Webb band director seeking assistants

Samuel L. Lilly, director of the newly formed Chick Webb band at the East Baltimore recreation center said this week, he is interested in all kinds of musical talent, including vocalists.

Mr. Lilly stated he is also interested in volunteer workers to help teach the youngsters at the center learn the various instruments.

One professional group, the Twightlighters, is helping teach young vocal aspirants.

Mr. Lilly said he needs more professional and experienced musicians to help him. He can be reached at BRoadway 6-0977.

The band rehearses every Monday and Wednesday.

OXFORD SCHOOL SET REGISTRATION DATES

OXFORD, N.C. — Registration for all children planning to enter Orange Street School or Aycock Jr. Duke School for the school year of 1954-55 is being conducted 9 a.m. to noon.

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WED.-THURS. MAR. 31-APR. 1
JOHNNY WEISMULLER
"TARZAN'S TRIUMPH"
PLUS
ELROY HIRSCH in
"CRAZY LEGS"
FRI.-SAT. APR. 2-3
YVONNE DeCARLO in
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Show Business

Al Sweeney

The song was "Ebb Tide."

The singer sounded like many other baritones who gave out with full throated renditions.

But, as he neared the end of the song, the band in the background gave out with one of those symphonic swells.

AL SWEENEY

With the crescendo the lean-limbed singer started swaying like a willow; he clutched the microphone and screwed up his face in a pleading contortion.

"Like the tide at its ebb," he sang with increasing intensity.

The women in the audience went into hysterics with uninhibited screams as he continues sobbingly:

"I'm at peace in the web of your ar-ar-ar-ms," he sang hesitatingly, but compoded triumphantly to the further ecstacy of the femme patrons.

Needless to add, the applause was loud.

The encore was "You'll Never Walk Alone" with the same startling audience reaction.

BACKSTAGE MINUTES later, the writer met Roy Hamilton, the newest dreamboat of the bobby-soxers.

He explains that the Howard theatre in D.C. was his third big engagement. He says he is 25, he stands 6-2 and used to play first base on the high school baseball team.

Prior to going into the pop singing field about seven months ago, Hamilton says he sang with the Searchlight Gospel Singers, a group round his Jersey City hometown.

On February 20, the young singer made front page in Jersey papers. It seems that he was singing for a club dance in Long Branch in a place that could hold only 500 persons.

More than 2,000 of his followers around Jersey City showed for the affair and their efforts to worm their way into the spot brought out the cops. Of course, reporters covered the story and likened it to the build-up days of Frank Sinatra.

Hamilton is one of those big, awkward unspoiled kids. He keeps his press clippings in his wallet and seems to be taking all of the new found adulation with "humility." (With apologies to Godfrey).

HIS FUTURE success in this business, of course, depends upon his "cooperativeness."

Cooperativeness sometimes involves whether an artist is interested in glory and money or just glory. If the latter, I have been told, booking agents can build you and keep the money.

But, if the artist insists on being paid, he may suddenly find himself tagged as "temperamental" among the members of the trade.

In Hamilton's case, he is a star on the wing.

How long he can defy the law of gravitation cannot be predicted. It will be interesting to see if the Long Branch citizens will love him in '55 as they did in '54.

JUST NOTES—Fred O'Neal was among the unemployed last week as "The Winner" folded on B'way. The angels dropped $60,000 in the show.

Ray Robinson, who is now writing a theatrical column and appearing in Boston's Latin Quarter, is 25-geens richer. He won a libel suit, NYC operatives report.

Louis Armstrong takes his Dixielanders into Duluth for a home show April 7-11. The news from Atlantic City is that the Club Harlem and the Paradise will be merged this year.

The Harlem will become a musical bar; while the Paradise will continue to feature shows. It will be interesting to see whether Larry Steele or Ziggy Johnson will go into the Paradise.

Arnett Cobb, who has a recording date this week in NYC, has thrown away his crutches. Errol Garner is going long hair. He is being booked for a series of concerts.

