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bunk—(s) !

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About 4 sheets of **Pinex Hardboard**—a few feet of 3 x 2 pine timber—bolts, nails and something to nudge them in with—the Pinex Instruction Leaflet (to keep you on the rails)—and you'll be home and dried! With the kids all tucked up in bed (sorry, bunks).

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Pinex Instruction Pamphlets containing hints on how to renovate are available on application to your nearest **Pinex Distributor** or direct from **N.Z. Forest Products Ltd.**

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Cole, Ella, Brubeck, Les Brown Are New Champs As Longtime Winners Fall By Wayside In '53 Poll

Billie To Make European Tour

DOWN BEAT

Eckstine, Vaughan Lose;
Baker New Trumpet Star

VOL. 28—NO. 26 CHICAGO, DECEMBER 30, 1955

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Here's Our '53 All-Star Band

Eric Brown, Stan Kenton, leader	
(named best band)	
Cliff Baker	Trumpet
Jimmy Killebrew	Trumpet
Harry James	Trumpet
Bill Flores	Trumpet
Frank Rosolino	Trumpet
Kai Windling	Trumpet
Charles Parker	Alto
Lee Konitz	
Stan Getz	

"Down Beat" Winners of 1953

"THE bands of Les Brown and Stan Kenton, singers Nat Cole and Ella Fitzgerald, Dave Brubeck's combo, and the Four Freshmen were swept to victory in the 1953 *Down Beat* poll by a flood of ballots that made this the most voted-in contest in many years."

So reported last New Year's Eve number of the *Beat*, America's bi-weekly jazz bible, on the results of its 17th annual readers' poll. A series of five programmes of recordings by the winners in each section of the poll will be broadcast from 2YD, beginning at 9.0 p.m. on Tuesday, April 27. The title of the series is *Down Beat Poll Winners of 1953*.

According to *Down Beat's* report of the contest, 1953 was a year of big changes. In the male singer section five-time winner Billy Eckstine finished behind both Nat Cole and Frank Sinatra, who won 985 and 395 votes respectively, while Ella Fitzgerald broke Sarah Vaughan's six-year grasp on the girl singer's crown with 913 votes to 905. Peggy Lee also beating Sarah with 910 votes.

In the all-star band section Chet Baker had a surprising win over Dizzy Gillespie and Harry James as top trumpeter for 1953. Chet at that time had hardly been heard outside his native California, apart from recordings, yet he had a lead of 150 votes over the next man on the poll. The voting was: Baker, 807; Gillespie, 664; James, 624. Chet Baker, incidentally, was only in 21st place last year.

The Dave Brubeck combo took top place in the instrumental group section.

ending George Shearing's four-year reign. The Four Freshmen came from nowhere to win as the favourite vocal group, followed by the Mills Brothers and the Four Aces. Gerry Mulligan won the baritone sax section.

Biggest voting went, of course, to the dance band and jazz band sections. Stan Kenton had the top jazz band, with 2301 votes, followed by Woody Herman (1309) and Duke Ellington (956). The leading dance band was Les Brown's with 2253 votes, and it was followed by Ray Anthony and Ralph Marterie, each with close to 2000. Buddy DeFranco won the clarinet section for the ninth time, getting nearly double the votes of his nearest rival, Benny Goodman. Bill Harris was the top trombonist, also for the ninth year in succession.

The programmes to be broadcast in the series *Down Beat Poll Winners of 1953* include selections by the top three winners of each section, with linking narrative telling something about the recent activities of the favoured bands and individual players.

Among other things the 1953 poll elected a second person to *Down Beat's* Music Hall of Fame, the late Glenn Miller, whose popularity has never died and whose life story was recently made into a film called *The Glenn Miller Story*. Closely behind Miller in the voting were Duke Ellington and Stan Kenton, followed by Benny Goodman, George Gershwin and Igor Stravinsky. Glenn Miller thus joins Louis Armstrong, the first to be elected to the Music Hall of Fame, as one of those who have contributed greatly to 20th Century popular music.

For those who are interested, *Down Beat's* 1953 All-Star Band, made up from the winners of the different sections in the poll, is as follows:—Les Brown and Stan Kenton (leaders); Chet Baker, Dizzy Gillespie and Harry James (trumpets); Bill Harris, Frank Rosolino and Kai Winding (trombones); Charlie Parker and Lee Konitz (alto saxophones); Stan Getz and Flip Phillips (tenor saxophones); Gerry Mulligan (baritone sax); Buddy DeFranco (clarinet); Oscar Peterson (piano); Ray Brown (bass); Les Paul (guitar); Gene Krupa (drums); Terry Gibbs (vibraphones); Don Elliott (mellophone); Art Van Damme (accordion); Ralph Burns (arranger); Tommy Mercer (male vocalist); and Lucy Ann Polk (female vocalist). This is a combination that is never likely to be heard, but these players would produce some wonderful music if anyone ever managed to get them all together in one place at the same time.



STAN KENTON
The Duke came third

N.Z. LISTENER, APRIL 23, 1954.