

EXTRA SPECIAL WASHINGTON WHIRLIGIG

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1947

Accordions Times and

No. 62

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use a cup! MOTTIFICHE! TRUMPET, STRAIGHT HORN, TUBA, EUPHONIUM, etc. S. P. KITCHEN, Ltd.

MICKEY ROONEY APPEARING HERE HERRY HALL DISBANING NAT ALLEN'S BIG XMAS SHOW RAY ELLINGTON AT PALLADIUM HEAR HALL AT PALLADIUM MICKEY ROONEY TO OPEN NAT ALLEN'S AT PALLADIUM JAN 5th XMAS SHOW

HERRY HALL has given his complete band notice after touring the halls for many years and presenting his popular 'Herry Hall Guss Night' programmes. Hall has said that he intends to reorganise and build a new type of act when he has found the right ideas. In spite of the fact that he proposes to reorganise Hall's act, he has said that he will be appearing in the act over the winter. He has a statement of his complete touring list which he knows touring bands as Joe Low, Billy Cotton, Sid Milward, Dr. Crock and many others who continue to tour approximately fifty-five weeks out of the year and, according to all reports do capacity business.

Special Plane For Health Musicians

LAST week Ted Heath and his orchestra were the first British National Band to leave for a tour of the United States. As readers are aware this week the Heath band is expected to be in London for two weeks. For this reason it is expected that the Heath band will be in London for a period of two weeks. The Heath band is expected to be in London for a period of two weeks. The Heath band is expected to be in London for a period of two weeks.

Crowd Yells for More at Finians' Rainbow

To cries of 'Why is it being taken off?' Finians' Rainbow took to a packed house when it closed on Friday night. The band was taken to a packed house when it closed on Friday night. The band was taken to a packed house when it closed on Friday night.

BLUE ROCKETS AT CARDIFF

The Blue Rockets return to London next week when they top the bill at the Bristol Jazz Club. The Blue Rockets return to London next week when they top the bill at the Bristol Jazz Club.

JACK COLES ON AIR DEC. 15

Jack Coles' Music Masters again broadcasting on December 15 at 10.15 p.m. in the Home Service. Coles has just returned from his tour of the United States.

SMOKE THE SMOKE SMOKE

SMOKE THE SMOKE SMOKE (A.H. Mervin Parada) AND MIMMIE SWINSTONE TO HANDLE EL MARIOS

APPLE BLOSSOM WEDDING

IT'S HERE! THE NEW PARAMOUNT SINGAPORE MOUTHPIECE

IT'S HERE!

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It has been rumoured in London that famous film star Mickey Rooney is to appear in a variety show very shortly. 'Musical Express' now advises its readers that a cable from Hollywood informs us that Rooney will be at the bill at the London Palladium commencing January 5. Rooney has just completed 'Summer Holiday' for Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer. This is a musical version of Eugene O'Neill's 'Ah Wilderness', and is directed by Bronson Marmorino, who directed the stage production of 'Oklahoma'.

RAY ELLINGTON'S SUCCESSFUL DEBUT

LAST Sunday's concert at the Palladium given by the Ted Heath Orchestra was well up to their average high standard. The band played many of their standard numbers and the evening was well received. The concert was the premiere of 'Pat's Waltz', which the orchestra had just recorded. The recording under Ted Heath's direction was a success.

CHANGES IN D'AMATO LINE-UP

Chappie D'Amato has announced this week that he will be making two changes in the line-up of his band at Hammersmith. Don Shiner has been playing bass with him for many years but is leaving and will be replaced by Tiny Wynn. Also leaving the band is the tenor saxophone player, Bert Roberts who will be free to take the time of going to press details are not yet available as to who will be taking their place when he arrives on December 20. Several of D'Amato's musicians have appeared frequently in Jazz Club broadcasts, including Dave Pinner, Bobby McFie, and Bill Griffiths. This Saturday for the first time Lawrence Rossi, violinist, will also appear on the programme.

LATE EXTRA ROY FOY OPENS AT FOTOMAC

News reaches us as we go to press that Roy Foy will open at the Potomac next Tuesday, with an eight-piece band and himself as a resident vocalist. Engagement negotiated by Kim Elliott director.

