

THE WORLD'S BEST!

THE PETER MAURICE PIANO ACCORDION TUTOR

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MUSICIANS' UNION AGREES TO BALK SWAP

Hilda for Ciro's Allen for France

(Musical Express Staff Reporter)

FOLLOWING ON THE NEWS PRINTED LAST WEEK THAT THERE WAS EVERY POSSIBILITY THAT NAT ALLEN AFTER A SHORT PERIOD AT CIRO'S WOULD BE VISITING FRANCE IN PLACE OF BERNARD HILDA WHO WOULD BRING HIS BAND FROM THAT COUNTRY TO CIRO'S, WE NOW UNDERSTAND THAT THE MUSICIANS' UNION HAS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN APPROXIMATELY FOURTEEN YEARS SANCTIONED SUCH A MOVE. IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT THIS WILL BE THE FIRST OF MANY SUCH INTERCHANGES BETWEEN COUNTRIES IN THE HOPE OF PROMOTING NEW AND DIFFERENT TYPES OF MUSIC FROM EVERY COUNTRY. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT HAS BEEN ISSUED BY GENERAL SECRETARY HARDIE RATCLIFFE:—

"THE ARRANGEMENT UNDER WHICH, FOR A PERIOD OF TWELVE WEEKS, NAT ALLEN AND HIS BAND WILL GO TO THE CLUB DE CHAMPS ELYSEES IN PARIS, AND BERNARD HILDA'S BAND WILL COME TO CIRO'S IN LONDON HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE MUSICIANS' UNION.

"To preserve employment opportunities for British musicians, the Union has for many years had to insist that the Ministry of Labour should refuse permits for foreign bands and orchestras to perform here; but we have been trying to make arrangements with the unions of musicians in other countries, and with the Ministries involved, under which there could be properly controlled exchanges of bands.

"The visit of Allen's band to Paris, and of Hilda's band to London, is a fair arrangement. It was possible to relax the normal opposition to the entry into Britain of a foreign band because I was consulted at a very early stage. Not only the agent responsible for the bookings, but the French Musicians' Union, and the British Ministry of Labour recognised our interest in the matter."

Leslie Macdonnell whose untiring efforts for exchange of bands between both America, the Continent and England are well known to the profession, told Musical Express:—

"I have been working at this project for nearly a year and feel that with dance music, as with variety acts, there must be international transactions. It definitely helps to stimulate business. I feel that the exclusive clientele at Ciro's will find Bernard Hilda's presentations most refreshing. His band played at a New Year's Eve party at the International Sporting Club until 9 a.m. and many famous people were present at this function.

"Hilda's arrangements are unusual. For instance he has taken a medley of well known French songs and plays them all in samba rhythm. The cooperation all round has been excellent and I do feel that my original efforts have not gone unrewarded. I know that the Club de Champs Elysees will enjoy Nat Allen's music just as much as the patrons of Ciro's will like Hilda's."

Ciro's own aviation will transport both bands on January 16 to their respective destinations.

NEW MUSIC FOR FELDMAN CLUB COMMENCING next Sunday, January 9, a new musical aggregation of well-known instrumentalists will be the featured resident group at Feldman's Club every Sunday. The outfit will be led by Norman Burns on drums, Norman Steinfalt piano, Pete Chilver guitar, Johnny Dankworth alto, Tommy Poland vibes, Reg Arnold trumpet and Joe Muddell bass.

GERALDO for Sheffield and Nottingham

ON Thursday evening, January 6, at 7 p.m. Midlands promoter Arthur Kimbrell is presenting Geraldo and his Orchestra for a concert at the City Hall, Sheffield. The following night Geraldo will be playing for dancing at the Astoria Ballroom, Nottingham.

On Saturday, January 8, Kimbrell has no less than three star bands engaged for dancing: Teddy Foster and his Orchestra at the Conington Street Baths, Leicester; Vic Lewis and his Orchestra at the Clare Street Drill Hall, Northampton; and Oscar Rabin and his Band at the St. George's Ballroom, Hinkley. Oscar Rabin will follow his Hinkley engagement with a Sunday concert at the De Montfort Hall, Leicester, at 6.30 p.m.

