

Melody Maker

INCORPORATING "RHYTHM"

LEWIS, STARDUSTERS, HEATH, HAYES FOR JAMBOREE

Full Details of Dance Music's 1947
"Command Performance"

TEN OF BRITAIN'S MOST FAMOUS DANCE BANDS, INCLUDING SOME EXCITING NEWLY FORMED COMBINATIONS, WILL APPEAR AT THE PROFESSION'S BIGGEST ANNUAL SHOW—THE 1947 JAZZ JAMBOREE—WHICH IS TO TAKE PLACE AT THE GAUMONT STATE THEATRE, KILBURN, LONDON, ON SUNDAY, APRIL 27.

Following the precedent successfully inaugurated last year, the mammoth show will commence at 12 noon (doors open 11.45 a.m.), and will again present the cream of Britain's bands in a magnificent setting.

We are able to announce this week the names of the first six bands who have accepted the much-prized invitation of the Musicians' Social and Benevolent Council, the promoters of this great show. In alphabetical order, they are:

- HARRY GOLD AND HIS PIECES OF EIGHT.
- HARRY HAYES AND HIS BAND.
- TED HEATH AND HIS MUSIC.
- VIC LEWIS AND HIS ORCHESTRA.
- THE SKYROCKETS DANCE ORCHESTRA.
- THE STARDUSTERS.

The two newcomers in this exciting list are Vic Lewis and his Orchestra, formed only a few months ago, and already going places as a modern, eminently musically band; and the co-operative Stardusters, who resigned, en bloc, from a London Palais in support of Union principles, and have since been making a big name for themselves.

TRINDER TO COMPERE

Both these bands well deserve the break which an appearance before 4,000 fans in the annual "Jazz Command Performance" will give them.

Of the other bands it is necessary to say no more than that they all represent the best in British dance music and will undoubtedly put on a terrific show.

Teddy Foster and his Band were to have played the Jamboree, but have had to cancel in view of their Italian tour (see col. 4).

Four more bands will complete the programme, and will be announced in a forthcoming issue.

Extra good news is contained in the fact that the programme will be compered by the one and only Tommy Trinder, whose genius at impromptu and knowledgeable wise-cracking has become an integral part of the Jamboree's attractions.

The magnificent Gaumont State Theatre, reputed to be the largest in Europe, has accommodation for 4,000 people, but it is certain that, as in previous years, the tickets will be snapped up in a few days, and we therefore advise our readers to apply AT ONCE if they want to stand a chance of gaining admission.

Prices of seats are as follows:
STALLS £2 (limited number only),
£1, 15s., 10s.
CIRCLE £1, 15s., 10s., 5s. (limited number only).

All applications for seats MUST be addressed to The Secretary, M.S.B.C. (Tickets), 116, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W.1, and accompanied by full remittance with small stamped addressed envelope. All that need be put on the application is:

NAME (in block capitals) ADDRESS
NUMBER OF SEATS STALLS OR
CIRCLE PRICE AMOUNT OF RE-
MITTANCE.

The theatre has been generously provided by Gaumont British, and as usual, the entire proceeds of the Jamboree are devoted to the relief of distress among professional musicians.

WINSTONE SETS THE CZECHS BOUNCING!

EIGHT THOUSAND people attended concert in Prague; have fixed peak-hour radio spot for Sunday... so cabled Eric Winstone from Czechoslovakia whilst in the midst of his Czech tour, playing eight concerts in ten days.

Sensational is the only word adequately to describe his reception in Central Europe, and as we close for press the band is due to board a special plane at Prague for the return journey on Wednesday morning.

The band immediately plunges into work at home, with a "Music While You Work" broadcast to-day (Thursday) from 3.30 to 4 p.m. (Light), followed by an evening dance for University College at the Seymour Hall.

On Friday they have an O.R.B.S. session and on Saturday a broadcast, again in the Light Programme, from 1.10 to 1.30 p.m., and a dance at Rochester Casino.

On Sunday (23rd) the band is due to appear at a National Sunday League concert at the Casino Theatre, London, then on to Leicester for the week at the Palace Theatre, commencing Monday (24th).

CROSSMAN JOINS WINNICK AT CIRO'S

FURTHER additions to the personnel which Maurice Winnick is building up for his Ciro's Club date, on March 31, confirm the appointment of talented "veteran" altoist Joe Crossman as sax lead. Tenor saxist Bill Griffiths is also among the projected team of reedmen.

On drums, Maurice is taking stylish Billy Wiltshire. Currently with Lew Stone at the Embassy Club, as is also Joe Crossman, Bill finishes there when Lew leaves the Embassy at the end of the month, and will step straight into Ciro's.

Bertie King Moving

A SWITCH involving changes in the front-line personnel of two of Britain's leading bands occurs with the news that first altoist Bill Povey has left Harry Roy's Astor Club band to concentrate on freelancing.

Meanwhile, the Roy office informs the MELODY MAKER that Harry has engaged top-flight altoist Bertie King, who joins him in a week or two.

Bertie is now touring with the famous Blue Rockets, whom he joined only six weeks ago. Until he returns to Town, his alto chair in the Roy Band is being held by Harry Hunter.

SILVESTER TAKING TO THE ROAD

BIG news breaks this week that at long last, and in response to overwhelming public demand, Victor Silvester and his Ballroom Orchestra are shortly to commence a series of out-of-town dance dates.

Victor's decision, coming as it does, at a time when the dance band business generally is somewhat in the doldrums, is of great importance, since it is more than likely that his appearance around the country will provide the spark necessary to re-ignite interest in "name" bands as ballroom attractions.

To cope with this extension of his activities, Victor Silvester is in process of forming a limited company—in conjunction with violinist Oscar Grasse and Joseph Vencchi, the owner of the Hungaria Restaurant—which will probably be called Silvester-Grasse Productions, Ltd., and which will handle all his bookings.

UNIQUE RECORD CONTRACT

For one-night stands Victor will use the "Strict Tempo" Orchestra which he will continue to feature weekly in the "BBC Dancing Club" series, with the addition of five violins, viola and four saxes for the larger halls.

The first date fixed for the band is on Wednesday next (23rd), when it will appear at the Pier Ballroom, Southsea, followed by a date for the Kingston Chamber of Trade at Bentall's Store, Kingston-on-Thames, on Wednesday, April 2.

Victor has recently signed a new and unique contract with Columbia, which is of five years' duration and calls for the guaranteed issue of three double-sided discs per month—two with the Ballroom Orchestra, and one with the augmented orchestra, which for recording purposes is known as Victor Silvester's "Strippers for Dancing."