SONG PELLARS IN BAND BOX

This interestingly popular quartet the Song Pellars will broadcast in the first of its series on December 28. The Song Pellars have also been featured in a variety of programmes for export to America under the name of the 'Four Aces'.

STWISTONE TO HANDLE EL MARIOS

By arrangement with El Marios' manager, the services of Eric Swinstone Office will be handled by Stwistone. El Marios' Ladies Rumba Band for the first time in the Home Service. Coles has just returned from his tour of the United States.

Templeman Televises

Beryl Templeman will be her first television show on December 12, at 8.30.15 p.m. Her new material has been written by Roy Parker and will know as 'Beryl's Race' will accompany her.

TENOR STOLEN

Any musician being offered a brand new Conn tenor saxophone No. 2155 should be wary. Frank King immediately at 64, St. James' Street, London, W.C.2. Telephone 336666. This instrument was stolen from his car at Victoria last week.



Mickey Rooney - Musician

AMERICAN VIOLINIST MAKES LONDON DEBUT

John Creighton Murray, young American violinist, made his debut in London at the Wigmore Hall on Wednesday, December 17, at 7 p.m. Among his programmes were the first time in London the new work by the American composer, 'The Violin Concerto' by Joseph Wagner. Murray has recently been playing with great success in the Continent and on December 21 he will return to Holland by special invitation to appear at a memorial concert for the late Dr. J. J. van Amerongen. He has been one of the finest violinists in America. He represents one of the finest violinists in America. He represents one of the finest violinists in America.

COPENHAGEN JUMPS

'Musical Express' Special Report on Copenhagen putting up a wonderful show at the Rex Stewart band. With Ken Hodge on trumpet, Vernon Murray on sax, Don Kaye, piano, Ted Currier on drums, and Bill Griffiths on bass. The band will appear in the Home Service on December 15 at 10.15 p.m. in the Home Service.

Starita Wants Lady Musicians for Middle East

Rudy Starita who is reforming his big band will first tour the Middle East. He is still in need of several girls who will be required to play in the band. He is still in need of several girls who will be required to play in the band.

CAB KAYE AT DRYBURY

Cab Kaye popular drummer will appear at Drybury on December 15 at 10.15 p.m. in the Home Service. Kaye will appear at Drybury on December 15 at 10.15 p.m. in the Home Service.

ANOTHER BROADCAST FOR TEMPLE

Nat Temple will again be on television on December 15 at 8.30.15 p.m. His new material has been written by Roy Parker and will know as 'Beryl's Race' will accompany her.

Barrietau at Casimo Rochester

Oning to an error we omitted to mention that Barrietau and Doro will be appearing at Casimo Rochester on December 15 at 10.15 p.m. in the Home Service.

ON Christmas Day Nat Allen and his band which he will be giving fifteen for the occasion, will be on television at 11.15 p.m. immediately after H.M. The King's Christmas Speech. The programme which lasts for forty-five minutes will feature the Allen Band and also four vocalists. These will be Alan Khan, Brian, Ken Crossland, and Anderson and also two specialty dancers. This programme which was Allen's own idea is mainly for the entertainment of rounded shoulders of the Strand. It will be broadcast from the Strand and will be televised direct from there.

BENSON PUTS BAND IN AT MARGATE

FOR the first time in twenty-five years there will be a change of policy at the Margate when Ivy Benson presents a seven piece ladies light orchestra. The outfit will consist of four musicians and will remain there for a period of four months. Ivy Benson presents a seven piece ladies light orchestra. The outfit will consist of four musicians and will remain there for a period of four months.

GERALDO BREAKS ALL RECORDS AT BRISTOL

WHEN Geraldo appeared with his Danes Orchestra at Bristol last Sunday he broke all records. The house was completely sold out prior to opening the doors and so great was the demand for tickets that the Danes Orchestra was unable to return to the Embassy Theatre in February. We understand from Geraldo that the Danes Orchestra was unable to return to the Embassy Theatre in February. We understand from Geraldo that the Danes Orchestra was unable to return to the Embassy Theatre in February.

Big Band Policy at Cricklewood

Jack Fallon of the J.H. Theatricals has very much to say about last Thursday they are looking for a new band. The J.H. Theatricals has very much to say about last Thursday they are looking for a new band.

