

# Theatricals Music Features

## WORDS WITHOUT MUSIC

By LOUIS REID  
(Music Features & Photo Syndicate)

**MORE** song titles begin with personal pronouns than with any other words. Your correspondent, conducting some research amid the teeming files of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, high up in an aerie of Rockefeller Center, found that the most space was reserved for numbers starting with "I," "My" and "You," with "My" topping the list with nearly 400 titles. Every leading tunesmith is represented, and the topics range from castles in Spain to wild Irish roses, from babies to sweeties.

**"Melancholy Baby" Leads**  
Of all the "My" songs, which, you might ask, is first in popularity, as determined by the number of performances? Believe it or not, it is Ernie Burnett's "My Melancholy Baby." This tune, though written several years ago, rolled up nearly 12,000 performances according to ASCAP's last survey. In second place was Warren and Dubin's "My Kingdom for a Kiss" with 9,400 performances. Bringing up the show position was "My Romance" by Rodgers and Hart, song hit of "Jumbo."

Some other highly favored songs in this class are Ivan Caryll's ever-popular "My Beautiful Lady," Oscar Straus' perennial "My Hero," Paul Dresser's old-time ballad, "My Gal Sal," Xavier Cugat's "My Shawl," Franz Lehár's "My Little Nest of Heaven," another Rodgers and Hart tune, the melodious "My Heart Stood Still" and "My First Thrill," by Sigler, Goodhart and Hoffman.

Many curious titles are disclosed—some amusing, some fantastic, some telling a complete story, as for example, "My Blue Days Blew Over When You Came Back to Me," written by Max Rich and Tot Seymour.

Walter Donaldson paid tribute to "My Best Girl." He also told the world that "My Baby Just Cares for Me," knowledge which doubt-

less inspired his most successful "My" song, "My Blue Heaven." There is a title—it could originate only in England—"My Beasty Eyeglasses." Geography also rears its head. There is Carson Robison's "My Blue Ridge Mountain Home." There is even a "My Blue Ridge Mountain Queen." Hawaii, of course, figures with "My Hula-Hula Home." Other numbers include "My Ozark Mountain Home," "My Cumberland Mountain Home," "My Old New Hampshire Home," "My Ohio Home," "My Sunny Tennessee," and to make the sunshine more emphatic—"My Sunny Home in Sunny Tennessee." Is Carolina neglected? Foolish question! We came upon "My Carolina Love," "My Carolina Home," "My Carolina Rose" and "My Carolina Sunshine Girl."

George Gershwin had a "My" winner in "My Cousin in Milwaukee." Long ago that great song-writing trio, J. Rosamond Johnson, Bob Cole and the late James Weldon Johnson had a big hit in "My Castle on the Nile." Fairly recent hits in this category are the sprightly "My Future Just Passed," by George Marion, Jr., and the late Richard Whiting; "My Hat's on the Side of My Head," by Harry Woods and "My Lucky Star," from De Sylva, Brown and Henderson.

Herbert Represented  
Victor Herbert wrote "My Gypsy Sweetheart" as well as "My Dream Girl." A steady favorite through the years is Chauncey Olcott's "My Wild Irish Rose." One of the most stirring of American marching songs is Julian Ed-

Xavier Cugat's "My Own United States." Rudy Vallee made famous the foreign ditty, "My Time Is Your Time" and Fannie Brice popularized "My Man," known in its original French as "Mon Homme." Various titles are associated with "My Mother." And there is even one number which singles out "My Dear Old Mother-in-Law." Do you remember "My Sweetie Went Away"? It was quite the rage for a while. And of course, you cannot have forgotten "My Wife's Gone to the Country." This song marked the beginning of the amazing career of Irving Berlin a quarter of a century ago.

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## Observe Fisk Jubilee Day Throughout Nation

ONLY LIVING MEMBER OF ORIGINAL TROUPE AND PRESENT HONORED

Famed Fisk Singers Mark 67th Anniversary

Nashville, Oct. 8 (ANP)—The 67th anniversary of the "going forth" of the Original Jubilee Singers will be observed at Fisk university, and in all sections of the country on Oct. 6. The observance will be carried out in various schools and churches of America in recognition of the significant part the intrepid group played in the educational advancement of the Negro. At high noon Fisk men and women everywhere will pause in silence as President Thomas Elsa Jones leads in a nationwide prayer.

October 6, 1871, was a memorable day. It was just six years after the founding of Fisk when 11 of her students, led by George White of the struggling school's faculty, started out on a tour that was destined to be epoch-making in music and education. These young men and women of 1871 not only introduced to the world the song of the black folk, America's most signal contribution to the world's creative music, but they also began the building of a financial foundation which gave permanence to one of the institutions of higher learning for the then just freed black men.

Only One Survivor of Original Troupe

Today there is one surviving member of that original group still living. Maggie Porter Cole still lives in Detroit, the object of appreciation and devotion from Fisk people the world over. The tradition of the Jubilee Singers as heralds of song and goodwill is still topmost among the things revered at Fisk. The Jubilee Singers of today under the able direction of Mrs. James A. Myers carries to the world excellence in the artistry of ensemble singing, and the goodwill of a university whose foundations are rooted in christian fellowship. In 1871 there was George White; in 1938 there is Mrs. James Myers. Then it was Ella Sheppard, Maggie L. Porter, Jennie Jackson, Minnie Tate, Eliza Walker, Phoebe Anderson, Thomas Rutling Benjamin Holmes Green Evans, Isaac Dirkeron, and George Wells. Today it is Arthur Lee Bostic, William Collier, Oswald Lampkin, Herbert Rutherford, Carl Weems, and Cecil Reeves, who carry on the time honored tradition of the Jubilee Singers.

