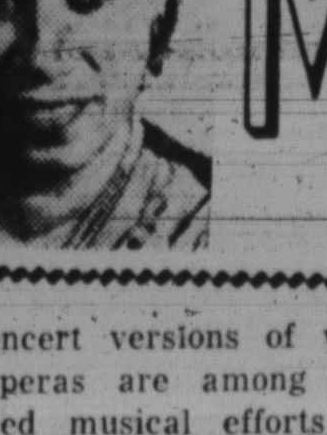

Moments Musical

By ADAH K. JENKINS

The concert versions of well known operas are among the streamlined musical efforts of our day. It is scarcely possibly with no scenery, the barest of props and piano accompaniment to reproduce the luxurious splendor and expressive power of a completely staged "grand opera" plus an orchestra.

However, given a story and a score of the dramatic possibilities of the tragic opera "Salome" by Strauss, much is possible. (After all, the composer was paid $15,000 for the score).

The music is not the melodious "Aida" or "Rigoletto" type and the vocal parts are not too distinguished. Much, too, depends on the magnificent orchestral coloring; for Strauss was a sort of bridge between Richard Wagner and the modern opera writers.

CERTAINLY, MURIAL RAHN and her company of sixteen, made the most of their opportunities and equipment, dramatic and vocal. Miss Rahn was a sensuous, abandoned harlot, completely possessed by her passions. Dramatically it was an impressive performance.

"Jochanaan" (Prophet, John the Baptist) was sung by the Irish-American James Buckley in a very convincing manner. "King "King Herod" (E. Tierney) and Hugh Hurd, as captain of the soldiers, were well cast.

There was too much Victorian respectability about Doris Doree as "Queen Herodias," altho her voice was pleasing. The minor roles fitted well into the picture and Kelly Wyatt at the piano did wonders with a transcription of the intricate orchestral score.

In the cast, was Dick Campbell, husband of Miss Rahn and her manager.

Preceding the opera there was a ballet by four performers. The production was sponsored by the Iota Lambda Sorority for its scholarship fund.

* * *

EXPERIENCE - OF - THE-WEEK: Murray Phillips, concert ballader presented by the Ethical Society in its auditorium on North Avenue. With his witty announcements and easy informality, the audience had a thoroughly enjoyable time, even to the extent of "joining in on "some of the songs. (at the performer's invitation).

He has a pleasing tenor voice which he uses with musical taste. A varied background as college athlete, teacher and sailor enabled him to give authentic flavor to many of the songs. There was piquant French, sensual Spanish, rhythmic Israeli and romantic German and Italian.

His presentation of several of the "songs of the Sea" was most amusing. He sang the "Approved" version he uses on recordings and television, than as an aside, recited parts of the "uncensored" texts.

Songs of Britain and Ireland and a group of American folk ballads completed the program. One of the beautiful fireplaces in the Ethical Auditorium was decorated in rustic fashion and afforded a suitable background.

The hall lends itslelf admirably to informal progrsms, which should prove a boon to music instructors and organizations that require space for small recitals.

* * *

MAIL-BOX: A letter (and picture) from William Myers, who directs "The Melonotes," a quartet of his army unit now stationed in France. After a three-month tour they sang in Paris.

The ensemble includes William, Lenwood Gilliam, of Norfolk, Va., Bobby Fuller, of Pennsylvania and Harold Butler, from Wash., D.C.

The director is studying voice in France and plans a recital in his home town on his return.

CALENDAR: **Sun., Jan. 30th at 3 p.m.** Hansonia Caldwell — 10 year old piano prodigy in recital at Mt. Pisgah C.M.E. Church, Fulton and Riggs Aves. Program will include works by Bach, Mozart, DeBussy, Liszt, Stravinsky, Haar and Turina. Presented by the Men's Day Committee; Rev. John Hammond, pastor.