Carrol Levy is Hear

Readers will be sorry to hear that Carrol Levy for American dancers of radio presentation. He was unable to leave for America last week due to a nervous breakdown. We take this opportunity of wishing him a speedy recovery.

FLUSH BRACING

Everyone is now awaiting the arrival in Scandinavia of the Danes Orchestra and Doro will be appearing at Casimo Rochester on December 15 at 10.15 p.m. in the Home Service.

Cecil Gee

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THE VOICE

THE LESSON OF HENRY HALL This week a lesson is to be learned, not from a newcomer, but from an old-timer. A hand is to be split up. Not a fiasco, but a very successful band. The orchestra is that of Henry Hall.

THE REAL WISDOM One reason given by Henry Hall is logical and quite understandable. He says he will take his first real holiday in twenty-five years. Nobody will grudge him that. Henry Hall has earned this vacation.

THE LONG VIEW This statement fully explains the long view taken by Henry Hall. It is obvious that he does not agree with a bandleader resting on his laurels. He sees that Henry Hall must remain Henry Hall.

THE RIGHT PRINCIPLE Whether or not Henry Hall will strike upon a revolutionary new form of presentation does not concern me here. Whether or not he manages to form a new band better than his old is also of little consequence.

THE SPECTRE AGAIN At this point I lay myself wide open to censure on the point that the disbandment of the Hall band will contribute to the ranks of the unemployed.



By Lee Conway

HARRY GOLD and his Pieces of Eight returned the other week to Band Parade. I have now discovered a slogan for him. "Gold Knocks 'em Cold!"

BOUQUET this week to the announcer for the Carroll Gibbons-Roberto Ingles outside broadcast. There is no easier style, greater charm or microphone command in British radio.

WHILE on the Savoy broadcast, Bobby Young's vibrato makes him sound very much off-note at times. The Savoy's "red-headed Caruso" (as I have heard him called) must watch this, for he is an artistic singer who means what he sings.

WHY do Rhumba bands play popular foxtrots? Are there not sufficient characteristic South American numbers to form a complete repertoire? Pops played by Rhumba bands always sound similar to a dance orchestra playing a Rhumba-style number for which they resort to the additional percussive sounds of claves and maracas.

SORRY to say the orchestra in last week's Navy Mixture was dragging unmercifully. It was noticeable in several spots. I must also say that Joy Nichols sang that very descriptive number "I Like a Mystery" much too slow.

IT is my unfortunate duty to tell my readers a bit of bad news this week. Peter York's "Sweet Serenade" programme on Sundays is to be discontinued. The brilliant Peter York and his equally brilliant orchestra will make their last radio appearance on December 21.

HAS the B.B.C. gone Commercial? After hearing the recording of the Bob Hope broadcast to America I am entitled to ask this question. Our office got word from Ralph Moffatt of A.F.N. Munich that the giant new transmitter now erected over there and just put into use was primarily designed to give Continental listeners a better reception, but that it might possibly affect listening in England.

THE Press Department of the B.B.C. had already told our office that the B.B.C. had nothing to do with the Hope Commercial. So when they were suddenly able to broadcast a recording of it at the last minute, I became very interested.

UNFORTUNATELY I got home the other night rather late, and only just in time to tune in the Pathfinders' Ball on the very last number. But I heard Edward Baker's Orchestra playing a few bars in the most commendable manner.

TROUBLE ON LUCKY STRIKE 'HIT PARADE' Elman is back with Dorsey



Helen Forrest and her husband... yes, that's a "deck of bicycles" they're using.

THERE'S been trouble on the "Lucky Strike" "Hit Parade." Everybody knew that when Frank Sinatra took over a month or two back this traditionally fast-paced programme would receive a considerable slow-down in presentation tempo, and those who were beginning to tire of the old formula looked forward to something new from Misters Sinatra and Stordahl.

PACING it more or less like his former C.B.S. "Songs by Sinatra" programme, Frank certainly changed the "Hit Parade." But after a few weeks of the new set-up, the programme's sponsors announced that they were not satisfied and that their show would have to return to the way in which it was presented when Mr. Sinatra was last a member of its cast.