Tribute will be paid on October 6, in the Fisk Memorial chapel, to the original band of singers, its sole surviving member, Maggie Porter Cole, and the present group of Singers, in an impressive one-hour service. The Fisk choir, of which Herald Schmidt is director, and the Fisk Jubilee Singers will furnish music for the service. Rev. William J. Faulker is to give the eulogy.

### MABEL MERCER, ENGLISH COLORED ENTERTAINER TO MAKE DEBUT AT "RUBAN BLEU" IN NEW YORK

London, Oct. 6 (By Rudolph Dunbar for ANP)—The management of the "Ruban Bleu" in Paris has contracted Mabel Mercer, the smart vivacious colored entertainer to appear at the opening of the "Ruban Bleu" in New York on Oct. 12.

Mabel Mercer was born in Staffordshire, England. Her first professional job was with the first syncopated orchestra which visited England. When the late Florence Mills visited London, Mabel was invited to join the company of "Dixie to Broadway" at the London Pavilion. After the company finished its engagement in London, Mabel joined up with John Payne's quartet and toured all over England. She first visited Paris in 1920, where she has since been domiciled, but has paid frequent visits to England and the rest of the continent to fill professional engagements.



Fisk university, Nashville, Tenn. and Fiskites throughout the nation on Oct. 6, will celebrate the 67th anniversary of the first tour of the famous Fisk Jubilee Singers in 1871. Fisk President Thomas

Elsa Jones will lead a nationwide prayer service as part of the memorial. Mrs. James A. Myers, in above group, is the present director of the singers who, shown above, include Arthur Lee Bostic,

William Collier, Oswald Lampkin, Herbert Rutherford, Carl Weems and Cecil Reeves. Sole surviving member of the original troupe is Maggie Cole of Detroit. (ANP)

Sole Survivor



**MAGGIE PORTER COLE**  
Sole surviving member of the Original Fisk Jubilee Singers, famous unit established in 1871, and which this week celebrates its 67th anniversary at Nashville's Fisk university. The Fisk Singers have appeared all over America and in most of the countries of Continental Europe. (ANP)

### KINGS OF SWING



CHICK WEBB

Chick Webb, known as the "king of the drums", was born in Baltimore, Maryland and is twenty-nine years old. Chicks first professional date with his own orchestra was booked for him by Duke Ellington. His fame as a swing drummer spread quickly and he was engaged to direct his own band at the Savoy Ballroom in the heart of Harlem. It was while there that he discovered Ella Fitzgerald, swing singer, and wrote his tunes "Stomping at the Savoy" and "You Showed me the Way." Chick adopted Ella Fitzgerald from an orphanage because she showed promise as a singer. Today her own tune, "A tisket—A Tasket" is a best seller on Decca records and the No. 1 tune among popular numbers throughout the country. Webb's band was featured for a long time on the "Good Times Society" over NBC and he has made several guest appearances on both NBC and CBS. Recently he received a bonus for the business the band did at the New York Paramount theater and last winter the band scored a great hit at Levaggi's restaurant in Boston.

ball, golf and baseball—his hobby is keeping a scrap book. Has composed several swing tunes and his own radio theme song. Recorded for Victor, Brunswick and Decca. Is at present with Brunswick. Earl has been on the NBC network almost continually for eight years. Is known in radio circles as "Father" Hines. Has had engagements at Apollo theater in New York, Grand Terrace in Chicago, etc. Hines band is one of the original swing bands.



CAB CALLOWAY

(so the rumors have it) is scheduled to be a proud father in November. He will now have some one to leave his fortune to.



"CYCLONE BILL" Cumberbatch as he appears as a native in "Hiati", WPA Federal Theatre Project's Sensational Drama at Daly's Theatre 63rd St., and Broadway.

years over NBC network from Grand Terrace Cafe in Chicago to Congress Hotel in Chicago, Savoy Ballroom in New York and many RKO and Public theaters.

### BILL ROBINSON CLEARED BY JURY

Los Angeles, Oct. 6 (CNA)—Bill Robinson, 61-year-old-tap dancer was cleared of assault charges this week by the County Grand Jury which investigated the fight that followed a traffic jam involving him and Paul Moffat, white athlete. Moffat, a student at the University of California, accused

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EARL "FATHER" HINES

Was born in Pittsburgh, Penna. Can play piano, guitar and saxophone, but only features the piano playing ability with band. Made his professional debut in Pittsburgh playing in a night club. Earl claims that then he was called a "jazz piano player" and today they call it swing! At one time studied law. His favorite sports are foot-



FLETCHER HENDERSON

Was born in Cuthbert, Ga. Graduated from the Atlanta University and made his debut with his own band in New York in 1924. His first orchestre was called the "Black Swan Troubadours" and they featured an unknown colored girl singer—ETHEL WATERS! Fletcher plays the piano, violin, and cello, but only features his piano playing with band. Recorded for a negro recording company which folded after first recording session. Before having his own band, Henderson was a teacher. He taught mathematics and chemistry. He enjoys baseball and making up swing arrangements for Benny Goodman. Henderson wrote the popular "Christopher Columbus," "Rug Cutters Swing," "Stampede," "Variety Stomp," "Jangled Nerves"—are his swing tunes. Has broadcast consistently for the past five