Sunday, Jan. 30th at 5 p.m. Dorothy Green, soprano, presented in recital at New Metropolitan Baptist Church, by the Interdenominational Ministers Wives Alliance; Mrs. Harrison Bryant, pres., Mrs. Spencer Dobson, concert chairman. Rev. Dr. John Tilley, pastor.

Sunday, Feb. 6th at 5 p.m. Baltimore Great Hymns Choirs at Ames Mem. Methodist Church, Carey and Baker Streets. Daniel L. Rideout Sr., director. Sponsored by the Ethel B. Newman Guild, WSCS. Mrs. Ethel Moore, pres.; Rev. J. Garrison, minister.

Thursday, Feb. 10th at 8 p.m. Elizabeth Rayfield Hall, soprano, at Bowie State Teachers College, Bowie, Md. Program will include arias by Handel, Donizetti and Puccini; French and English art songs and spirituals.

Budding chef wins $5 prize

Jacob Cooper, 15-year-old pupil at Briscoe Vocational School No. 451 wants to be a railroad chef when he finishes school.

And because Jacob likes to cook he found himself the winner of an easy $5 this week.

Jacob's photo was the lucky one encircled in a picture which appeared in last Friday's AFRO showing pupils at Briscoe winning a culinary award.

The youngster says he and his classmates made pies, cakes, biscuits and cookies.

* * *

JACOB saw his own picture in the paper for he's a regular reader of the AFRO, twice a week. He's also a former AFRO newsboy.

He lives with his father, Thomas, a carpenter, and his mother, Mrs. Ruth Cooper, at 1503 Laurens St. Jacob has eight brothers and sisters.

He's an Oriole fan and says baseball is his favorite sport. He plays on a team himself in the Gilmor project.

WHAT'S HE going to do with his $5?

"I'm going to get some things for school," says Jacob, "A new notebook and some gym clothes."

Jacob attends the Church of God in Christ at 1315 Stricker St. and is also a member of the Police Boys Club.

Another Lucky Photo is encircled in today's AFRO. If it's you, you're the winner of a winner of a lucky five bucks. Better look for it.

Along The Avenue

Someone started a wild rumor around town this week that several members of a local quartet had been pinched on a drug rap, but a check showed that the report was a bit in error.

Seems the boys were having a litte party and the gendarmes appeared to ask them to ease off with the noise. That was all that happened, and so another story went down the drain.

George and Ben, the two guys at the CLOVER CLUB, Fayette and Wolfe Sts., have done a remarkable faace lifting job at the spot that was once known as TILLIE'S.

The rear of the club has been partitioned off from the front bar, making it a private room in which the proprietors will offer some of the best music, food and drinks to be found in East Baltimore.

There is enough room in the club to accomodate a whole host of people, and the new room is extremely attractive. The Tune Toppers will be the lads who will suppy the music, and while the group is new to these ears, we understand that they have built up quite a reputation through their treatment of popular rhythm and blues numbers. The grand opening of the new room at the CLOVER CLUB will be tonight (Friday) and there should be quite a time as the new club makes its formal debut.

* * *

THROUGH conversations with several owners on this side of town, this column has learned that they are keenly interested in the plans of their counterparts on the Avenue, to test the ruling of the Liquor Board that never the twain shall meet.

In fact some of them are so interested that they are willing to shell out the green stuff to help in the fight, which we understand from reliable sources has a darn good chance of being successful.

Our friend, George Fox, up at RICTOR'S RED FOX LOUNGE, Pennsylvania Ave., and Fulton, will open his second annual Cuban Festival tonight (Friday), with a wealth of special features lined up to keep things rolling in high gear until closing night on Feb. 7.

Prizes and favors will be distributed to all the guests and the entire club has been decorated in a Cuban motive, that makes the LOUNGE assume a South American atmosphere. For the Festival, the music will be provided by one Senor Lou Bennett with the help of the charming Senorita Mary Travis.