Victor's is one of the bands chosen for the "Star" Dancing Championships at the Albert Hall on April 21.

TEDDY FOSTER AND BAND FOR ITALY-AUSTRIA

UNDERSTOOD to be the last big show scheduled to be sent to the troops in the Mediterranean area, Teddy Foster and his Orchestra, with a good supporting Variety bill, will be visiting Italy and Austria during April and May.

Taking his band overseas for the first time, and looking forward to the trip as something of a holiday after twelve months of one-night stands all over Great Britain, Teddy will carry 18 musicians and three vocalists.

Travelling overland, leaving London on April 9, the show will be away for seven weeks, opening in Italy and working round to Austria, covering an enormous distance, and endeavouring to bring down the curtain impressively on the series of excellent shows sent to the C.M.P. by ENSA and, latterly, C.S.E., who are, of course, responsible for this bumper finale.

Arranged by well-known agent Robert Luff, who has also fixed Teddy Foster to appear at a Sunday concert for N.S.L. at the London Casino on March 30, the show going to the troops will play mostly at theatres, doing a variety programme.

When Teddy returns from abroad he is considering making a music-hall tour, building a show around his own strong personality, leading, singing and playing trumpet. Until he leaves for Italy he is continuing his one-night stands and has a broadcast from 8.15 to 8 p.m. to-day (Thursday, March 20), when he is making a special feature of the work of his staff-arranger, Roland Shaw, and using Betty Kent, Dave Kidd and Jessie Nicki as vocalists.

"M.M." All-Britain Drum Winner's Big Break with Lewis

MAKING an enviable bound from semi-pro status to top-flight professional activity, percussionist Peter Coleman has now settled into the drum chair with the new Vic Lewis Orchestra. He replaces Reg Swain, who, for health reasons, is unfortunately compelled to abandon touring.

Peter was adjudged Britain's best semi-pro drummer when he appeared with Johnnie Stiles' Band at the Muzey Maze 1946 "All-Britain" Final at Blackpool last November.

Vic Lewis, enthusing on the newcomer's prowess, says: "Peter shows terrific promise. He should turn out to be one of the best drummers in the business."

Fans can hear Vic's orchestra with Peter Coleman at the peak-listening period of from 7.30 to 8.15 p.m. (Light) on Monday next (24th), when it is spotlighted in "Band Parade" opposite Jack Coles and his "Music Masters."

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Jerry Dawson's PROVINCIAL NEWS

BILL BOYES now playing drums with Bonelli at Belle Vue, Manchester, for the third time since 1937. . . Altoist Bruce Turner with Billy Kaye at the Corn Exchange Palais, Chelmsford. . . Bert Schofield playing piano with Tony Stuart at Manchester's Astoria, vice Eric Johnson. . . Percy Pease trumpet, Phil Moss, "tying the knot" on April 5. More later. . . Manchester trombonist Stan Worthington, of George Worthington's Harpurhey Baths band, rejoining Alan Green for the summer at Butlin's, Skeerness. . . Southport drummer, Dennis Rimmer, due out of the army this week. . . News from Southport is that Jack Briley is still at the Floral Hall, and Cambridge Hall, for the Corporation, Teddy Marks at the Casino, and Eddie Halliwell at the Queen's Hotel.

Most Wolverhampton leaders are now M.U. members, including Jack Burrows, Reg Bartlam, Mac Thomas, Styx Wilkinson, Jack Jones, Bunny Carless, Taylor Frame, and "Olde-Tymers" Harold Jones and Jack Matthews. Jack Burrows, of course, is local branch secretary. . . Four Preston students who have entered the promotion field with the title "The Four Aces" are doing good business in association with newly formed Al Shore's band. . . Jimmy Cunliffe, too, is busy in Preston leading his own dance band doubling assistant organist at the Emmanuel Parish Church. . . Ex-Eddie McGarry pianist Tommy Sanderson recently took over from Ken Green as M.D. at the Plaza Ballroom, Bury, leading a 7-piece. . . Recent Jam Session at the David Lewis Theatre, Liverpool, featured Alex. Boswell's trio with Ralph Greenfield on drums; Syd Levin's Jazzmen with tenor man Gene Cottrell and trombonist Benny Frank's outfit.

Brighton M.U. Benevolent Fund Dance at the Princes Ballroom on March 25 will feature the bands of Syd Dean, Les Hilsden, Howard Lee and Ken Lyon. Other local bands expected to appear. . . After 12 years Sammy Lambert, (tenor) left Syd Dean at Brighton to join Harold Sandler at the Grand Hotel, Sheffield. . . Altoist Dave Pearce joined Ken Neah at Manchester Plaza on Monday last. . . Arthur Lewis, trumpet with Jimmy Honeyman, at Victoria Ballroom, Nottingham, recently became a proud father. Fenelope—Penny for short—is the newcomer's name. . . Film Ball at King's Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, a huge success, with both Reg. Bassett's Band and Jimmy Moss's "Regionals" featured. Visitors included film star Michael Rennie, assisted by "Jane," of the "Daily Mirror," and noted organist, Stanley Tudor. . . Trombonists around the Warrington district should write to Jay Meadows, 34, Pickmere Street, Warrington, who is in a position to offer some good work. . . Newcastle drummer/saxophonist Jack Messerop completes an eighteen months' stay with Enrico Benanzi at the Grand Hotel, Folkestone, on April 14. Is open for offers from this date. . . Saxophones required for each of four bands, for the summer season, in Jersey. Interested parties should contact Johnny Stean at 7, Regency House, Osnaburgh Street, London, N.W.1.

THE Cameo Music Publishing Co., of 27, Denmark Street, W.C.2, ask us to state that they have no connection with the dance band engagement at a South Coast hotel announced in last week's "M.M." This is a personal venture by Eddy Rogers, who has now left the firm.

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One-night Stands, South.
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Empire, Kingston-on-Thames.
Henry HALL and Band.
New Theatre, Northampton.
Joe LOSS and Band.
Empire, Newcastle.
Fred MIFFIELD and Band.
Hippodrome, Wigan.
Wolf PHILLIPS and Band.
Pier Pavilion, Cleethorpes.
Oscar RABIN and Band.
Seaburn Hall, Sunderland.
Charles SHADWELL and Orchestra.
Empire, Croydon.
Anne SHELTON.
Hippodrome, Manchester.
SQUADRONAIRES.
Empire, Liverpool.
Eric WINSTONE and Band.
Palace, Leicester.