Billy Taylor, one of the most underrated pianists, played the Tijuana in Baltimore last week and moves into the LaComeur in D.C. this week. Pearl Bailey has been signed for the musical "House of Flowers," which will hit Broadway in the fall.

20th Century Fox rates a pat on the back for its latest flicker "Night People" which shows armed forces integration in action in Berlin.

NEW RECORDS—King Cole's latest is "Alone Too Long." Dinah Washington's newest is "Such A Night."

Eartha Kitt has two numbers among the top 20. They are "Lovin' Spree" and "Somebody Stole De Weddin' Bell."

IN RECITAL—Miss Geraldine Overstreet, soprano, will appear in joint recital with baritone Robert McFerrin at the Booker T. Washington junior high school auditorium under the auspices of Coppin State Teachers college, March 30, at 8:15 p. m.

Jennie Tourel debut praised

Artist compared to Roland Hayes

By CARL DITON

NEW YORK — ANP — Last week Jennie Tourel, internationally beloved mezzo - soprano, achieved what every singer longs to attain, a capacity house of devotees.

If ever there were a "mezzo" voice, rich and mellifluent, it is that of Miss Tourel. But that alone does not overshadow her other gifts.

All in all, it was an evening of interpretative significance in which Miss Tourel utilized every possible technique. Particularly was she adept in passing from the spoken word into the written tone.

Then too nowhere was she sparing with physical endurance, so that her art peculiarly resembles that of Roland Hayes.

Sissle traces birth and growth of blues singers

NEW YORK (ANP) — Singers today have an easier time of selling their songs than those of yesteryear, Noble Sissle said recently.

Sissle, currently a disc jockey on a New York station, is in a position to know.

He has had a long and successful career as bandleader and show producer.

"Today's singers have it easy — they don't have to bounce all over the stage to sell a song. They just stand behind a mike and sing," Sissle, said.

Despite the handicap of not having a microphone to aid them, many of the old time singers did a good job of putting a song over, Sissle pointed out.

"In the early days of this century," he said, "there were great songs, introduced by great singers."

Great Singers Listed

Among those great singers he lists:

Ethel Waters for her first hit, "Dinah;" Abbie Mitchell who first sang "Summer Time," and Sissoretta Jones, who introduced "Swanee River."

"At that time," Sissle continued, "women, with their combination of spiritual and blues style, were becoming increasingly popular, while the men were still confingig themselves mainly to the minstrel shows."

Sie Smith, who introduced it in songs like "You're a Good Old Wagon;" were picked up by Blues, a style started by Bessie Mattie Height, with "Georgia on My Mind."

Faster Beat

The slow style of blues they started was given a boost by Alberta Hunter of Chicago, who added a faster beat when she sang "You Reap What You Sow."

Today's blues, however, are different from those of old, Sissle said.

"Tragedy used to be expressed in blues by melancholy lyrics sung in a slow, prolonged style," he explained. "Today, the only tragedy in blues is that the beat and rhythm have been speeded up and emphasized so much that the emotional impact of the lyrics is completely overlooked."

Spirituals, which Sissle considers the backbone of race music, are being presented today by two potable gospel singers.

They are Mahalia Jackson, leader of a school of singing which relies on the power of the voice to create effect, and Clara Ward, who utilizes such devices as orchestras and hand - clapping to enhance the emotional impact of her singing.

Moments Musical

By ADAH K. JENKINS

The Young People's Choir of John Wesley Methodist Church appeared in "An Evening of Music" Sunday afternoon at Pennsylvania Avenue AME Zion church, under auspices of the Nurses' unit of the church.

The choir, founded by Mrs. Mary Harris, is rounding out four years. Under the direction of James R. Dickerson, they sang with conviction and sincerity.

They gave strict attention to the conductor and enunciated the texts of the songs clearly.

Obscures Expression

Mr. Dickerson kept all of the selections at a rather rapid tempo, which obscured some places where expression and shading would have added more interest.

The program was well-planned and a number of musical gems from classic, romantic and modern schools were presented.

To mention a few, there was Bach's famous chorale "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," "Cast Thy Burden" from the oratorio "Elijah," and Gounod's "Sanctus and Benedictus."