* * *

LAST YEAR'S Festival was a honey, and from what the lounge has lined up for this year's edition, the fun should be even greater. There will be something doing every single night from now until the seventh, so take our advice and grab yourself a seat at the RED FOX.

Throughout the festival, patrons will be allowed to vote for the persons that would like to see crowned as king and queen, and the actual coronation wil take place on closing night when the lucky couple will be showered, and we do mean showered, with a flock of prizes.

Last year's winners were Mary Jordan and Jesse Walker, and from that we understand, the prizes to be awarded this year will outshine those given last year. The fun starts tonight, so we'll see you there.

* * *

FOR SOME time now, the column has regarded Charlie Parker as a "bop man" but the opinion has been revised in the light of the Yardbird's current appearance at the COMEDY CLUB, where he is mixing his more blantant notes with soothing ones.

On Parker, the soft brand of music wears well, showing that he is a highly capable musician, capable of sometimes astonishing feats of improvisation and melody. He jumps as well, making his music pleasant and mixed enough to maintain a high point of interest.

The next group set for the lush confines of the COMEDY CLUB is Don Gardner and his Sonotones, one of the best and most underated groups to play our city recently. The Gardner group is a smooth and talented outfit, that is well worth hearing, and one that with the right break should make the big time.

* * *

A FRIEND named George, called to remind us that the Tilters, a group we have heard and liked, will take on Earl Bostic in a battle of music out at Essex this weekend. He also ventured a prediction that the Tilters would take the best of Bostic. Should make for an interesting evening.

The newest club to enter the parade is the EDMONDSON, on Poplar Grove near Edmondson, across the street from the Astor Theatre. The comfortable club features drinks and food, and made a hit with a lot of patrons on Monday which was opening night, when it dispensed free beer.

A popular fixture at the CLUB CASINO, in the person of Cecil Young and his quartet, has returned and quite naturally is pulling in the customers as usual. The CASINO, as always, is one of the friendliest clubs in town, and a perfect spot to relax and enjoy yourself.

This relaxing deal is being helped this week by the afroementioned Mr. Young who mixes a dash of comedy with his music, to make for pleasant moments.

A terrific group, and we do mean terrific, is now being featured at the "Home of Modern Music" the CLUB TIJUANA. That would be the Don Shirley group, which is one of the best to play the club in several weeks.

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Ellington, Edgar Bergen differ on top jazz pick

NEW YORK — "People have come to recognize jazz as the folk music of America," says Duke Ellington. "America stands for freedom, and jazz depends on freedom of expression."

A recent guest on CBS Radio's "Edgar Bergen Show with Charlie McCarthy," Ellington gave credit for the popular acceptance of jazz to Paul Whiteman, who "made a lady of jazz," and started people "taking jazz into their homes."

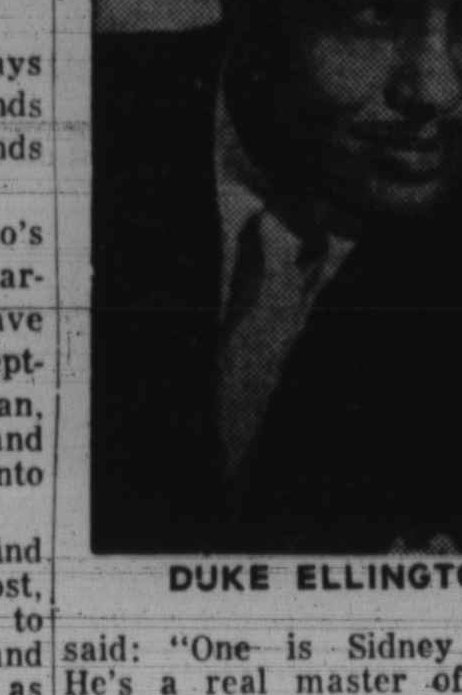
When Bergen asked what kind of music he liked to write most, Ellington answered "I'd like to say that I do it all for art, and that there are no such things as bills to be paid."

