Platter Shows Replace Flesh Talent at Onyx

Seen as Serious Blow to Swing St.

Hampton Behind in Band Contest Poll

WITH DOLORES CALVIN

NEW YORK (CNS)—The Onyx Club, one of Swing Street's main spots, is the latest to announce their closing down of live talent in preference to installing a disc jockey. . . . The Onyx, where Sarah Vaughan and Savannah Churchill recently sang for eight and 12 week engagements, was starring Hadda Brooks, California's gift to the East, when the decision was made.

The closing of live entertainment here marks a serious blow to Swing Street musicians who have lived from one spot to another since they learned the language of their instrument.

The Onyx considers itself lucky not to have to close down entirely in coping with present day situations. Last summer the shortlived Club Troubadour went under after a grand opening with Louis Jordan followed by Mary Lou Williams. It couldn't even last until King Cole's scheduled appearance three weeks later.

Hamp Seeking Surprise

Lionel Hampton is sorrowfully being a "good fellow" as Duke Ellington rides honors in a local band contest poll in which Sarah Vaughan, Louis Jordan and King Cole also excel in their respective fields. But Lionel, who broke all records last year, is bagging more up votes all over town in an effort to brat the Duke at the last minute.

"The Foxes of Harrow" 30-minute radio version by the Screen Guild Players omitted every trace of racial identity except a two second session of spiritual singing which rated the comment from Maureen O'Hara, "I wish they stop that singing. It makes me sick."

Gladys Hampton has been chosen by Beechnut Gum products to next grace their advertisements as a successful businesswoman, "manager of the Lionel Hampton band and president of her own record company (Hamptone)."

Jeni Le Gon in "Easter Parade"

By HARRY LEVETTE

HOLLYWOOD (ANP) — Here is what a few of our featured bit and atmosphere players have been doing.

Jeni Le Gon, clever dancer and actress, had a neat light comedy role in MGM's "Easter Parade," starring Fred Astaire and Judy Garland; Mantan Moreland finished the second of Monogram's Charlie Chan thrillers with the title, "Chan," Roland Winter; Lena Horne was expected to check in at once at MGM where she has about four more years of a seven-year contract. Actual shooting on "Words and Music," her next and greatest picture, will not start until Mar. 15.

"Mr. Peabody and the Mermaid," a new feature at University, was the only picture with a considerable number of colored actors working last week. Dan Myers, athletic bit player, and Singer Dusty Brooks played neatly uniformed police. Other players included Lena Torrence, Doris Ake, Francis Driver, Marianna Cortine, Juanita Moore, Marie Reed, Ai Bella Jones, J. A. Robinson, Ed Allen, Wade Dumas, Bobby Johnson, Alberta Clark, James Davis, stunt man; and Byron Ellis, dance partner of Louise Franklin, but not dancing in the picture.

Concords and Discords

By LLEWELLYN WILSON

Sunday afternoon at 5 o'clock the Epsilon Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is offering its final concert of the current series at the Polytechnic Institute at North and Guilford Aves. The feature of this concert will be a program by Dean Dixon and an ensemble from the American Youth Orchestra of New York City.

Appearing with the group as piano soloist, will be George Walker, who last season as soloist with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra won wide acclaim from the large assemblage and excellent press comments.

Baltimore is hearing for the first time this ensemble, an interracial group of talented young musicians which has been carefully tested.

The young director, an American born musician, whose parents came from the West Indies, received his fundamental education in the public schools of New York City and has since earned his master's degree at Columbia University.

Began in High School

His first experience was gained while still a youth during his high school days, and his skill as a conductor has brought him to the podium to lead a number of our best American Symphony orchestras.

Mr. Walker, the collaborating artist, though still in his early twenties, has earned for himself a record of real achievement, solely through his superior piano playing.

The sponsors procured the Polytechnic auditorium in order to accommodate the large crowd which the advance sale of tickets has indicated will be present.

Scholarship Benefit

The program is being offered to local musical colony and music-lovers in general as a benefit to raise funds for scholarships to graduates from Carver, Douglass and Dunbar high schools, who achieve high ratings in scholarships, superior skill in general school activities and braveness attitudes in general deportment.

Chorus in Program

Today (Friday), Georgeanna M. Chester, music teacher at both Douglass and Dunbar high schools, conducted the 50-voice Auditorium Choir, which she organized and developed at Douglass, in general assembly held by the student body at Polytechnic Institute at 10 a.m. The program was made possible through an invitation extended to Douglass to furnish some musical numbers. This invitation from Ralph W. Reckling, principal of Douglass, from William Deffuff, principal at Polytechnic.

In General Appearances

To date musical organizations at Douglass have given programs at Eastern High, Western High, Park School and at Southern High.

The Polytechnic program Friday morning included: "Morning" by Speaks; "Gianna Mia" by Prinn; "Let Us Break Bread Together," a spiritual, and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" by Ringwald.

Marcella Gaither, soprano soloist, sang "La Fille Cadix," Kern, "Old Man River," while Talmadge Simmons and Edward Long sang Brunson Hulon's "Invictus."

FIRST CLASS ALL THE WAY

The Ink Spots will use a privately chartered plane to fill their series of West Coast engagements beginning at the Florentine Gardens, Los Angeles, Mar. 29.

To Speak for Papers

John Garfield, famed Hollywood actor, who is currently starring in the Broadway stage production, "Skipper Next to God," recently seen in the film, "Body and Soul," with Canada Lee, will be featured on a National Negro Newspaper which has radio program over NBC stations at 12:30 on Saturday afternoon (tomorrow).

Basie Bound for Apollo With 'One O'Clock' Unit

NEW YORK—Count Basie makes a triumphant return to Harlem on Friday, to open a week's engagement on stage of the Apollo theatre with the 1948 edition of his "One O'Clock Revue."

Packaging a complete light club presentation in a theatre stage show, Basie's revue features a dancing chorus line of 13 brown beauties, plus Stump and Stumpy, Lewis and White, Andre and Claudia, Jimmy Rushing, Bob Ballard, Earl Warren, Paul Gonzales and Harry Edison.

Following its engagement at the Apollo, the band is scheduled for a southern tour that will extend as far south as Key West, Fla.

New faces in the band's lineup include trumpet ace Gerald Wilson, who replaced Snookie Young, and Earl Warren, who took over the lead alto chair of Preston Love, and will divide vocal honors with Rushing and Bailey. Wilson is splitting the lead trumpet book with Ed Lewis.

Texan Praises Composer Still

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — High praise for the symphonic music of William Grant Still has come from Texas, after the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of the distinguished Hungarian-American conductor, Antal Dorati, gave two performances of Mr. Still's "Poem for Orchestra," originally commissioned by the Cleveland Orchestra, in February.

John Rosenfield, critic on the Dallas Morning News, spoke of Mr. Still's "firm handling of orchestral resources" and described the composition in this fashion: "The composer has followed a Verne Avery poem that views a desolate world, rallies the hope of its redemption and ends in an ecstasy of attuned spirituality."

Eddie Bradley

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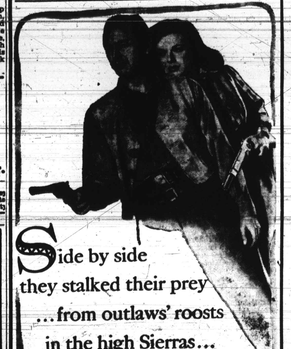

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