Dusty Fletcher, comedian, fatally stricken in NY

NEW YORK — Dusty (Open the Door) Fletcher, veteran comedian, died at Harlem hospital at 7:40 a.m., Tuesday morning, March 16.

Fletcher, who had not been working since appearing with Duke Ellington on the Apollo theatre stage two weeks ago, suffered a stroke Sunday in his room at the Theresa Hotel. He had been living in the hotel several years.

He was rushed to the hospital, and, according to reports, never came out of the coma.

The veteran comedian, 54, was born in Des Moines, Ia. He was in show business 32 years, playing night clubs, burlesque houses and theaters.

Fletcher reached the pinnacle of his career in 1947, when a recording of his "Open the Door, Richard" routine became a best seller.

Overnight, he shot from a $75 a week performer to more than $1,500 for an act he had been presenting for many years.

"Open the Door, Richard" routine resulted in a law suit filed by John (Spider Bruce) Mason, a former partner.

Bruce claimed that he originated the act and a bitter feud developed out of Fletcher's success. About two years ago, the two comedians apparently resolved their differences and were once again friends.

Never Married

As far as is known, Fletcher never married. His survivors include a brother, George Fletcher of Des Moines, and a sister.

The "Open the Door, Richard" routine saw Fletcher wearing a battered top hat, oversized shoes and a tattered pair of tails.

Fletcher portrayed a drunk arriving home without his key. Unsuccessful in rousing his roommate Richard, he brought howls from the audience as he attempted to climb into the house with the use of a ladder.

One of the punch lines in his act was "I drank so much in somebody's health that I have ruined my own."

DUSTY FLETCHER

'Sugar Chile' tops

"Sugar Chile" Robinson, diminutive virtuoso of the piano, was voted one of the top child stars in the entertainment world in the recently completed Milky Way Gold Star awards, it was announced by the conductors of the survey.

"OPEN THE DOOR RICHARD" —Gates of eternity swung open for this well known entertainer, this Tuesday, when he died in Harlem Hospital. New York funeral is being held March 19, with burial taking place in his home town, Des Moines, Iowa.

Moments Musical

By ADAH K. JENKINS

By ADAH K. JENKINS

A warmly - appreciative audience greeted the sixth concert in the annual series sponsored by The Program Committee of Coppin State Teachers College and the Young Musicians Series.

Hitherto, the concerts have been held in the auditorium of the college but Friday's event was staged at the Baltimore Museum of Art.

Preceding the recital Dr. Miles Conner, president of Coppin, gave a brief resume of this joint musical project.

One Concert Open

He stated that in the series, which is planned for the faculty and students, one concert is open to parents and friends.

Dr. Conner introduced Mrs. Charles Wood Collier, founder and director of the Young Musicians Series.

In giving an outline of the purposes of the series, Mrs. Collier said one of the chief aims was "to get young people on speaking terms with great music presented by the best young musicians of our time."

She announced also that Theresa Green, noted Baltimore soprano, will sing here May 14 for the benefit of concerts in the local schools, during the 1954-55 Young Musicians Series.

Artists for the Friday concert were the Harpsichord Trio and Betty Allen, mezzo-soprano.

The trio, consisting of violin, flute and harpsichord, played with polished co-ordination. There was an air of elegance and charm to the entire concert, combined with the background of excellent musicianship.

The cheerful, forthright Haydn is "Presto" (very rapid) was well contrasted with the velvet richness of an "Adagio" (very slow) and the courtly dignity of the "Allegro" (lively) by Jean Baptista Lilly.

A "Bagatelle" from a modern Czech composer contained much rhythmic interest. "Interlude," with its Spanish flavor, seemed not too well-defined in its form, but the trio performed it with excellent taste that did not oversentimentalize.

Give Program Notations

One of the joys of the Young Musicians concerts is the custom of program notations given by the artists. Gabriel Hanar, violinist; the flutist, Samuel Baron and Claude Chaisson did their parts nobly.

Mr. Chaisson, who is a manufacturer as well as an excellent player of the harpsichord, demonstrated the mechanism and various tone qualities of this intriguing instrument.

The particular model, which is the 17th one he has made, bears the pet name of "Sophie."

The soloist played several themes on the harpsichord and then on the piano, to illustrate the difference between these two keyboard instruments.