TRENTHAM GARDENS BALLROOM RE-OPENS

CLOSED to the public for the "duration," the magnificent ballroom at Trentham Gardens, near Stoke-on-Trent, will reopen for public dancing on Wednesday, April 2, when Midlands impresario Arthur Kimbrell will present Eric Winstone and his band, with Alan Kane and Julie Dawn, back this week from their tour of Czechoslovakia.

In support will be the resident band under the leadership of Norman Jones, who held the job when the premises were requisitioned.

The management's "name-band" policy will be continued with the appearance on Easter Monday (April 7) of the Blue Rockets, directed by Benny Daniels and presented by H. Newton Lane.

Swinfen's Air-Debut

FOLLOWING immediately after Lou Preager's "Saturday Night at the Palais" broadcast on Saturday next (22nd) from the Hammersmith Palais de Danse, the Palais' other resident band, Johnny Swinfen's Ambassadors, will take the air from 11 to 11.35 p.m.

Unfortunately for Johnny, this will only be taken on the BBC's Overseas Programme, but he hopes to have a "Home" date in the very near future.

AFTER 2½ years in a sanatorium, Bobby Richards, swell young ex-Rabin drummer-showman, is now recovered and back in the business. He taught himself arranging during his illness, and is now concentrating on that side of dance music. Welcome back and good luck, Bobby!

TRUMPET player Freddy Clayton wishes it to be known that his new telephone number is Fulham 2870.

CLAUDE THORNHILL BAND BREAKS UP

Red-hot New York News

CLAUDE THORNHILL has been forced to disband his 23-piece orchestra because of rising costs. He will organise a less costly band for the summer season.

Most of his old musicians are expected to return to the new band, but with a sizeable cut in salary.

The orchestra last had a date in New York in February, and since then has been playing a series of one-night stands in New England. The combination broke up on March 15.

Jack Teagarden has been barred from appearance at the Busie-Q Restaurant, Hollywood, by order of James Petrillo, president of the American Federation of Musicians, who claims that he owes 400 dollars (£100) to the union in travelling band taxes.

Teagarden's brother, Charlie, has taken over the band in Hollywood while Jack has returned to New York.

Ray Noble's Orchestra was banned from a broadcast in Mexico City by the Mexican authorities on March 16. Mexican unionist musicians, recalling Petrillo's ban on Mexican musicians in the United States, demanded a similar ban against U.S. musicians.—BARRIST UNITED PRESS.

New Regency Band

THE Regency niterie in Piccadilly is about to start a new dance band which will contain a host of prominent names. Opened recently at premises formerly occupied by "Au Bijou" Restaurant, the Regency is London's newest, lavishly decorated night spot.

Its music is currently provided by a dance band under the aegis of Howard Baker and led by bassist Bob Long; and by the Latin-American offerings of Roberto Inglez and his Orchestra from the Savoy Hotel, who double the Regency in the late evenings.

Starting next Monday (24th), the new dance band, replacing the Howard Baker unit, will be led by ex-Warstone trumpet-arranger Eric Siddons.

The band will include piano stylist and arranger Jimmy Henney; plus Chris Condon, Fred Datchelor, Bobby Deeks, Jack Fischer and Clarry Sampson (reeds); Laurie Morgan (clarinet); and more recently with Jack Jackson's Orchestra drums; and Arthur Watts (bass). Currently singing at the Regency is up-and-coming West End nightingale Barbara Lea.

The negotiations for musical arrangements at the Regency have been conducted by Alf Preager.

JAM FOR WEMBLEY

AT the Wembley Town Hall on Sunday, April 6, at 3 p.m., famous Feldman brothers Bob and Monty present the third in their current series of jam session concerts.

The bill of swing fare, which should satiate the appetite of the most avid fan, will comprise tasty offerings by Kathleen Stobart (tenor), Ronnie Chamberlain (alto), Jimmy Skidmore (tenor), Freddy Clayton (tpt.), Jack Bain (tmb.), Art Thompson (pno.), Pete Chilver (elec. g'tar.), Coleridge Goode (bass), and Carlo Kraemer (dms.).

Apart from the above, an added attraction will be the London debut of Britain's latest drum sensation, Ronnie Verrall, who is now playing with Claude Giddins' band at the Pavilion, Gillingham.

Kent in Devon

NOTED West End fiddle stylist Michael Kent is currently featured at the Imperial Hotel, Torquay, where his contract has recently been renewed for a long period.

With Michael are: Alf. Veej and Darryl Homier (altos); Vic Gatehouse (tenor); Bill Stacey (bass); Harry Green (piano); and Cliff Drinkwater (drums).

The band is due to air very shortly.

Ronnie Scott Joins Jackson

ALMOST immediately after leaving Ted Heath's Band, with which he was featured for some nine months, young tenor stylist Ronnie Scott has joined Jack Jackson's outfit at Churchills.

Here, in company with piano modernist Stanish Wavies, biggest guitar discovery of the times Pete Chilton, and Canadian bassist Jack Fallon, he is in the kind of environment in which he can take all the solos he wants, in true jazz style.

Ronnie Scott takes the place of Ray Smith who after a short rest, will be joining Frank Sherry's Trio at the Beachwood Roadhouse, Cleveleys, nr. Blackpool.

Returning to Churchills, a drum change is imminent, since Laurie Morgan is leaving this coming week-end to join the new band which is starting as the Regency niterie under Eric Siddons. Laurie's successor in the Churchills drum chair will be Tony Greenish, who is already distinguishing himself all over Town.

Jack Jackson, who leads the dance band and presents his own and Edmunds Bus outfits at Churchills, was unlucky enough to have his trumpet stolen last week-end.

Amstell Turns Bandleader

A MERGROSE artist, Billy Amstell, this year celebrating his 21st year in the business, blossomed out as a bandleader last week when he recorded a half-hour's programme for ORBS.

Neatly titled "The Amstell Way," the programme consisted of ten of Billy's own compositions, all exhibiting four-beat jazz in a two-beat style, which he advocates as the most exciting dance rhythm.

The band he used for the session comprised Les Wright (trumpet); Don Macaffer (trombone); Alfie Nafin (tenor); Malcolm Lockyer (piano); Alan Methuiffe (guitar); Norman Burns (drums); and Ronnie Peters (bass), with Billy himself leading on clarinet and tenor.

Billy is also in the news these days as a composer, for he has a series of his instrumental compositions published by Peter Maurice. In addition, he recently played the tenor sax part of Basel's "Bolero" with the London Symphony Orchestra at the Albert Hall.