MINISTRY TO CONSULT UNION FOR VISITING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS

FOLLOWING THE RECENT PROTEST MADE BY THE MUSICIANS' UNION ORCHESTRA TO THIS COUNTRY, OF THE BERLIN PHILHARMONIC REGARDING THE RECENT VISITWE HAVE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE M.U. HE SAYS:—

"Symphony orchestras visiting Britain from abroad may be under closer control in future. Such orchestras—unlike others, and the Ministry of Labour without any consultation with the Union. Following my protest about the arrangements under which the 'Christian Action' to undertake a tour for a 'pocket-money' allowance of 25 per week, the Minister of Labour (Mr. George Isaacs) agreed to meet me. The conference with the Minister, his Parliamentary Secretary and other Ministry officers, occurred on December 2, and we have since received—for the FIRST TIME—a clear undertaking that we will be consulted in future before any decision is made to issue a permit to a symphony orchestra.

"The profession here would like to know that, on Christmas Eve, I received a letter from the German Musicians' Union fully supporting my protest against the arrangements under which the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra were brought here to work for less than a third of the salaries that British musicians of comparable standard would have been paid."

FOSTER SIGNS AUSTRALIAN SONGSTRESS MARIE BENSON



THE DEATH OF FIRTH SHEPARD

IT IS WITH DEEP REGRET THAT THE profession heard this week of the death at the age of 57 of famous producer Firth Shepard. This well-known personality, who had produced some of London's greatest show hits, died last Tuesday after having been ill for some considerable time with heart trouble. He was, at the time of his death, in the middle of producing a new play—"The Human Touch."

ALTHOUGH SHE HAS ONLY BEEN IN ENGLAND FOR A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS, MARIE BENSON, THE YOUNG AUSTRALIAN VOCALIST, HAS SUCCEEDED IN THAT SHORT TIME IN CREATING A STAR IN MUSICAL CIRCLES. WORD OF HER SINGING ABILITY REACHED TEDDY FOSTER, AND COMMENCING THIS WEEK SHE HAS BEEN SIGNED AS FEATURED VOCALIST WITH HIS NEW STYLE ORCHESTRA.

As soon as she left school Marie commenced work in a club and gained experience in the style of singing featured by coloured artists. She also commenced piano lessons, and through this experience and hard work is now also an efficient pianist. When Jack Benny and Bob Hope toured the Australian some during the war, she was with the American Army Service Band in Australia and toured with these famous American artists. After three years with the services she sang with the McQuary Network and later over the A.B.C. Network

CELIA LIPTON INDISPOSED

CELIA LIPTON, who is booked for the leading lady's part in the forthcoming revival of "Lilac Time" at His Majesty's, has had another stroke of bad luck since her recovery from an operation for appendicitis. Ignoring the injunctions of her father and singing teacher to take it easy, she ventured out on her birthday—Christmas Day—and, to entertain guests dining in the Restaurant at Grosvenor House, sang solos with Sydney Lipton's Dance Band. Kenneth Horne, in the restaurant with a private party, also contributed to the unrehearsed cabaret with some "blue pencil" verses of "Much Binding."

THE FLAG

Dear Editor, I have just returned from spending Christmas in a Devonshire farmhouse—a very nice, too. During my stay, the only real entertainment was listening to the radio. This opportunity for day-long listening served but to emphasize the fact that several programmes would appear to be almost the sole monopoly of one big publisher to the ranks of the publishers, but I do feel that on the principle of "enough is as good as a feast," the situation is rapidly deteriorating into a one-sided Roman orgy. Sooner or later, these partisan artists and hand-pickers may have to learn that the shortest distance between two points is not always across the road. The numbers published by this firm are British and will continue to be so. I state emphatically and unblushingly that they compare with any American import. Now come on, Editor, and waive the Union Jack for us. Yours sincerely, BOSS PARKER, Magna Music Company.

