

4 Boil 'em... the colours won't fade

★ THEY BOIL AND BOIL AND BOIL

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BEBOP IS "CEREBRAL"

Latest Jazz Style Appeals to the Intellect — They Say

TO more than a few Americans bebop is the "new music." It is certainly one of the latest developments in the jazz world, where its complicated, irregular rhythms and "weird" new chord combinations are emerging from the obscurity in which they rested in the war years, and beginning (though only just beginning) to storm the portals of hot jazz, blues, swing, and boogie-woogie.

Jazz originated, as nearly everybody knows, in the smoky bistros and honky-tonks of New Orleans at the end of last century. From there its Negro practitioners carried it up the Mississippi on the riverboats to St. Louis, Kansas City, and Chicago, and from the banks of the river it spread outwards through the States—to the mid-west, the west, the south-west, and finally to the east. And as the years passed changes in the nature of this original jazz took place. Big-band jazz developed (Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw), and there was "symphonic" jazz (Paul Whiteman). There appeared different instrumental styles (Chicago breakdown, New York and Harlem), different piano styles (boogie-woogie), and different vocal styles (blue torch and scat singing). And of course there was swing. Jazz impinged on classical music (*Rhapsody in Blue*), and classical music impinged on jazz (*Rio Grande*).

But basically all this music was still the good old New Orleans jazz, played primarily as dance music, and characterised by its four beats to the bar, with

accents on the first and third beat. Then around about 1940, so the story goes, some players felt they wanted to do something different. "We got tired of that old New Orleans beat-beat, I-got-the-blues stuff," one jazz musician is reported to have said. And out of that mood of rebellion bebop was born, for in the bebop style of playing, although the characteristic steady pulse of jazz is present, the beats are so well disguised that to the uninitiated they don't appear to be there at all.

"Intellectual" Music

That is one aspect of bebop. Another is that it has intellectual pretensions. It tries to be more than just dance music. It has been described as "sophisticated, highly literate, and immensely cerebral." Another fan says it bears the same relationship to jazz that a Henry Moore sculpture does to a Rodin. One of the leading beboppers, a scholarly, 21-year-old Negro called Thelonius Monk, said "We liked Ravel, Stravinsky, Debussy, Prokofiev, Schonberg, and maybe we were a little influenced by them." Many followers take a strong interest in abstract painting and psycho-analysis. In Paris, bebop has been taken up by the existentialists.

Until a few years ago practitioners of the new style had to play in private, because commercial band leaders would not have them in their bands, and the general jazz public took a dislike to their music. Perhaps that is a reason why beboppers occasionally describe

(continued on next page)

"THE LISTENER" CROSSWORD

(Solution to No. 417)

Clues Down

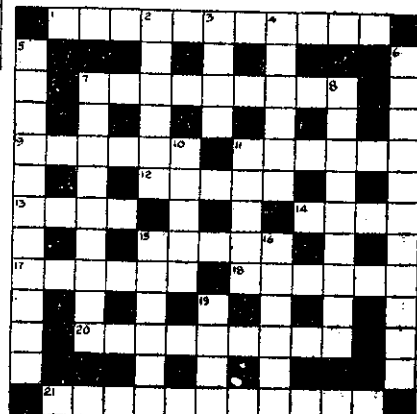
2. Hop it, in other words.
3. and 19. A crab's progress on the pavement?
4. Pope's envoy.
5. Circumlocution for the Parish spire.
6. Tread in fern subsequent to partaking of a meal.
7. Wealth.
8. Spotted dog.
10. Track in an adjacent railway.
11. Unexpected sound to issue from an organ.
15. Staple (anag.)
16. Name of river in the Nelson district, meaning "Little Water."
19. See 3 down.

No. 418 (Constructed by R.W.C.)

R	E	S	U	S	C	I	T	A	T	I	O	N
I	T	I	T	C	M	E						
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D	E	A	D	R	E	C	K	O	N	I	N	G

Clues Across

1. It looks as if the one whodunit had a meal. Anita's asses may help you out.
7. Given up.
9. The child in "An Elfin Fantasy."
11. Mr. Potter attends a Highland chief.
12. Town in Cornwall.
13. and 14. It sounds like the royal writing perhaps, but it's really a matter of time.
15. Oriental dish of meat and rice.
17. Temper, but not necessarily good or bad.
18. If this race is led by a car the result may decorate a buttonhole.
20. Leave. Not II (anag.)
21. Even if Paul Robeson received the appropriate title, this would scarcely describe him. You will find the answer "Through the Looking-Glass."



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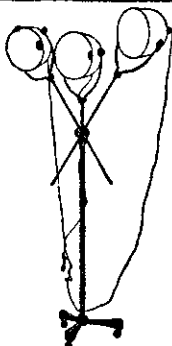


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