* * *

ON THE EUROPEAN'S reception of American jazz, the Duke said: "They were the first to accept it back when Americans thought it was too low brow to be taken seriously. Europeans are inclined to take it too seriously. You have to have a good sense of humor before you're a really great jazz musician."

Asked to name two outstanding performers in jazz today, he said: "One is Sidney Bechet. He's a real master of the soprano saxophone, and an artist in pure jazz. And another, of course, is Louis Armstrong."

"All that's fine," concluded Bergen, "but I'd like to cast my vote for Duke Ellington."



DUKE ELLINGTON

Noted stars join Robeson in History Week concert

NEW YORK — In addition to Paul Robeson, who will be featured in the Feb. 6 theatre concert by the New York Council of Arts, Sciences and Professions in observance of Negro History Week, there will be presented other artists well known to stage and film audiences.

Among the other participating artists will be Ruby Dee, who played the role of Jackie Robinson's wife in the movie, "The Jackie Robinson Story," and has had parts in such other outstanding films as "No Way Out," and "The Tall Target." She has also appeared on the Broadway stage in "Anna Lucasta," "Jeb," "Smile of the World," and "A Long Way from Home."

BILL ROBINSON, another artist to take part, is known for his outstanding work in off-Broadway shows, both in acting and folk-singing. Many play-goers remember him as the aging actor in Checkhov's "The Swan Song," as well as in "Just a Little Simple." He is further acclaimed for his dramatic readings from Shakespeare and Langston Hughes.

Leon Bibb, another participating artist, is both an actor and a singer. He took leading roles in such popular Broadway shows as "Lost in the Stars," Annie Get Your Gun," and "Flight to Egypt."

His most recent off-Broadway performance was in the musical hit, "Sandhog," by Waldo Salt and Earl Robinson, who are also contributing their talents to the concert.

Mr. Robeson will sing a group of international songs and will close the program with the singing of the popular "Ballad for Americans."

MISS D. J. EDWARDS BURIED IN MARION

MARION, S.C. — Funeral services for Miss Doris Jean Edwards, whose sudden death on Monday shocked the community, were conducted Sunday from the Church of God in Marion.

Miss Edwards, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Edwards of Mullins, a 1954 graduated of Palmetto High School in Mullins.

Todd Duncan proves he acts as well as sings

HOLLYWOOD (ANP)— About 10 years ago, movie producer Hall Bartlett, a student at Yale, saw the New York production of "Porgy and Bess."

Todd Duncan sang the role of Porgy and Etta Moten costarred as Bess.

Bartlett, determined to become a motion picture producer, decided then that when and if he started making films, he would include Duncan in an important role.

* * *

NOW BARTLETT has been able to realize his dream of becoming a motion picture producer and of using Duncan in a film. In the movie "Unchained," which tells the story of Kenyon Scudder, developer of the California Honor Farm prison system, and now president of the American Prison Association, Duncan has a key role.

Duncan, in the past, has shied away from the movie lots and refused all screen offers until Bartlett sent him the script of the film.

Critics who have seen initial showings of the picture hail Duncan as one of the real finds of Hollywood in recent years.

TOD DUNCAN

Theatrically Yours......

By LARRY DOUGLAS

NEW YORK (GLOBAL)—Leroy Holmes' new MGM album "Snuggled On Your Shoulder" is out of this world. It consists of eight oldies, "I'm in the Mood For Love," "Two Sleepy People," "Two Cigarettes in the Dark," "So Beats My Heart For You," "All Of Me," "Snuggled On Your Shoulder," "Linger In My Arms," and "I Surrender Dear." This one is a sure hit.