BEFORE passing on Sinatra, here's a little anecdote that was missed by many of the pressmen and shows why The Voice rates such respect from fans and artists alike. Forced out of his theatre job for three days due to an attack of laryngitis, he returned and not only worked six shows a day but gave all the members of his supporting cast a day off because they had worked doubly hard pinching him during his absence.

I LEARN that G.A.C. are planning a British tour for the Frankie Carle band next spring. This, I am informed, would probably be for two months and would tie-up with the opening in this country of Carle's own music publishing company. How true this is I cannot say for the moment. I have had many reports like this before concerning other outfits, all of which have never come off.

ZIGGY ELMAN is back with Tommy Dorsey. The band is currently on tour at the moment, and will visit over a hundred thousand dollars.

Charlie Shavers and singers Stuart Foster and the Polka. This little family vocal outfit was formerly known as the Town Criers, one of the best harmony groups in the States.

As soon as her baby arrives, Dinah Shore will resume active life with the already announced radio series with Harry James and a featured part in the new Universal International picture, "One Touch of Venus."

TRANSATLANTIC by Stuart S. Allen

reason I could never find out, was banned from the A.F.N. airwaves early in the war when it first came out.

LATEST news on the race to amass recording backlogs before December 31, now only three weeks hence, is that Dave Rose has announced that he will have waxed 110 tunes in a period of eight weeks which began early in November.

LAST week Woody Herman and his new vocalist Jeri Ney both natives of Milwaukee, received twin keys to the city by the Mayor on the occasion of the Herman Herd's first date there since its reorganization a couple of months ago.

CAN YOU TOP THIS? THE tag name stunts raised by the publicity boys in the States never fail to cause a laugh, and I have had the pleasure of reprinting several in this column in the past twelve months for your amusement.

Vaughn Monroe, often referred to by the wags as Vaughn Moonrock, is currently being announced over the radio as "Vaughn Monroe—The Man with Muscles in His Voice!"

THIS week's picture, rushed to me from America, shows Helen Forrest and her new husband Paul Holahan relaxing on the living room floor of their new Californian home.

dred thousand dollars... Deal Arnes reports that he is now fifteen pounds lighter than when he began his extensive theatre and ballroom tour at the conclusion of the last Bob Hope series. Eldest sister Lucy Ann, who left to sing with Kay Kyser, is now back again and is also featured as a soloist for T.D.

M.B.S. broadcaster Jimmy "Foggy" who has a "Hollywood News" programme on that network, just announced that the results of his listener poll to discover the "Most Popular Man, Woman or Child in America during 1947." Interesting ratings compiled from an extensive ten week poll consist of: (1) Bing Crosby. (2) Jackie Robinson, first baseman in the Brooklyn Dodgers. (3) Frank Sinatra. The Rev. Edward Flanagan of Boys' Town fame came fifth.

TENOR saxist Arnett Cobb's new batch of records for Apollo, which will have grown to fifty before December 31, were reproduced by using a new "High Fidelity" microphone designed to catch all the undertones and overtones lost by the normal recording mike.

She has already received several offers and these are being sorted so that she will not be committed to sing at any function on the same night as her Hollywood Campbell Soup "Club 15" broadcasts. On the college dates she would be backed by the local student bands, with possibly a little added assistance from a professional accompanist.

What a pity we can't hear it over the B.B.C. this year—I do get so tired of that Irving Berlin opus... Dick Haymes' "So Would I" recording is one of the best he's done lately. Stan Kenton has announced that he will cut out playing for dancing completely some time next year.

THIS week's picture, rushed to me from America, shows Helen Forrest and her new husband Paul Holahan relaxing on the living room floor of their new Californian home. Married last Sunday, Helen, 27, is busy recording for M.G.M. while Paul, 26, is making a film at Eagle-Lion Studios. Both have been married once before.



J OHNNY DENNIS doing a completely commercial show at a West End Club, and packing 'em in! Now it's a strange thing that most band leaders playing clubs, will tell you that their clientele won't stand for corn.

"WHEN YOU WERE SWEET SIXTEEN." Whoever got it, if they "spot" it, this could be the top of the Xmas Tree.