"The Holy City" (Adams) was effectively arranged for the chorus. The solos, however, could have been heard to better advantage if the choral humming had been softer.

The audience seemed to enjoy the group of semi-classic numbers that included "I Believe" and "Born to be Free."

Barbara Gamby, soprano; Ellsworth Young, tenor, and Raymond Hicks and William Booker, baritones, were soloists for the afternoon.

James Wise, accompanist, completed the program with a rendition of "Clair de Lune."

During intermission, Mrs. Willena Valentine, president of the sponsoring organization, presented Mrs. Harris.

The concert was arranged by Mrs. Wallena Fletcher and Miss Plymouth McCoy, co-chairmen, and Mrs. Sextetal Carter, secretary. The Rev. G. M. Edwards is pastor.

Last Call For Members

This week-end marks the last call for music lovers to join the Baltimore Community Concert Association, which is launching its second annual membership drive.

At a recent dinner report meeting at the Stafford Hotel, Henry G. Burke, president, announced the possibility of presenting six concerts instead of the four originally listed.

If the Lyric is sold out, Miss Grace Rawlings, chairman of the membership committee, said there might also be a "bonus" concert at the close of the 1954 season.

Community concerts are now being conducted in 1,033 cities in the United States and Canada. The organization, which is headed by Harold Welch, is affiliated with Columbia Artists Management of New York.

Among the artists they list are Theresa Green (of Baltimore), Carol Brice, Todd Duncan, William Warfield, Lawrence Winters, Natalie Hinderas, Hazel Scott, and Janet Collins.

The association, according to Mr. Welch, operates on a cooperative, non-profit basis.

"Membership participates in the selection of the artists and the fixing of prices."

No tickets are sold for any of the individual concerts and subscriptions for next season must be made now.

Plans For Next Year

Plans for next year include a singer, pianist, ballet company and the Robert Shaw Chorale and Orchestra.

Interested patrons are asked to contact William C. Brown and Miss A. Dukye Wood, division chairmen in the membership drive.

Assisting them are Mesdames Bruce Alleyne, R. Hayes Strider, William Brown, Wesley Brown and Adah Jenkins.

Tuesday, March, 30, at 8:15 p.m., Geraldine Overstreet, soprano, and Robert McFerrin will appear in a joint recital at Booker Washington junior high school auditorium, Madison avenue and Lanvale st. The program is sponsored by Coppin State Teachers College.

Sunday, April 4, at 5 p.m., the Gershwin String Ensemble will perform at Polytechnic Auditorium under auspices of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Wednesday, April 7, at 8 p.m. at Howard Park Methodist church, 5020 Gwynn Oak ave.

A lenten concert by Marian J. Downes, soprano, sponsored by the church, is also scheduled.

Sunday, April 25, at 5 p.m. in the auditorium of Pennsylvania Avenue AME Zion Church, Pennsylvania avenue and Dolphin st. The Howard University choir, directed by Dean Warner Lawson, will render a concert.

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THEATRICALLY ...yours

By LARRY DOUGLAS

NEW ORK (GLOBAL) — "Seaforeze" recorded by Billy Eckstine on MGM records, will be released April 9.

Pearl Bailey clicked at Harlem's Apollo last week . . . Louis Armstrong at Broadway's Basin Street . . . The Billy Williams Quartet still the same old smoothies . . . Teddy Wilson tickles a piano on the Peter Lind Hayes Show.

Errol Garner at New York's Embers club . . . Harry Belafonte at the plush La Vie En Rose in addition to his appearance in "Almanac" at the Imperial Theatre . . . The Harptones open at the Apollo this week . . . Billy Holliday back from Europe.

Sax man Benny Peacock carrying a heavy torph for estranged wife Jewell Lightfoot . . . Stump and Stumpy still one of the best comedy teams . . . The Four Step Brothers still in step . . . Lucky Millinder and his band, always a favorite with Apollo Theatre fans, will be back there again this week.

Prediction: LeRoy Holmes and his plush ork will come into their own this year.