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BAND SLUMP IN PARIS

(From Our Own Correspondent)

DUE entirely to the present economic situation, with its high taxation, particularly on champagne, many Paris cabarets are now closed, with a consequent high unemployment figure amongst musicians.

Until the situation improves, British musicians can forget any idea they may have of fixing up work in France, as the French Musicians' Union will advise its Ministry of Labour not to issue permits to foreign musicians.

However, as France is expecting several hundred thousand tourists this summer, who will have to be catered for, there is every possibility of the rule being relaxed in the near future, as once the cabarets reopen there will not be enough native musicians to go round.

FLASHES: Django Reinhardt, back from his U.S. tour, where he appeared with Duke Ellington, has opened with a 12-piece band at Boeuf sur le Toit in Paris.

Hot Club de France popularity poll produced the following result:—
Swing Section: (1) Duke Ellington; (2) Stan Kenton; (3) Woody Herman.
Sweet Section: (1) Duke Ellington; (2) Claude Thornhill; (3) Les Brown.
 The Bagatelle, Paris, now closed... no news available of Jack Harris, who was resident there.

Fifteen well-known French leaders have declared that they will not in future employ any musicians who work alongside foreign musicians during the present crisis. They will probably have to eat their words before the summer is over.

Hot Club to present a special "Nuit de Jazz" for the benefit of Latin Quarter students who cannot afford the high prices charged at night clubs and dance halls.

U.S. HIT PARADE

- ANNIVERSARY SONG (3-3-3)
- MANAGUA NICARAGUA (5-6-6)
- OH, BUT I DO (3-3-3-4-3-6-9)
- A GAL IN CALICO (5-1-2-3-3-3-3-5-4-7-8)
- FOR SENTIMENTAL REASONS (1-4-1-1-1-1-1-3-2-4-8)
- I'LL CLOSE MY EYES (3-3-6-10-0-8-10)
- GUILTY (4-9-10-9)
- ZIP-A-DEE DOO-DAH (6-7-4-2-3-4-5-4-5-9-7-9-9-0-10-9)
- HOW ARE THINGS IN GLOCCA MORRA?
- THE OLD LAMPLIGHTER (10-6-7-3-4-5-6-3-2-3-4-3-8)

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Tito Burns and his Sextet are captured among the vast returning of Britain's smaller municipalities. Burne Shy are G. Decker, Harold Moore (gtr.), Billy Katz (drum), Tony Lighter (saxophone), Davey Lane (sax), Peter Chilver (gtr.), Tito himself, and Jack Gardner (gtr.). *(Illustration from some local station by painter-organizer: Ernest Horton.)*

HITS AND PIECES by SAMMY QUAYER

SHEET sales dried again, even top-sellers winding up below average. "Stars Will Remember" now fighting it out with the leaders. Little change in (same book from last week except for "Rocky Roadstead Man," which bowed in, out, and in again, all within three weeks. Revival of Boonie Richards' "My My Souvenir" in Githorn's "Don't You of Our Love," likely to liver up some market. Hoop Carmichael features yesterday's million-copied in novel, and Oscar-Wilde there are being readied for early release. New World's Ray Berry just got himself hitched up to pretty Jover Street, of the Humphreys' Trio. Peckinpaw's path... Ray Street was first in Britain to introduce "Richard" to Paris dancers, and no arguments please!

Billy Cotton's Band a holla till at the Palladium. Any questions?—H. Sellers' lend an ear to "Linda," which kinda fetchin'... Ray Street, back from U.S.A. trip, observes that hatbox singers are the thing over there with Swesw Come the biggest of 'em all. It's being kind on "She'll Always be Sweet—Heart to Me" winning the Palace concert outright, and it only took the beat last Saturday. Cyril Nagelschla ark. a hit on Sunday concert. "Fishers" maestro changed his radio ideas past three months, and already paying dividends. Linda like Sherry Leen over a crust of god in "Goodnight, You Little Rascal You." PAT ON THE BACK DUDE.—To the Hoop. Reyle, Al Leslie and Phil Baker for some fast pitchin' on big ballad. "Sentimental Reasons".... The wise one, have already earmarked Leslie Douglas as a "second Billy Cotton." Reviewing a recent Ethel Stone disc, a Watt critic says: "The tune is pleasing, and, for a change, Miss Stone takes the hot points out of her mouth." That's why the're big over there. Tom artistes like Ethel can take it. With some of our top-time brothers and sisters could stand in to a rap or two!.... How are things in Glocca Morra?—There is to AFM most any night, and well! But not! Derek Roy tried a "Tempo" last Sunday. Oh no, no, no, Derek! Leave this type song to singers like Rowant Jones. Jan Wildeman's melodic Orchestral crew clicks for that "SWEET" (28th). **STUCK DIRT**—Auntie from Wassie Silvester's "Dancing Club" shows music is an "also ran" according to latest BBC listener's records for spotlighted in "Sunday Chronicle" (28th). Harry Roy's got the good market bag, and he's having a flutter. I have a few hand leathers who watch play so-called corny waltzes. Wonder whether these guys caught Bob Burman's treatment of "May I Call You Sweetheart?" on Worn Lynn's at palace last Sunday? It's the treatment, brothers, that's the treatment!

You, the men alike, for all the new stuff and get it'll be getting around in the best of these pretty soon. The Blue... "Stars Will Remember" in "Hardly Ready".... to the Hoop, Swesw for a real "Good Night" on "Good Night".... to George Stone for a "natural" performance on "Blue Hill" and some great cooperation on "Remember" (Disc) programme. For program committee go out to Lee "Swesw, who's better passed away. The... (28th), still in weeks after the death of its mother.

Britain's Top Tunes
 (No statistical record)

LAST WEEK'S NUMBER 1	Waltz	White
THIS WEEK'S NUMBER 1	Classical	Classical
NUMBER 2	Classical	Classical
NUMBER 3	Classical	Classical
NUMBER 4	Classical	Classical
NUMBER 5	Classical	Classical

Records

Edgar Jackson's Reviews

THE recent "emergency" fortnight's suspension of the "M.M." and continued reduction of the paper ration have caused this column to get somewhat behind hand, and I still have even some January records with which to deal.

To catch up, the reviews will have to be pretty sketchy for the next few weeks. But here goes to make a start with the January releases:

LIONEL HAMPTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA
 "Air Mail Special (Pts. I and II)" (Goodman, Mundy, Christian) (Am. Decca 73232/4).
 (Brunswick 03763—4s. 10/d.)
 Hampton (vibes), with J. Griffin, R. Platter (alto); E. Kynard, A. Cobbs (trns.); G. Fowlkes (bar.); J. Morris, E. Page, W. Gully, J. Nottingham, L. Weight (pts.); J. Wormick, W. Woods, A. Penn, A. Hayes (tnbs.); Milton Buckner (pno.); William Mackell (gtr.); Charles Harris, T. Slesnar (basses); George Jenkins (dm.). Recorded January 30, 1946.

