

ALL THE GAIETY, GLITTER AND GLAMOUR OF SYDNEY'S PRINCES CABARET

ZB Stations Present Broadcasts By Craig Crawford's Band

NOT without cause has Sydney earned the reputation of being one of the gayest cities south of the Line, and as many New Zealanders know, every night's a gala night at dozens of lively cabarets and cafes. The Trocadero, the Ginger Jar, the Princes Cabaret, are three places which present night life with a dash of sophistication that our own cabarets have yet to acquire.

Rendezvous most popular with Sydney dancers these days is the Princes, where one of the brightest dance bands in Australia is conducted by a young New Zealand saxophonist, Craig Crawford. The Commercial Broadcasting Service is featuring every Saturday night a broadcast of Craig Crawford and his band that incorporates the atmosphere of the Princes Cabaret, with all its music and gaiety, just as if a night's programme were on relay.

Crawford was well known in the Auckland dance world, as he played at both the Civic Wintergarden and at the Peter Pan Cabaret. Five years ago he left to try his luck in Australia, and he has not looked back. He is a fine saxophonist, his instrument being the B Flat tenor, on which he produces a beautiful tone, very similar to that of Howard Jacobs. He is also a master, in the Benny Goodman tradition, of the clarinet.

Usual combination in his Princes Cabaret is piano, drums, four saxophones, Spanish guitar and violin. The band is exceptionally strong in the saxophone section, but, after the style of most Australian combinations, there is special emphasis on the rhythm section. New Zealand bands tend to concentrate more on melody. It is interesting to note that Crawford's band can play both saxophone and clarinet quartets.

Those interested in dance band music will be interested to know that Dominion musicians have an exceptionally high reputation in Australia. Some years ago, a very high

compliment was paid by Frank Coughlan, one of the best known band leaders in Australia, who visited Auckland with his brother to help in the formation of an orchestra for a local cabaret. When they returned to Australia, Frank Coughlan formed a combination at the Sydney Trocadero, and they took with them several New Zealand musicians. At one stage, five of the Trocadero's 14-piece band were New Zealanders.

Other musicians who have made their way in Australia are Maurie Gilman and Ern. Beecham. Gilman, who is conducting in Sydney at the moment, has appeared at several well-

known cabarets, including the Ginger Jar. Beecham, a brilliant swing pianist, left New Zealand to join up with Fullers, and was soon back with the original "Rio Rita" company. He toured with many revue companies, and last year undertook an engagement leading a band at the Metropole Cabaret, Auckland.

But of all these musicians none has made more of a name for himself than Craig Crawford, and his broadcasts over the ZB stations should prove of added interest to lovers of dance band music. Crawford's band plays every Saturday night, from 12B and 3ZB at eight o'clock, and from 2ZB at 10 o'clock.



CRAIG CRAWFORD

Special emphasis on rhythm



ACTION FRONT AT THE PRINCES CABARET. If you've ever been to Sydney and danced at the Princes, you'll recognise debonair Craig Crawford and his merry men. If you haven't been there, the ZB stations can transport you there in a jiffy any Saturday night

Musical Swings And Roundabouts

SO many New Zealand dance musicians have gone to Australia during the past ten years or so that it has been observed that it is impossible to throw a rotten tomato at an Australian dance band without hitting a New Zealander. Serious fact is, though, that our dance musicians must get a very thorough grounding, for they never have any difficulty finding work in other countries.

But what we lose on the musical swing we very nearly make up on the roundabouts, as, up to the outbreak of war, at any rate, we were having frequent visits from overseas players. This in itself, by enabling New Zealand players to gain first-hand experience of the latest style and technique, has had a beneficial effect on the standard of local musicianship.

Notable recent visitor was Manuel Raymond, who came from London to play at the Centennial Exhibition cabaret. Raymond, incidentally, is an outstanding example of a New Zealand musician who has made good overseas.

VERDICT - THUMBS UP

"THUMBS UP" was the unanimous vote of the audience of 1,400 present at the Civic Theatre in Christchurch on a recent Sunday evening to witness the stage show put on by an enthusiastic amateur body of entertainers from Timaru. "Thumbs Up" was also the opinion of 3ZB listeners who were entertained by one of the brightest Sunday shows with which the Station has yet been associated. The name of the show? "Thumbs Up."

Quite by accident, a programme of the show, which had just completed a season in Timaru, came into the hands of Harry Bell, 3ZB's station director. Mr. Bell immediately saw in it an outstanding programme for a Sunday evening concert in Christchurch, and at the same time an excellent draw-card for the concert being organised by the Plunket Society.

The idea being enthusiastically received by everyone, plans were immediately put under way, and special concessions were granted by the Railways Department to enable the hundred-odd performers to make the journey from Timaru. Seven special coaches were hooked on to the excursion train, and 3ZB who were on the air from the railway station when the party arrived about midday.

Everything went smoothly from the moment of arrival of the party in Christchurch till it left again for Timaru by train after the show. With full orchestra and stage effects, the "Thumbs Up" Revue will be remembered in Christchurch as an outstanding show, and probably few people realised that the complete organisation was the work of only a few days.

"WHEN Father Papered the Parlour" is entertainment of the "Before Radio" period, but it finds its place in an up to the minute programme from 12B. This classic of Billy Williams and other ancient records are not to be heard every day from 12B, but "Before Radio" records are used in a special programme entitled "Turn Back the Pages" broadcast by Rod Talbot at ten o'clock each Tuesday night.

It is a popular programme, even if some of the discs are a bit scratchy, and recorded in pre-electric times. What matters is that they bring back memories of favourite voices of other days. And who knows? In another twenty years Bing Crosby's croonings may be in the same category.

New Patriotic Song

THE war has produced many patriotic songs, but few of them have met with the instantaneous success of "The Empire is Marching," which is receiving widespread publicity in England just now. The music was written by Dudley Glass, and the words are by Clifford Grey, who wrote the lyric of "If You Were the Only Girl in the World."

The BBC is assisting to spread the song round the world. Sydney Burchall has been engaged for a broadcast, and it will be featured at concerts all over England. In addition, the Coldstream Guards Band, with Dennis Noble, has made a record which will shortly be distributed through the Empire.

The words are as follows:

Auckland to the Indies,
Spain to Mandalay,
The Empire is marching towards the day,
From Bengal to the Rockies,
There are brave hearts on the way,
The Empire is marching towards the day,
Look to the North! Look to the South!
They are strong and unafraid.
Look to the East! Look to the West!
They're joining the vast crusade.
From Suva to Vancouver, From the Road to Mandalay
The Empire is marching towards the day.

Station 2ZB has received an advance copy of the words and music of "The Empire is Marching," and the song is being featured with Eric Bell at the piano.

Meet the Randell Family

A new feature programme from 2ZB is "The Randell Family," broadcast on Thursdays and Saturdays at 6.45 p.m. It has been well received in Australia, and has already become popular with 2ZB listeners. There is nothing artificial about the Randell family; they are just ordinary people who get into ordinary, everyday tangles. Interesting twists to the story and some excellent singing (for the family is musical) combine to make this programme an entertaining one.