THE THREE SCAMPS. Here's a new act that I'm tipping for hitting the big-time. With novel ideas and novelty songs, these boys are DIFFERENT. I hope that in a short while I'll be able to say: "I Told You So."

SONGWRITERS GUIDE TO PUBLISHERS. (No. 2). Jimmy Phillips of The Peter Maurice Music Co. (Mainly British). Fairly tall, broad, with a bland expression. Genial, and when you can get in to see him—a very good listener.

FROM what I hear, Sam Browne's "London Recordings" are super. The juke boxes will soon be jingling to the merry, merry pipes of Sam!

READER'S QUIP. I may be wrong, but it seems absurd to have a "Director of the Spoken Word" (A. L. WATSON, Palmers Green.)

JUSTIFIED. Bill Cotton's quick return date on Band Parade.

THIS WEEK'S QUOTATION. Andrew Fletcher of Saltoun, 1655. To the Dairy Politicians. "I knew a very wise man so much of Sir Chr—'s sentiment that he believe... if a man were permitted to make all the ballads, he need not care who should make the laws of a nation."

IT'S DISAPPOINTED. The Yale Company are now plugging American!

MY THANKS to George and Bert Bernard for their message.

I'm very surprised that the B.B.C. Censorship Department passed the gag cracked in UP THE POLE Nov. 30 regarding Turner Layton and Hutch. Personally I think it was very bad taste for a radio show. It's doubtful jokes like this that spoil an otherwise good programme.

Barely heard such an ovation as was given to Steed and Brodie on "Music Hall"—these Scots have got something!

HANDS ACROSS THE SEA. Georgia Gibbs singing "More Than You Know." This gal's got something to talk about; she really pours her heart out!

X MARKS THE SPOT. The Excelsior, Charing Cross

TEN BEST SELLERS

- The following list of TEN BEST-SELLERS, irrespective of price, for week ending December 4, 1947, has been compiled from lists supplied by the members of the WHOLESALE MUSIC DISTRIBUTORS' ASSOCIATION in London and the Provinces. 1. Apple Blossom Wedding (1/-. Campbell Connolly).

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Talking about Music

musicians are brought into contact with orchestral music... The strings were not all off-handers, although the woodwind section was most efficient...

MALCOM RAYMENT

Verdi songs, has a good voice, which is capable of doing much, but his performance... I have criticised it by a fair measure of the standards...

Publications Reviewed: BENJAMIN BRITTEN and FRANZ REIZENSTEIN

'BENJAMIN BRITTEN'S "The Dunes" is a high voice (soprano or tenor) and piano to typical of the composer's recent work... Franz Reizenstein's "Three Concert Pieces" for solo and piano...



"Well no... the money isn't very much, but then we do get a free view of the match!"

Carz JAZZ STAY

Written in the March 1944... I taste - always backward by comparison with musicians' magazine... "Hot Jazz" I tried to read in Italy for the French...

Edited By DENIS PRESTON

It must be remembered, however, that there is no more than ten or twelve years at most! The second school therefore...

By C. HILDING BERGQUEST

CORNELL SMELTZER, of the Montreal Swing Trio, was known professionally, was born in Dodgeville, Wisconsin... He is now on Crown Hill in Los Angeles...

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The Dinky Donkey Polka
The Old Oak Chest
All of Me
Marilyn
Sella By Starlight
I Have But One Heart
Give Me The Simple Life
The Old Music Master
Say What You Mean
This Side of Heaven
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South America Take It Away (R)
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Jamba Royal
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KISCH AND SATISFYING RACHMANINOV

On Sunday afternoon (December 7) at the Albert Hall Alastair Roylton Kisch conducted the London Symphony Orchestra in a programme of popular favourites of which the most interesting item was Ivo Elinson's performance of Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto. Radio and film between them have made Rachmaninov's Second the best known of all concertos with the possible exception of the Tchaikovsky B Flat Minor, and popularity has brought with it a conventional interpretation. To concert audiences in this country that interpretation is essentially romantic and the work moves in a turbulent, magical, elusive but desirable world whose appeal is primarily escapist. It was in this mood that Mr. Kisch presented the piece on Sunday at Mr. Elinson's confident mastery of the solo part was finely balanced against the orchestra in a performance that was beautiful and deeply satisfying. Yet one is led to wonder if the neurotic state of mind in which the concerto was composed is to be lost permanently to concertgoers. Mr. Elinson's performance, like that of most of his contemporaries reflected the mood of the nineteen forties rather than the Rachmaninov of 1901. Any performer who could recapture that particular fragment of musical history today would bring a refreshing originality to a work that is very nearly hackneyed.