THIS band's idea of swing seems to be a sequence of wild solos badly imposed on a background of ill-conceived and worse-played riffs.

The only parts of either side worth a good word are Hampton's vibraphone contributions.

The rest sounds like a bunch of over-excited exhibitionistic pile-drivers blowing their tops off in a hopeless attempt to show how fast and furious a band can be.

And just in case you think I've merely taken a cue from G. Rhodes in last week's "Letters," may I add that I said exactly the same thing when reviewing this Hampton horror last February for the March "Gramophone"?

ELLA FITZGERALD with RANDY BROOKS AND HIS ORCHESTRA
 "Sunny's Coming Home on Saturday (Roberts, Fisher) (Am. Decca 73021). (Recorded August 29, 1946.)"
 "A Kiss Goodnight (Black, Victor, Herman) (Am. Decca 73020). (Recorded August 29, 1946.)"
 (Brunswick 03761—4s. 10/d.)

ELLA has been a top-liner for over ten years now, having first sprung into fame with the old Chick Webb org. even before she took over the fronting of it after Chick died in 1933.

Time has done nothing to dim her lustre, and even in these two quite ordinary songs she proves that she is still in front rank of contemporary American coloured (and white) ferm. vocalists.

But equally responsible for the success of these two records is the accompaniment provided by Randy Brooks's Orchestra—a white combination which, as you probably know, has lately been acclaimed as one of America's best swing bands.

It has a grand attack which lends point to its zwoovy, riding drive and flair for florid colour.

Among its notable soloists is Brooks himself, whose trumpet is the feature of the first chorus of "Home on Saturday," and again after Ella's first chorus in "Kiss."

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Songsmiths

THE first meeting in London last week of the British Songwriters' Protective Association was successful enough to suggest that at last the "backroom boys" of the song world are to get proper representation.

The aims and objects of the Association are to champion the cause of the professional men who write the hits that help to make bands and vocalists famous, publishers wealthy and the public happy.

Last week's meeting produced two "boogies"—the inevitable BBC and the Arthur Rank film organisation, which was severely and rightly chastised for having its songs for "London Town" written by American tunesmiths out of touch with British requirements.

One angle, however, was not discussed and that is the attitude of the British music publisher to home-grown songs.

British songs have been hits, but how many more might have been hits had the publishers given them the same exploitation as they do to the big U.S. numbers? And how many good British songs are languishing on the publishers' shelves, frozen out by the expensive American catalogues to which some of our publishers are committed?

These are pertinent questions which the new Association cannot ignore, if it is to place British songwriters firmly on the map.

As we believe the Association to be worthy and deserving of all our support, we break tradition by using this editorial column to give it a blatant "plug." Membership is open to all professional British songwriters who are Associate or Permanent members of the F.R.S. The membership fee is 15s. 6d., and should be sent to the Honorary Treasurer, Irwin Dash, 17, Berners Street, W.1.

Enough to fill a book, did I say? Easily! His first book is just out, aptly entitled "The Musical Dilemma." At a bob on the bookstalls it covers music from Rachmaninoff to bebop.

ESSENCE

"YOU can call me a musical mis- sionary," said Joe Jeannotte, with the Irishman's unflinching gift for the right phrase and in the Dublin accent that 29 years' residence in this country has not dulled.

Joe has never been content merely to discover a fact and keep it to himself—and the facts that he has discovered about music during his 12 years with Ambrose, his five with Carroll Gibbons, his six months with Billy Munn just recently at the Orchid Room, and his periods of freelanceing, would fill a book.



Joe Jeannotte, Musician, student, editor.

For 29 years, he boasts, he has not read a novel—and redeems a statement that is usually indicative of an empty mind by adding that he has read pretty well every musical book and periodical published in English.

He has done more than read about music. He has studied from the inside almost every aspect of it. From choirboy to chormaster, from bandsman with drumsticks, to the Dublin Fusiliers (with whom he served in the ranks in World War I), to studying clarinet under Charles Draper at Kneller Hall, from West End dance music to playing classical and chamber music meantime, he has run the gamut of musical experience and learning from Goodman to Goossens and from Spike Hughes to Spike Jones.

Enough to fill a book, did I say? Easily! His first book is just out, aptly entitled "The Musical Dilemma." At a bob on the bookstalls it covers music from Rachmaninoff to bebop.

Musically, it is absorbing; journalistically a triumph. From its lighter side, I quote with appreciation the following: "A fan club is a group of folk who tell a performer he's not alone in the way he feels about himself."—Woody Herman.

DWARFED by the mighty pipe organ in the cloistered Victorian atmosphere of Ealing Town Hall last Thursday night, Tito Burns and his Sextet gave forth somewhat incongruously with a concert offering that really rode in arrangements that enabled a dance band, for once, to justify its claim to produce "a new noise."

Whether you like accordions or not, you cannot deny that Tito genuinely swings this one. The recent "Accordions Club" series proved his ability as composer and arranger, and he now shares the latter responsibility with Bernie Fenlon, the ex-Rabin pianist, who has taken the place of Jack Gordon in the Sextet. Add to these the original compositions and technical ability of guitarist Pete Chilver—one of the most important newcomers to the profession in years—and you have some idea of the potentialities of this unusual and always interesting combination.

The Sextet is completed by Bernie Myers (rhythm guitar); Billy Ball (bass); Yomy Lytton (drums) with Danny Levin (violin). Danny is very much O.K. on his instrument, and it is no reflection on him when I say that I found myself deciding that I would have preferred a clarinet or tenor sax in his place in the outfit.

The Sextet's vocals were taken by Dorothy Brent. The additional vocals by the Harry Roy drummer Ray Ellington were a surprise packet (resulting upon Tito's spotting him among the pathetically poor attendance), and a very pleasant one, too.

In a very different vein from Tito's, the accordion playing of guest star Emilio was outstanding in this accordian concert organised by the British Association of Accordionists.

Incidentally, I'm glad to report that Charles Chilton is expecting to commence the second edition of Tito's "Accordions Club" on April 24.

AND whilst I'm on the subject of accordions, I might as well go the whole hog and report the fact that I braved the elements last Friday night to go along to the Albert Hall to hear the first performance in England by Fistiouari of Pietro Deiro's Accordion Concerto No. 1 in E Minor, with Toralf Tollefsen as soloist.