Be on the lookout for ASCAP composer and arranger, Fred Norman's first MGM platter under his own name. Norman has made arrangements and has conducted the orchestra for many recording artists, but in the very near future, Fred will be featured on wax in his own right. . . Karen Chandler on Peter Potter Juke Box Jury last week . . . Tommy Edwards' "Wall of Ice."

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"ROYAL AFRICAN RIFLES"
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PETER LAWFORD & JANE GREER in
"YOU FOR ME"
THURS.-FRI. APR. 1-2
GEORGE MONTGOMERY & HELEN WESTCOTT in
"GUN BELT"
—ALSO—
BURGESS MEREDITH & JEAN-PIERRE AUMONT in
"GAY ADVENTURE"
SATURDAY APRIL 3
STANLEY CLEMENTS & STEVE BRODIE in
"WHITE LIGHTNING"
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Talley Beatty in Parranda

NEW YORK — Talley Beatty, long absent from Broadway, is featured in a new dance - musical, Parranda. It opened at the Cabaret Theatre in the heart of the village.

The young star who made a recent trip to Israel, is heading his company in the Afro Cuban presentation.

Peguita Anderson is pianist accompanist to the group.

"Parranda", (The Big Party) also features Russ Williams, "Bloody Mary," of South Pacific which recently closed.

Tommy Gomez, noted dancer-choreographer in his own right who stars in "The King and I," left the cast to join Beatty.

Joe Bostic backs Lacy in expose on Yankees

NEW YORK — Joe Bostic, sports editor of the Amsterdam News, announced, Thursday, his "unqualified support of Sam Lacy, sports editor of the AFRO, in his fight to gain a square deal for colored players with the Yankees."

Bostic, in a telegram to the AFRO, expressed concern at "the excessive attention in the daily press of the nation given to alleged denial of Elston Howard of last week's (March 20) AFRO story by Lacy.

The New York sports editor said that he felt "it was imperative that Lacy confirm the accuracy of his story and defend his journalistic integrity, which is impugned by the printed denials."

"The entire weekly press is on trial here and your sports editor can earn a significant victory for us all by substantiating the accuracy of his report as a competent newspaperman and an able reporter," Bostic stated.

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ALONG THE AVENUE

This Sunday night winds up the city-wide talent hunt at GAMBY'S.

For the past few weeks the club has been offering young Baltimore talent a chance to be seen and heard by the public, with the promise of a head start toward a lucrative career for the winner of the final competition.

An expense paid trip to New York City, a week's engagement at a 125th st. nite spot and another week at GAMBY's, that's what the winner will receive this Sunday evening. Already set at finalists are:

Tillie Richardson of the 1100 block N. Eden st.; Clarence "Spot" Money of the 2000 block W. Fayette st.; Ruby J. Glover, 2000 block Old Frederick rd.; Dorothy Parker, 3000 block Windsor ave.; Alan H. Carnchum, 1400 block Montmor ct.; Walker Stone Jr., Russell Riley, 1600 block Druid Hill ave.; Lolita Chambers, 1900 block N. Fulton ave., and Jo Ann Winston of Washington.

From the following list of young artists will come several more additions to the roster for the finals:

Elwood Watts, 400 Poppleton st.; Teddy Duer, 1619 Madison ave.; William McDonald, 1007 Bentalou st.; Benny Greene, 1165 Winchester st.; Sunya Washington, 1823 Harlem ave.; Earl Davis, 500 Wilson st.; William D. Robinson, 1401 Argyle ave.; Clyde Walker, 416 Elsten st.; William Walker, 210 Frederick st.; Milton Wiggins, 1020 Pennsylvania ave; Maggie Hayes, 2539 McCulloh st.; Helen Griffin, 1628 Warwick ave.; William Stanley, 463 Cumming ct.; William Jones, 650 W. Barre st.; Alvin Brooks, 531 Carrollton ave.;

Frizzell Moore, 2100 block Madisoh ave.; Paul Carter, 1223 N. Carey st.; Pat Allen, 1719 N. Broadway; William Thompson Jr., 2810 Presbury st.; Joseph Bragg, Washington; Eliandson Johnsen, 911 Fulton ave., and Tony Maier.