Broadway's Basin has folded... Sarah Vaughan is red hot with her smash of "Make Yourself Comfortable" and she's now in the nation's top ten... Ran into songstress Billie Holiday last week with hubby Louis Mackay. She is busy as a bee working those fabulous dates throughout the world. Lady Day blew in town from Chicago and opens this week in Philadelphia for two weeks, before taking off for Alaska.

Dinah Washington clicked at Harlem's Apollo Theatre last week... Herb Jeffries in town. . . . Billy Eckstine's new MGM record of "The Life of the Party" backed with "What More is There to Say" is a great one.

Ruth Brown, Errol Garner, George Shearing, Tommy Edwards, LaVerne Baker, Ella Fitzgerald, all holding their own as first rate recording artists.

Nat Cole clicking in Australia. . . . Billy Eckstine set for England, April 18... Ran into Harry Carney, Duke Ellington's ace sax man on West 125th Street last week... Johnny Hodges in town... Johnny Ace's records selling like mad since he died.

Hampton choristers to sing at Lisner

WASHINGTON

The Hampton Institute Choir, under the direction of Dr. Henry N. Switten, French-born conductor, will appear in concert at Lisner Auditorium on Friday evening, Feb. 11, at eight o'clock.

The Hampton Institute Alumni Association of the Washington Area, sponsor of the concert, is raising funds for this year's scholarship campaign.

–First Run Films

(Continued From Page 18)

ranged marriage" to a wealthy princess.

As it turns out, however, the princess finds her suitor something less ardent than she had hoped for and, in order to "humanize" him, he is sent to Heidelberg University in the thought that the influence of his fellow students will take some of the stuffiness out of him.

It works out all right, except that the person who humanizes the prince is Kathie, the innkeeper's pretty niece. Forgetting his royal obligations, the heir-apparent is about to elope to Paris with Kathie, when unexpected complications set in.

It won't do to reveal the outcome of the plot, but it all ends logically and to a burst of one of Sigmund Romberg's most infectious melodies.

'CARMEN' STAR NOW HIGH ON 'CHEESECAKE'

Now that she's emerged a full-fledged star as "Carmen Jones" in the Regent Theatre's new CinemaScope musical hit, Dorothy Dandridge is discovering you do more with cheesecake than simply eat it.

"I'd heard it said that so many Hollywood newcomers made their way to stardom through leg-art, I decided to reverse the formula in my own case," Dorothy explains. "I deliberatedly held out raising my skirts and showing my legs when the camera boys from the publicity department came around.

I determined to become a star on the talent I possessed, not by taking a short-cut on physical attributes. So I shied away from cheesecake. I had nothing against it, I just wanted to be the one to choose the time and occasion."

The time is now, and the first occasion a recent national magazine layout. "I was lucky to get the much sought-after part of Carmen, and I feel I got it on ability.

'Carmen' success leads to 12 all-tan features

HOLLYWOOD (ANP) — The enthusiastic response of the public to "Carmen Jones," has led to the scheduling of 12 featurettes starring top-notch colored talent.

The films which have been made and await editing and scoring will last 36 minutes each.

Stars appearing in the films include Ruth Adams, Count Basie, Ruth Brown, Nat "King" Cole, Cole and Atkins, the Clovers, Larry Darnell, Ruth Davis, Duke Ellington, Lionel Hampton, Herb Jeffries, the Larks, Mantan Moreland, Joe Turner, Sarah Vaughan, Dinah Washington and the Delta Rhythm Boys.

Rumor has it that it is the first time in the trade that an independent producer has completed 12 pictures before working on a deal for releasing them.

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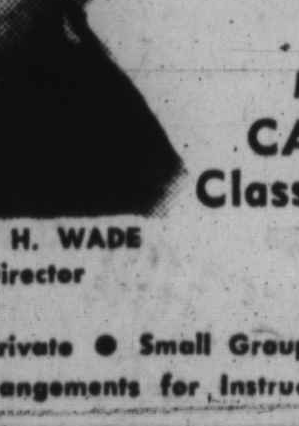

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