be over by the time the singer was originally due to show his stint on the radio.

STAN KENTON has fifty-three concerts lined up for his new Coast-to-Coast tour. Starting his last week at Salt Lake City, he will end the jaunt with a concert at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York.

ALTHOUGH Eddie Duchin's excursion into active band-leadership has been a success, it is not without its share of difficulties.

SECOND THOUGHTS: by Steve Race NOW and then we see references, usually in record reviews, to the "masses".

MUSICAL EXPRESS, FRIDAY, JULY 23, 1944 SPOTLIGHT ON: Michael Miles as the wicked B.B.C. personality for quick repairs.

I Cover The Continent Latest from our special correspondent DEN BERRY

LUXEMBOURG. EUROPE'S No. 1 man of orchestra of Phil Green, Jack Payne and Richard Pennington, who works as an announcer, as well as singing with the Dallimore band.

MUSICAL CROSSWORD PUZZLE ACROSS 2. Usually a drink, but a smoke to some musicians.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION DOWN 1. & 5 down. I've got you under my skin. 6. Trapper.

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