GOLD SIGNS FOR TWENTY WEEKS

FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1938 THE WESTON-SUPER-MARE CORPORATION HAVE ENGAGED A RESIDENT BAND FOR A TWENTY WEEKS SEASONAL RESIDENCE. MR. ISAAC DAVIES, ENTERTAINMENTS DIRECTOR OF THE CORPORATION, TRAVELLED TO LONDON LAST SATURDAY TO SIGN THE CONTRACT AT THE OFFICES OF STAVE VARIETY AGENCY. THE BAND WHICH HAS STARTED THIS FIVE RESIDENT WINTER SEASON IS HARRY GOLD AND HIS PIECES OF EIGHT, AND THE ENGAGEMENT IS TO COMMENCE ON MAY 23 UNTIL OCTOBER 8.

Arrangements are being made for Gold to carry on with his broadcasting commitments during his stay at the Winter Gardens Pavilion, and they will play for dancing during the entire season.

This long-term contract is undoubtedly due to the great success Gold has had on his two one-night stands at Weston-super-Mare. Many visiting holidaymakers requested the return of this popular outfit, and the negotiations were commenced and completed satisfactorily by Bernard Rabin of Stave Varieties Agency.

Doreen Stephens' Dates

That excellent vocalist Doreen Stephens will again be heard broadcasting when she appears as guest vocalist with the Sid Dean band in a late-night dance music programme on December 12. She broadcast with this first-class band last Friday. Doreen will appear at the London Casino on January 16 for a Sunday concert.

BENSON BAND FLY TO EGYPT

IVY BENSON and her Band will fly to Egypt this Friday for the commencement of their long Middle East tour. Due to the fact that their original transportation plans had to be cancelled the War Office has spent £1,100 to charter the transport to carry them on the first stage of their journey. They leave London Airport at 8 a.m. and will stop overnight in Rome prior to travelling on to Egypt.

Readers will recall that Ivy was to return for dates prior to her Eutaw's engagement at Ely. However, due to alteration of the original plans, she has had to cancel several engagements before her appearance at Eutaw's in May. Latest addition to her band is Dorothy Burgess, trumpet-playing daughter of well-known trumpeter George Burgess.

NEW SERIES FOR BETTE ROBERTS & DICK JAMES

A NEW programme featuring Dick James and Bette Roberts will commence this Saturday, January 8, when the B.B.C. Revue Orchestra conducted by Frank Cantel. The show, produced by Alastair Scott-Johnson, will be called "Serenade For Two," and both the artists will introduce each other's songs.

In addition to singing, Dick James has written the signature tune for the show, and his latest recording for Decca will be released this month. Titles of the record are "You, You, You Are The One" and "I'd Rather Be Wrong Than Sorry."



Bette Roberts Dick James

CAMPBELL CONNELLY OFFER:

A TERRIFIC DOUBLE ORCHESTRATION TED SHAPIRO & KERMIT GOELL'S NEW WALTZ HIT

YOU BELONG TO SOMEONE ELSE COUPLED WITH JIMMY KENNEDY'S MISTLETOE KISS NATIONAL FAVOURITES SO TIRED UNDERNEATH THE ARCHES A HIT PARADE CERT. LITTLE GIRL NOW READY LESLIE BAKER'S BRILLIANT VIOLIN SOLOS BAKERS DOZEN RUSTLE OF STRINGS VIOLIN & PIANO 2 - EACH

CAMPBELL CONNELLY & CO. LTD. 16, Denmark St., London, W.C.2. TEL No. 1483

GOLD, RABIN AND DAVIES

(See Story in Columns 7 and 8)



Advertisement for 'Cuckoo! Cuckoo!' featuring a cartoon of a cuckoo bird and the text 'EVERYONE IS PLAYING THE CUCKOO WALTZ'. It lists orchestration options: DANCE 2/6, MILITARY 3/6, BRASS 2/6 and contact information for Keith Prowse & Co. Ltd., 41/43, Poland St., W.1. GER 9000.

MORE NEWS AND PICTURES ON P. 4