Judging this purely musically, my immediate reactions were, first, that this Concerto was unlikely to cause any vast repercussions in straight musical circles, and secondly, that this performance was unlikely to further the cause of the accordion as an accepted orchestral instrument. Even in the vast but sparsely populated Albert Hall, it was well-nigh impossible to hear the instrument save in solo passages, and then not always as fully as one would have liked.

Of Tollefsen's technical ability, there is, of course, no question. He looks, and is, a master of his instrument.



Mr. Ralph S. Peer, head of Southern Music, came over to London from the States last week on the start of a world tour of the Southern offices, and held a cocktail party at Claridge's for members of the profession. This cheery "M.M." picture, taken during the evening, shows (right to left): Dave Toff (General Manager of Southern Music in London); Mrs. Geraldo; Mr. Peer; Mrs. Peer; Geraldo and Mrs. Toff.



Vic Lewis and his Orchestra, with nightingale Helen Mack, snapped by the "M.M." in a BBC Studio after their recent successful broadcast. They will be seen at the Jazz Jamboree on April 27, and they can be heard again on Monday next (24th) at 7.30 p.m. in "Band Parade." Vic has made a big capture this week in Peter Coleman, who comes in drums. Peter was adjudged Britain's best semi-pro drummer when he appeared with Johnnie Stiles' Band at the "M.M." All-Britain last November (see story on page one).

Letters to the Editor

AT about 12.8 a.m. this morning, N.Y. time, 7.8 p.m. your time, I switched on to short wave to listen to a few foreign broadcasts, when lo and behold! I heard the announcer call the Radio Revellers before the mike. I listened for the entire length of their delightful programme.

I am prompted to say that not only was it pleasant, entertaining and clever, but that the arrangements of the numbers were superb. My honest opinion is that these four boys make a grand team, and far above some of the so-called stars we have on the air in the States.

Bronx, 55, New York. SOL COWAN. PAT BRAND is quite right in suggesting that "Jazz Club" will stem some of the complaints regarding BBC jazz, but the operative word here is "some."

"Jazz Club" is an excellent programme, but there is still no programme featuring genuine New Orleans jazz. Why cannot the BBC bring back "Radio Rhythm Club" better still, why do they not engage George Webb's Dixielanders for a few live N.O. jazz sessions? BRIAN GLADWELL. Staines, Middlesex.

Stan Kenton's, as well as the King Cole Trio, Peggy Lee, Sam Donahue, Andy Russell, Ella Mae Morse, Jo Stafford just to mention the vocalising of Capitol President Johnny Mercer and guest edition Benny Goodman.

Let's hope some British company will get busy, and come to an agreement with Capitol, and give us something new, especially Kenton, King Cole and Mercer. Wednesday, Staffs. S. MILLER.

I FEEL it is my duty to pen this my first letter to you. In view of the present difficult times, when everyone is in such short supply, may I suggest that Mr. Strachey supports the music market instead of importing American corn, by buying from Billy Cotton.

In his Friday night airing, he turned out enough corn to feed the whole of Europe for a month. Incidentally, Billy, you will have to watch your tenor and trumpet playing. Spike Jones is sure to be after you. STAN DAVIS.

Worsley, nr. Manchester. I WOULD like strongly to protest against the BBC allowing dance music to be so foully abused by such impotent and amateurish musicians, as those who broadcast in the "M.M." Wonders! I think it disgraceful that the long-suffering British public should be forced to listen to music produced in this manner.

I realise that factories are doing no work, and also that the situation is a "playtime," but what about cut programmes, must they be cut on us? The Parade, Margate. M. RYAN.

U.S. News Survey

by Marjorie Lewis

THE sensational Joe Mooney Quartet continues to rock at Dixon's here in New York City, now aided and abetted by a new attraction in the persons of the Herman (piano) Chiffon Trio.

Another hot accordionist has popped up, too. Name of Ernie Filice, and he plays the thing like a tenor sax and looks like competition for Joe!

Speaking of tenor-saxists reminds me that veteran Bud Freeman, along with Joe Bushkin and Herbert Ward, opened at Rio de Janeiro's super-smart Copacabana late in February. Johnny de Vries went along to write lyrics to the show with pianist Bushkin.

Harry James plans to reorganise his band after vacationing for more than two months, much of it spent training and clocking his horse at Santa Anita. Marion Morgan will handle vocalist chores again.

Charlie Barnet is trying to arrange his plans so that he can leave for Europe this Spring. He'd like to tour each country, organising a group of native musicians as he goes.

CHATTER

by Chris Hayes

STAN SMITH, whose rhythm section at the Ilkley Moor Hotel, Ilkley, now consists of Jack Newstead on piano, Freddie White on bass and Mike Adams on drums, wants three old pets to write to him: drummer Pete Diplock and tenor saxophonists Vic Galahouse and Bill Maxon. Regular visitor to the Ilkley Moor Hotel, by the way, is radio jazz-expert, Dennis Ward.

Stewart Williams, editor of "Jazz Information," who used to be secretary of the Cardiff Rhythm Club, has had a tough time for several months in a sanatorium, but now writes me a bright letter from 2, Caeraru Park Crescent. Cardiff, to say he has recovered and is shortly forming a Hot Club of Wales, with headquarters in Cardiff. Good luck, man!

Donning a top hat and swining his clarinet like a walking-stick, supple saxist, Jimi Easton does a tidy tap-dance on the stage with Charles Shadwell, playing some choice phrases on his slender woodwind, as he clipety-clipu around. Quite a Fred Astaire on the q-t. Very much enjoyed his first contribution to Charlie's delightful music mélange.

Regards to some old friends at home come from London drummer, Harry Hecker, who has been in Cape Town for 16 years. Harry was with guitarist Joe Young and violinist Joe Burns at the Waldorf Palais, Glasgow, where he also knew our former Technical Editor, famous drummer Dan Ingman. Harry, who also mentions Mickey Lewis and Lew Davis, says he and Teddy Foster "started off together in 1927."

Losing trumpeter Frank Potter and violinist Harry Martell, Jimmy Luff, bandleader at Hotel Ryde Castle, I. of W., has secured trumpeter-violinist Dick Ramsden and guitarist-vocalist Reg Davies. In Germany, saw dance band, stationed at their ATS singer, Rita Matthews, who is now vocalist and general manager for London bandleader Teddy Wallace, and sent her a gold watch to arrive on February 23, her 23rd birthday. ...