Out of this array of talent should come a future star. Sunday evening is your chance to watch the start of some lucky person's career. GAMBY'S is the place.

Down the street, the COMEDY CLUB is offering the music of Myrtle Young and her all-girl combo, a group that proves that a talented women musician can hold her own with the best of the stronger sex.

Booked to open on April 2 at the club is a familiar and welcome act, Bill Doggett, his combo and the lovely Mildred Anderson, who wraps up a number in her warm voice and makes it easy to understand why people never hear enough of her lyrics.

There are a number of other top artists who will follow Doggett into the COMEDY CLUB, so you can bank on top notch entertainment for the rest of the season and on and on and on.

A number of persons who attended the recent fashion show and cocktail party at CLUB TIJUANA forgot to take along their gifts. The items are being held at the Carson Model Agency, 1328 W. North ave., and may be claimed by the owners who are:

Paul Nelson, Fannie Adams, Rena Williams, Mrs. Fannie Watkins, Mrs. Lucy Jones, Mrs. Anna Coleman, Mary Moseley, James Murrell, John French, J. C. Taylor, Reginald Jackson, Norma Kimball, Dorothy R. Alston, Cleo Brown, Helena Sorrell, Mrs. Florina Foster.

A new name has been booked into the CLUB CASINO. It belongs to sax man Donald Dial. He brings in a group new to the Baltimore scene but a d'v'e'r'e notice herald him as something special in the way of a star saxophone player.

The music at the popular fun spot is currently being supplied by Chris Powell and his Blue Flames. Incidently Bernard Byrd, who had several sat-'-lites hanging on th walls of the club, has sold several. Byrd is currently teaching art in an out of town school.

Moving on up the Avenue to CLUB TIJUANA, it's Art Farmer and his group holding down the spotlight. The group was caught in action on Tuesday and George the notes that they played were way out in space.

It was bop at its best, not too loud, and not too abstract. Actually the show is a double treat as both Farmer and "Gi Gi" Gryce were among the outstanding music makers who accompanied Lionel Hampton on his last European tour.

Farmer has two big records going for him at the moment. One is a little ditty titled "Man Man," while the other sports the label, "Farmer's Market." Both "must hear" items.

Also on the recording kick is the Lou Bennett trio at RICTOR'S RED FOX LOUNGE. Lou's first release on Apollo label was reviewed last week in a trade magazine regarded as "the bible of show business." Of Mr. Bennett's maiden effort the review said:

"Moon Dog, the intriguing instrumental effort should pull a lot of spins on jazz jock shows and will interest jazz fans. It's a bright riff opus and it's played with a beat by the trio."

Understand that one local juke box operator ordered 200 of the platters and has scattered them in boxes all across town. The Cavaliers Club Inc. is having a cocktail party at RICTOR'S on April 4 and the Foxettes are giving a "Chitterling Strut" on April 8.

Heading the group of RICTOR'S employees is the red haired and charming Vicky Clark. There's music every night at the RED FOX and it's a wonderful place to go.

Across town at the CLUB AMBASSADOR, 1936 E. Fayette st., Bill Swindell winds up a spell at the club this week-end. Next in line are the Mello-Jacks who are returning to the bandstand because of a raft of requests. This club also has entertainment every night in the week and offers refreshments at easy to take prices.

Also on the East side of town is TILLIE'S at Fayette and Wolfe sts., which will begin offering something mighty novel in the entertainment line starting on Tuesday.

This new innovation is the showing of full length color movies with sound. The first one to be screened will be "Romance on the Beat," with an all-star cast. A companion feature will be "The Songs of the Seasons," with the Rhythm Masters. Show time at 8:30 and 11:30 p.m.

The Green Front Cafe in the 900 block E. Lexington st. is offering the music of the Tear Droppers; the Knotty Pine Club has the Valentino's Trio; and the beautiful ZANZIBAR MUSICAL BAR is offering entertainment over the week-end. That's the lineup. Have fun.

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