Although the harpsichord is associated with early composers, who wrote for it, it has exciting possibilities in modern music.

Mr. Chaisson's agile fingering did amazing things on the two keyboards (like the manuals of an organ) in variations on a French carol of the 11th century.

Has Rare Gifts

Betty Allen proved to be a young artist of rare gifts, not the least of which were charm and beauty.

She has a queenly bearing, and yet a girlish simplicity that completely won her audience.

Her voice - mezzo - soprano combines the luscious quality of the contralto with the bright color of a soprano.

Miss Allen projects her tones with easy control. She is rapidly developing also the difficult art of creating by her voice alone the atmosphere of her songs.

Before her solo numbers, she made the amusing comment that the role of mezzo-soprano in opera is often an ungrateful one.

She said "they are usually cast as old women, ladies of dubious reputation or as young boys."

In the area of the mother from DeBussy's "L'Enfant prodigue" (The Prodigal Son), the soloist portrayed the role with managing to touch dramatic intensity.

Her interpretation of the young lover in an aria from "The Marriage of Figaro" was Mozart himself, beautifully phrased.

Warmth And Vigor

There was warmth and vigor, also, which are something lacking in renditions of music from the classic period.

The cantata, "Woods and Fields" by Teleman (a contemporary of Bach) did not seem to be a work of great depth.

Scored for flute, harpsichord and voice, it presented an opportunity for a "delightful excusion into pure melody."

Claude Chaisson ably accompanied the singer on the harpsichord and also on the piano in the modern numbers. On the latter instrument his touch was rather over powering at times.

The first of three concerts sponsored by the Chamber Music Society of Baltimore, with the opening recital on Thursday, March 25 at 8:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Baltimore Museum of Art.

The American University String Quartet will perform works by Mozart, Schubert, Anton von Webern and Hector Villa-Lobos.

Gladys Davis, organist, and Moore L. Carson, baritone, will be featured in the first of a series of "Music Devotion Hours" at 6 p.m. Sunday, April 25 at Grace Presbyterian church.

AT MET — Terry Moore joins the crew of the "Argit" to wish Robert Wagner happy hunting in his first underwater dive to the deep recesses of the ocean bed for a rich sponge haul in Twentieth Century-Fox's third CinemaScope production in Technicolor, "Beneath the 12-mile Reef," now playing at the Met Theater. Gilbert Roland also costars in the marine spectacle which reveals for the first time to the public in brilliant detail the mysteries of the vast world below the sea.

"MISS SADIE THOMPSON," filmed in color by Technicolor, stars Rita Hayworth, above, now playing a 2nd week on the Royal's big screen.

Weather bureau positions open

A meteorological aid examination is being held for positions with the U.S. weather bureau and other Federal agencies.

The jobs are located in Washington, Alaska, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Hawaian Islands, and other Pacific islands and foreign countries. The salaries are $2,950 to $3,410 a year.

A written test will be given. Applicants must have had appropriate education or experience. Further information and application forms, may be secured from Charles S. Fleming examiner in charge, board U.S Civil Service Examiners, Baltimore.

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—ALSO—
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"GIRLS IN THE NIGHT" with JOYCE HOLDEN
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GEO. RAFT in "MAN FROM CAIRO"
ALSO
"LOAN SHARK" with GEO. RAFT
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—ALSO—
MICHAEL WILDING & MARGARET LOCKWOOD in "TRENT'S LAST CASE"
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"TILLIES"
Fayette and Wolfe Sts.

Disc jockeys sponsor dance

PHILADELPHIA

Disc Jockeys of three local radio stations will sponsor a teen-age dance, Saturday, March 20, 1:30 to 5 p.m., at Reynolds Hall, 1416 N. Broad st.

The dance is to be a benefit of the current Philadelphia Fellowship Commission's enrollment campaign.

Miss Dorothy Anderson of the commission's public relations staff is director.

8 To Spin Records

The following disc jockeys have promised to "spin" records for the youngsters:

Miss Gloria Smith, Mrs. Berniece Thompson, Randy Dixon, Douglass "Jocko" Henderson, Kaye Williams, Georgie Woods, Bill (The Hawk) Franklin and Harry Brown.

WORK OF NEW YORK ARTIST TO BE EXHIBITED HERE

PHILADELPHIA

Eldzier Cortor, young artist of New York City and Chicago, will place some of his paintings on exhibit at the Heritage House on March 30.