To turn from Rachmaninov to Dvorak's New World Symphony is to step into a crowded sunlit village street after the dreams of an afternoon sleep. Mr. Kisch (whose work has made so much interesting progress since I first heard him in Athens in 1945) gave a sensitive and highly competent performance which was at its best in the lyrical passages of the slow movement. From the third movement he

DISC JOCKEY TO FEATURE FAMOUS BANDS IN NEW M-G-M FILM SERIES



Martin Block, famous American "platter spinner" at work in his studio, where he broadcasts daily to millions of listeners from coast to coast. Block recently signed a contract with M.G.M. where he is to be starred in a series of short subjects to be known as Martin Block's "Musical Merry-go-Round." Each of the series will feature a famous band and guest star.

extracted great gaiety and elation but the pace he set in the last movement was possibly a little hot for some people's liking. Miss Eida Ribetti sang Leila's Cavatina from Bizet's Pearl Fishers with sweetness and purity. On the other hand her interpretation of the Mad Scene from Lucia di Lammermoor lacked something in spirit and her voice, though delightful in its purity, was no match in strength for the unkind vastness of a half-filled Albert Hall. WOODTHORPE HARRISON.

POSTBAG

To The Editor. Dear Sir.—Having just read your leader column "The Voice," "Musical Express" issue 5/12/47, I feel that I must write in full agreement.

How many times have we all heard our fellow musicians ask the same question as asked in "The Voice"—quote—"What can we do to obtain the perfection of the American Bands?"

Some blame the lack of enthusiasm on the part of musicians. Some the environment of working conditions. Some blame the B.B.C. for not encouraging a higher standard of performance of bands in general, &c. But I think the true answer lies in the statement later on in your article that "we have the instrumentalists and arrangers in greater quantity than the Bandleaders or Conductors in the class of Kenton, Goodman, Dorsey Brothers and the rest."

To me this is one of the most frank statements I have read in any musical paper for a long time. I would ask your readers to stop and think for one moment. How many Bandleaders have we in this country who can claim to be thorough musicians? One could count them on both hands. But how many Bandleaders have we who just do not know what they want but, possessing a "good business head," commence to exploit the brains of their employees to carry them through and then are quite satisfied (?) to draw anything from at least five times the salary of their musicians?

Look at the number of really top-rate musicians in this country who would be capable of forming and leading bands of the calibre of the Americans, but what chance have they? The question is, how long is this state of affairs to exist, and how many more times have we to read of "Oscars" going out to bands of lesser musical integrity? Yours sincerely ERIC JUPP.

New Piano Concerto is Disappointing

By "M.E." Critic, MALCOLM RAYMENT

Dohnanyi's Second Piano Concerto, completed this year, received its first performance in England on Sunday December 7 at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, when it was played by the composer and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Sir Thomas Beecham. In style it is a cross between Liszt and Rachmaninov, but in content it lacks the distinction of either. Much of it is dull and only on brief occasions is there any sign of individuality; indeed it is difficult to see how any composer who writes in an idiom seventy years out of date can have much originality. Like so many modern works, it will probably be heard once or perhaps twice and then sink into obscurity; but on this occasion there is little cause for regret. Have ever two composers of the same nationality and period contrasted in every way more than Dohnanyi and Bartok?

The rest of the concert was devoted to an unknown Haydn Symphony (No. 40 in F) and Schubert's C Major Symphony. The Haydn is a delightful work, not so extended as the later symphonies but still mature, showing the composer's fine craftsmanship. An unusual feature is that it consists of only three movements, the minuet and trio being dispensed with. It is to be hoped that more of these miniature symphonic masterpieces will be rescued from obscurity.

Of the performances it is necessary to say little. It has been stated elsewhere that the Royal Philharmonic is among the finest orchestras in the world. Sunday's concert gave no reason to doubt it. One can only marvel at Sir Thomas's achievement in building up such an orchestra in so short a time.