Best wishes to Dave Mitchell, second trumpeter with Le Ayling at the Empress Ballroom, Dundee, who married Miss Dorothy Morris, at Dundee Registry Office, last month. Lead-altoist-clarinetist, Jack Bankes, c/o Mrs. Greenacre, 173, Lemington Avenue, Wood Green, N.22 (Bowes Park 5453), is available for any band going overseas.

Most ambitious brochure ever circulated by a semi-pro band-provider is surely the lavish twelve-page affair emanating from triple "M.M." Lawrence, who'll be glad to supply a copy to anyone writing him at 16, Ruskin Court, Winkmore Hill, N.21. On glossy cream paper, you can read the whole story of Billy Lawrence's Orchestras, with excellent photos and sketches.

"O.K., go ahead if you think the Union will agree."

CLASSICS from the CLUBS

HERE are some good old titles chosen from the O's, some numbers going right back to the year dot, but still as fresh as ever: Oh Johnny G Oh Peter Eb Oh Yes Sweet Thing C Old Fashioned Love F Old Man Harlem G Old Man River E On The Sunny Side Of The Street C Oah That Kiss C Organ Grinder's Swing G Orig. Dixieland One Step Eb-Ab Ostrich Walk Eb-Ab Our Love G Out Of Nowhere G Out Of Space F PERSONAL CHOICE—Vic Lewis, young veteran bandleader and Dixieland stylist, chooses "Ostrich Walk."

KENTON IS TOPS

Etta Jones, a wonderful young blues singer, is setting her first big break by appearing with the J. G. Heard outfit at Loew's State Theatre.

Reports that June Christy will leave Stan Kenton were proved false when June made this statement: "The only way I'll ever be out of the Kenton band is for Stan to throw me out! June is to marry Bobby Cooper, who has played tenor with the band for nearly two years."

Vic Lewis is back with the band, and it is in great shape. Stan plans to release one record a month, consisting of a hot jazz side backed by a strictly commercial side. He thinks that this will please everybody.

With his main rival, Woody Herman, out of the picture and through with the road, Kenton has emerged as the biggest band attraction in the world today. He refutes the columnist and radio jocks who constantly peddle the line of chatter that jazz is dead. Kenton's sidemen are the highest paid in the profession. So are his singers. He has recently added a vocal group, The Pastels—five young singers. Pete Roguski is handling the arranging chores.

U.S. News Survey

by Marjorie Lewis

Gal singers currently appearing in New York are as follows: Doris Day has opened at the new Little Club, Kitty Kallen is at the Copacabana, Maxine Sullivan has been holding forth at the Village Vanguard, Billie Holiday is still at the Downbeat, Mildred Bailey is at the Blue Angel, and Ella Fitzgerald is on the Paramount stage. Kitty Kallen is slated to take Ella Logan's place in the smash musical, "Finian's Rainbow."

Sidney Bechet, James P. Johnson, Pops Foster and three blues singers were featured at a midnight concert at Town Hall on March 1.

Gerald Wilson's band, featuring singer Mabel Scott, has replaced Louis Jordan at Billy Berg's. Louis is heading for the stage of the New York Paramount. He has recovered from his stalling.

Buddy Rich, who disbanded to tour with Norman Granz unit, will reorganise his band in May.

Count Basie is now recording for Victor. Such famous sidemen as Jimmy Rushing, Jo Jones, Walter Page and Freddie Greene are still with the Count.

Charlie Shavers has organised his own six-piece unit since leaving T. Dorsey.

Just off on a flying visit to the States is Dorsey Henry, rated by many as Britain's finest tenor jazz singer, though her visits to the mike for Basie, J.J. Jaz Society and Jazz Club and with Billy Munn have been all too rare.

Carlo Kraemer

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Peter Maurice FOUR IN ONE HOT CLUB NUMBERS ALREADY ISSUED INCLUDE: NOT SO QUIET PLEASE TOMMY DORSEY SPECIAL DRUMS AWAY FIRST JUMP AT THE FAT MAN'S OPUS ONE SWANEE RIVER HEY! SA-SA-RE BOP AIR MAIL SPECIAL CEMENT MIXER SKYLINER WELL, GIT IT LOOSE LID SPECIAL SWING HIGH THE ORIGINAL SWINGIN' ON NOTHING GET ON THE MAILING LIST. The PETER MAURICE MUSIC Co. Ltd., 21, Denmark St., W.C.2.

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S.E. London and Derbyshire Contests

Continued curtailment of our paper ration still makes it temporarily impossible to give more than the barest details of contests. But this is not preventing the season from going ahead with notable success. True, the bad weather made the attendance at Derby last Wednesday week (12th) below expectations, and only four of the six bands entered were able to make the date. But with an at any rate temporary improvement in travelling conditions in the South, the South-East London Championship at Peckham the previous night (11th) enjoyed a near-capacity gathering of just on 600. The eight bands entered all duly appeared, and their keen fight in a generally high-standard contest, together with the fine show put up by Cyril Green and his Band as "house" combo, provided an evening that went with a swing in all senses of the word. Full results of both events are given on this page. All who would like judges' reports on the performances of the winning bands can obtain them by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Contests Director, MELODY MAKER, 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.2.

A somewhat unexpected feature of this season's contests is the few bands which have taken advantage of the new rule which allows a rumba or other South American dance to be substituted for the waltz. Only at Ipswich did any band attempt a rumba; and the two which did so—Steve Stephenson and his Rhythm (the runners-up) and Arthur Williamson's Band—tackled this Latin-American idiom with quite outstanding success. Competing bands will be pleased to learn that they are no longer required to give clothing coupons for winning band Banners. These are now made from coupon-free material. First of quite a few contests it is hoped to present on Sundays before seated audiences will take place at Liverpool on April 20. For further details see Fixtures List.