A private pre-vue of the paintings will be given at a formal reception to be sponsored by the women's council of Heritage House.

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Meet Our Pretty Barmaid MAUDE BROWN
Men, Cats and Kittens — Girls, Gals and Dolls
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RUBY J. GLOVER CLIFF MORRIS DOROTHY PARKER

BIG CHANCE AHEAD—The winners of the Friday night talent hunt at Gamby's are introduced to the audience by the master of ceremonies. The grand prize winner of the contest will receive an expense-paid trip to New York City plus an engagement at a night club in that city.

ALONG THE AVENUE

There's a new deal going on at CLUB 13, 13 N. Schroeder st.

The downtown spot recently shifted to the ownership of Harry Weiner and Joseph Oliner, who have scheduled a gala grand opening for tonight (Friday) with orchids for the ladies and hats and favors for the male guests.

Supplying music for listening will be a three-piece combo featuring Turner Stephenson, Bernard Nias and Wilbert Stewart. On deck to give service will be Elizabeth Bernard, Mary Humpfied and "Jean."

Supervising the activities will be Milton Brown, with Earl Brown standing by to lend a helping hand.

On the East side of town at Fayette and Wolfe sts., TILLIE'S has also undergone a change in directors, with George Fayman and Ben Miller taking over ownership.

George and Ben are the former owners of the Cozy Corner, and its a pretty safe bet that all their old friends will be dropping around to visit them in their newer and bigger club.

The club features a complete line of drinks plus home cooked meals served in the biggest dining room in East Baltimore.

While visiting the East side, night lifers can find plenty to cheer about at the CLUB AMBASSADOR at 1936-38 E. Fayette st., where Bill Swindell proves seven nights a week why he is Baltimore's top sax man.

Something is always doing at the "House of Jump" but Sunday stands out as the time of happy feet when a jam session takes place from 4 to 7 p.m. On Tuesday its "Clothesline Night" and on Wednesday its "Fiesta Night."

Entertainment doesn't start until after dark but the bar opens early and features prices that are kind to man's pockets.

On the uptown scene the CLUB CASINO is offering the music of the Ray O VACS, who started on Monday and have been swinging since then.

At the COMEDY CLUB, Arnett Cobb, is playing better than he has played in a long time. The saxophonist recently had a siege of illness that laid him low, but now its happy news to report that he is recovered and has lost none of his surprising technique that made him a headline artist.

By the way, George, do you remember the last time Errol Garner was in town? That date he appeared with the Stan Kenton jazz show, and even though the piano was out of tune, Garner stole the show from such artists as Dizzy Gillespie, Stan himself, Stan Getz, and the rest.

Well Garner is coming back to town at an early date and his place of musical abode will be the COMEDY CLUB. Also on tap for the near future are repeat performances by Big Jay McNeely and Bill Doggett, so you can see there's good entertainment ahead at the COMEDY CLUB.

The United Newspaper Workers of America CIO Local 111 is sponsoring its first cocktail party on Sunday at the COMEDY CLUB from 4 until 9 in the p.m. J. Albert Maddox is president; H. Robinson is financial secretary, and S. Leon Young is chairman of the social and welfare committee.

The first weekly winners in the GAMBY'S talent hunt were selected last Friday night. The audience picked two songbirds, Ruby J. Glover of the 6000 block Old Frederick rd., and Dorothy Parker of the 3000 block Windsor ave.

Both young ladies were not only easy to look at but mighty pleasant to listen to. The winners on Sunday were Tillie Richardson of the 1100 block N. Eden st., and Clarence "Spot" Muney, of the 2000 block W. Fayette st.

By winning the nightly contests, the four young people become eligible for the finals to be held on April 4. The winner of this event will receive a one week engagement at a New York City night club with all expenses paid.