BOYD NEEL AT CHELSEA By Malcolm Rayment

There was a good audience at Chelsea Town Hall on Monday December 8 to hear the concert given by the Boyd Neel Orchestra. The first work to be played was Handel's Concerto Grosso Op. VI No. 3. Handicapped considerably by the lack of a harpsichord, the performance was competent but dull. In Bach's Third Brandenburg Concerto there was more vitality, but it was not until the third work—Bartok's "Divertimento"—that the orchestra gave evidence of being the great team that it is. They played the first two movements of this work better than I have ever heard them played before, but in the third and last movement they got off on the wrong foot and were never really happy afterwards. There is one place in the slow movement that should be given attention. It is in the sixth bar where the violas take over the theme from the second violins. Although marked p against pp in all the other instruments, I have never yet heard the violas come through sufficiently to be audible without visual recourse to the score.

Before leaving this work I must refer to the extraordinary statement in the programme notes which reads as follows:—"The great wealth of culture and tradition, which might well be dominated by a lesser composer, was entirely subordinated to Bartok's own individuality." After the interval Max Gilbert with the Orchestra played a Concerto for Viola and Strings arranged by Gordon Bryan from some of Scarlatti's harpsichord Sonatas. The results were, alas, unrecognisable as Scarlatti. The fault, I feel sure, lay not with the orchestra, but in the selection of pieces by the arranger. Suitable amendments were made by a brilliant performance of Elgar's "Introduction and Allegro." One final comment (surely) with two paragraphs for Viola and Strings in the programme demanding a continuous part, it would have been worth-while to engage an extra player.

Accordions Times Edited by J. J. BLACK

young David Sharp, a lad not very much larger than his instrument, who played Adieu, Adieu, Tango by Schumacher; and specially dancer Winifred, who presented "A Hunting We Will Go"; and "Masks and Faces."

In a few words before the conclusion of the programme, Romani referred to the difficulty of finding sufficient time for study and practice. He said that the programme chosen was rather ambitious, and if the performances had not been perfect, it should be remembered that the way upwards is always hard. He thanked the visitors for coming, and looked forward to seeing them again at the next concert in the series.

A COUPLE of weeks ago I mentioned that a well-known teacher had written to say he thought the future of the accordion movement lies along the path of "popular music." He did not think it would be an easy matter to "convert" British people to "classic" accordion work.

I am still waiting for the champions of serious music applied to the accordion to put pen to paper and send their views. One of the arguments for the classics is the concert reported above which, as I said, was attended by an enthusiastic audience. So, too, was the British College of Accordionists concert which I reported last week. But I should still like to receive the views of other teachers and players. Meanwhile, to keep the discussion flowing, here is an expression of opinion from C. C. Holmes, Manager of the Woodpeckers Accordion Band, which incorporates the Woodpeckers Dance Swingtette, of Staines.

and listen' on some of the recognised concert numbers. "If more accordion club members would get their two 'plates of meat' on terra-firma, and get cracking on the class of stuff the public want, we should soon see the accordion come to the front in the musical instrument world.

"The 'proof of the pudding is in the eating,' and we should be pleased to welcome any of your readers at our public engagements. Our line up is: 140-bass, 3-coupler instrument, 140-bass, 8-coupler instrument, Piano, Trumpet, Drums, each instrument amplified separately."

MY RADIO DIARY (From Page 2)

must hear more of the Baker Orchestra before opening my big mouth, but what I heard was a most agreeable surprise. If they always play like this we must have more of them.

JAZZ IN ITALY (From Page 3)

Ferrante, one of the most able vibraphone players. These are the best-known names in Italian jazz—but how many young players are now working in obscurity it is hard to say. The struggle for existence, the sheer difficulty of earning their daily bread, ties them to the unpublicised and unsatisfactory jobs. But sooner or later the big cities will open up for them also. The provinces of Venice, Emilia and Puglia especially seem to be nurseries for these youngsters, raised on a diet of foreign radio transmissions and gramophone records, but who, nevertheless, are even more enthusiastic and zealous than the men who preceded them and showed them the way! (Translated by Paul and Elisabeth Gotch).

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