SOUTH-EAST LONDON CHAMPIONSHIP—Co-operative House, Peckham, March 11. Adjudicators: Les Evans, Harry Hayes, Vic Lewis, E. O. Pogson, Bob Roberts. Winners: LEW ROBINSON AND HIS BAND (two saxes, trumpet, piano, drums), 59, Peak Hill, Sydenham, London, S.E.26. (Phone: Syd. 4588.) Individualists' awards for: Tenor (Maurice Jenkins); Piano (Reginald Hoskins). Hon. mention for Alto (Jimmy Collins). Second: NEW EMBASSY DANCE BAND (three saxes, two trumpets, piano, bass, drums). All coms.: Cecil Harley, 73, Sandringham Road, New Barking, Essex (Phone: Grangewood 2366.) Individualists' awards for: Alto (Tony Arsoff); Trumpet (Norman Holliday). Third: STAN FRY AND HIS BAND (four saxes, two trumpets, trombone, piano, guitar, bass, drums, conductor), 55, Grenville Gardens, Woodford Green, Essex. (Phone: Buc. 0850.) Individualists' awards for: Trombone (George

Hawke); Guitar (Harry Vanner); Bass (Bill Samuels); Drums (Frank Reede). Sidney Scarlet and Tommy Lovegrove, of Denny Boyce and his Band, were given hon. mention for trumpet and vocals respectively. DERBYSHIRE CHAMPIONSHIP.—The King's Hall, Derby, March 12. Adjudicators: Harry Hayes, Jerry Dawson. Winners: LEN NASH AND HIS BAND (sax, trumpet, piano, guitar, bass, drums), 5, South Broadway Street, Burton-on-Trent. Individualists' awards for: Trumpet (Les Coates); Sax (Ben Silk); Guitar (Joe Fearn); Bass (Len Nash). Second: MAYFAIR SWINGTETTE (sax, piano, bass, drums). All coms.: Les Daykin, 32, Northwood Street, Stapleford, Notts. (Phone: Nottingham 44940.) Individualists' awards for: Piano (Dennis Watkinson); Drums (Les Daykin). Hon. mention for Bass (Allan Baker). Third: GRAHAM DALLEY AND HIS BAND (five saxes, two trumpets, piano, guitar, bass, drums). All coms.: Ken Gordon, 83, Gillhurst Road, Harborne, Birmingham 17. (Phone: Bearwood 2060.) Individualist's award for Alto (Dennis Howes).

CONTEST FIXTURES

LONDON AREA TOTTENHAM.—Monday, March 31 (7 to 11 p.m.), at the Royal Dance Hall, High Road, N.17.—The 1947 North London Championship. Entry list full. Organisers: The MELODY MAKER Greater London Area Contest Organisers' Committee. All coms.: The Area Secretary (Lyn Morgan), 50, King's Gardens, West End Lane, London, N.W.6. (Phone: Maids Vale 3030.) CATFORD.—Wednesday, April 2 (7.30 to 11.30 p.m.), at the Lewisham Town Hall, S.E.6.—The 1947 North-West Kent Championship. Organisers: The MELODY MAKER Greater London Area Contest Organisers' Committee. All coms.: The Area Secretary (Ed. Waller), 154, South Norwood Hill, S.E.25. (Phone: Livingstone 1587.) WATFORD.—Thursday, April 24 (7.30 to midnight), at the Town Hall.—The 1947 Hertfordshire Championship. Organisers: As for Tottenham. (See above.) PROVINCES LINCOLN.—Wednesday next, March 26 (7.30 p.m. to midnight), at the Drill Hall.—The 1947 Lincolnshire Championship. Organiser: Mrs. Len Marshall, "Arcadia," 1a, Hallam Grove, Western Avenue, Lincoln. (Phone: Lincoln 8362.) OXFORD.—Tuesday, April 15 (8 p.m. to 1 a.m.), at the Town Hall.—The 1947 Oxfordshire Championship. Organiser: Mr. Stanley Moulson, 22, Glanville Road, Oxford. (Phone: Oxford 77640.) NORTHAMPTON.—Thursday, April 17 (7.30 p.m. to midnight), at Franklin's Gardens.—The 1947 Northamptonshire Championship. Organisers: Musicians' Union (Northampton Branch) (Secretary: Mr. Art Lewis), 21, Stimpson Avenue, Northampton. LEEDS.—Friday, April 18 (7.30 p.m. to midnight), at the Astoria Ballroom, Roundhay Road.—The 1947 Central Yorkshire Championship. Organiser: Mr. Lewis Buckley, 28, Carr Lane, Birkdale, Southport, Lancs. (Phone: Ainsdale 78238.) LIVERPOOL.—Sunday, April 20 (2 to 5 p.m.), at the Philharmonic Hall, before a seated audience.—The 1947 Lancashire Coast Championship. Organiser: Mr. Lewis Buckley. (See Leeds, above.) ROCHDALE.—Friday, April 25 (7.30 to 11.30 p.m.), at the Carlton Ballroom.—The 1947 Central Lancashire Championship. Organiser: Mr. Lewis Buckley. (See Leeds, above.) NOTTINGHAM.—Friday, May 2 (7 p.m. to 12.30 a.m.), at the Greyfriars' Hall.—The 1947 Nottinghamshire Championship. Organiser: Mr. Arthur Kimbrell, 38, Rugby Road, Hinckley, Leics. (Phone: Hinckley 562.) HIGH WYCOMBE (Bucks).—Friday, May 2 (7.30 p.m. to 12.30 a.m.), at the Town Hall.—The 1947 Buckinghamshire Championship. Organiser: Mr. Eric Wakefield, 87, Chapel Lane, Sands, High Wycombe, Bucks. (Phone: High Wycombe 66.) YORK.—Sunday, May 4 (7 to 10 p.m.), at the Klatto Cinema, before a seated audience.—The 1947 Yorkshire North Riding Championship. Organiser: Mr. Lewis Buckley. (See Leeds, above.) BOLTON.—Tuesday, May 6 (7 p.m. to midnight), at the Palais de Danse.—The 1947 East Lancashire Championship. Organiser: Mr. Lewis Buckley. (See Leeds, above.) STOKES-ON-TRENT.—Thursday, May 8 (7.30 p.m. to midnight), at the King's Hall.—The 1947 "Potteries" Championship. Organiser: Mr. Arthur Kimbrell. (See Nottingham, above.)

All Set for Yorks 3-Band Week

ON Monday next (24th), as already reported in these columns, the "Three Musketeers"—Billy Munn, Jimmy Leach and Cyril Stapleton—with their respective organisations, make their wholesale onslaught on the Yorkshire swing fans. They are commencing the hectic week's tour which will culminate in the grand three-band Sunday Concert at Harrogate on the 30th, when Yorkshire's "Golden Voice of Radio" will be selected from those successful in the local competitions. As piano-star Johnny Douglas leaves the Stapleton Band on Saturday (22nd) to concentrate on arranging, the piano chair for the tour will be occupied by Doncaster-born Bernie Fenton, famous Oscar Rabin pianist-arranger, while drummer Norman Burns will also take over for the week's tour. When the Stapleton Band returns to Fischer's—where the "Stardusters" are deputising for the week—Malcolm Lockyer, who is currently with Ambrose at Ciro's Club, will occupy the piano chair.

BANDS WANTED 6d. per word

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