The nightly contests are held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. If you want to hear Baltimore's finest and freshiest young talent, then a weekend visit to GAMBY's is in order. Scheduled to appear this weekend are:

Joseph Bragg of Washington; Jo Ann Winston of Washington; Carolyn L. Chambers, 1902 N. Fulton ave.; William Robinson, 1401 Argyle ave.; Edward Watts, 409 N. Poppleton st.; Pat Allen, 719 N. Broadway; William Stanley, 463 Cummings ct.;

Idele E. Green, 3410 Pennsylvania ave.; John H. Evans, 100 W. McMechen st.; Clyde Walker, William Walker, 210 Frederick st.; Milton Wiggins, 1828 Pennsylvania ave.; Albert Paster, 1205 Madison ave.; Earl Davis, 560 Wilson st.; Riley Simpson, 826 Spring ave.;

Margie Hoges, 2539 McCulloh st.; Jimmie Allen, 2301 Madison ave.; William McDonald, 1007 Bentalou st.; Jean Hamilton, Washington; Raymond Reeder, Washington; Curtis Worden, 847 W. Fayette st.

RICTOR'S RED FOX LOUNGE is mighty proud these days of Lou Bennett and his Hammond Tones. The boys recently held a waxing session for Appollo records and the rave views are due to be Baltimore area at a very early date.

In addition the group made such a terrific impression with record makers that they are scheduled for another session. They are also booked to appear on a national TV show within the next few weeks, and after that they should be well on the road to fame and fortune, and it couldn't happen to a bunch of nicer guys.

Live music flows every night at the RED FOX LOUNGE, a wonderful place to visit and enjoy yourself.

The Billy Taylor trio is making music history at the "House of Modern Jazz" which would be CLUB TIJUANA. With Billy on piano, Earl May on bass and Charlie Smith on drums, the Taylor trio is "gone, gone, gone."

Its hard to define a group like Taylor's, it has the solidness of a good jazz outfit and the imagination of the "coolest hopster." two attributes that mark it as one of the best of the modern groups.

Incidently Taylor is represented by an article in a trade publication which reveals him as an extremely well trained musician.

A quick swing around the rest of the circuit shows the Peppine at the P AND M LOUNGE; the VALENTINO'S trio at the KNOTTY PINE CLUB. Have fun.

Ninth grade pupil wins contest on chamber music

Hansonia Caldwell, 9-year-old pupil at Elementary School No. 138 was one of five public school children and one student at the Institute of Notre Dame awarded prizes in a contest conducted by the Young Musicians Series.

The contest was held in connection with the chamber music recitals presented for children at the Baltimore Museum of Art during the past year.

The contestants were a group of 200 young people chosen by school officials to receive scholarship tickets to the series. They were asked to write a short essay on "The Concert I Liked Best and Why."

Committee Judges

The winners' entries were judged by a committee to show the most complete comprehension of the musical principles demonstrated by the concerts.

Back Another Season

Mrs. Charles W. Collier, chairman of the organization, announced that funds had been raised through this month's concert, which was presented at the museum by the Harpsichord Trio, to assure another season of museum recitals, with a new group of scholarship students attending.

In addition, Mrs. Collier said that a new music committee had been formed by a group of parents from School No. 138 under the leadership of Mrs. G. L. Banfield.

This committee will undertake either to sponsor Young Musicians Series concerts in the school next year or to send groups of the children to the museum recitals in busses. The details of their plan will be announced later.

Hotcha Drew in comeback after seven years' absence

WASHINGTON — Hotcha Drew, international song stylist, makes a startling comeback after seven years retirement.

Miss Drew is known in the entertainment world for her singing in various languages, mainly in Yiddish, which she learned during her childhood.

Father A Trouper

At that time her father an old trouper, better known in the entertainment world as the 'Brown Dot," worked in a Jewish Synagogue in the lower east side of New York City.

Through her father and the Rabbi's teaching, she learned to sing in Yiddish, which has been an asset to her repertiore, and also brought her to a personal demand each year at the borsch circuit in New Jersey mountains.

BIDDLE ST. AUCTION

The brick dwelling at 2431 E. Biddle st., will sell at public auction, Wednesday, March 24 at 2 p.m. Terms of sale include one third cash, balance in six to 12 MONTHS. A deposit of $300 will be required at time of sale.

Drink of the wines that goeth down sweetly
Mt. Zion
• Concord Grape
• Cherry
• Blackberry
• Grapegerine
Mt. Zion NEW YORK STATE SWEET CONCORD GRAPE WINE
EXTRA HEAVY BODY
BOTTLED BY THE MADERA BONDED WINE & LIQUOR CO. BONDED WINERY
Succulent, sun-sweet grapes, berries and cherries give Mt. Zion Wines their joyous fresh-fruit flavors.
58c Pint 98c Fifth $4.30 Gal.
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