

NEWS OF BROADCASTERS, ON AND OFF THE RECORD

with Rob Currie as chairman. Of course, G.H. is in a category of his own. A fine artist who, I should think, is worth a lot of money, but has thoroughly earned it."

★

DIZZY GILLESPIE'S record, "Salt Peanut," broadcast recently in "Turntable's" *Rhythm on Record* from 1YD, has prompted Phil Warren, of Auckland, to write to us for further information about Dizzy.

MODERN SOUNDS He is, of course, one of the originators of what has sometimes been called "progressive jazz," *le jazz nouveau*, or



DIZZY GILLESPIE
"New melodic lines"

simply "modern sounds." Dizzy is one of the handful of musicians—the others include Charlie Parker, Tadd Dameron, Thelonius Monk and Kenny Clarke—who evolved the style known as bop

N.Z. COMPOSER

Douglas Lilburn

IN 1940 a young man came back from abroad and announced his intention of taking up farming. He was Douglas Lilburn, who had just startled his contemporaries by carrying off all prizes in the section of the Centennial Competitions for works by New Zealand composers. Luckily Douglas Lilburn didn't go on to the farm, but continued to compose, and to teach music to a new generation of students at Victoria University College, where he is at present a lecturer. Now he is probably the best known of New Zealand composers, and his first symphony was broadcast by the BBC in 1951. He has had many other works broadcast by the NZBS, and both his first and second symphonies have been performed by the National Orchestra. He has also written music for New Zealand films and stage productions.

Lilburn was born in Wanganui in 1915 and educated at Waitaki Boys' High School and Canterbury College. In 1937 his tone poem *The Forest* won first prize in a competition sponsored by Percy Grainger. From 1937 to 1940 he studied in England at the Royal College of Music under Vaughan Williams, Gordon Jacob and R. O. Morris. Here his fantasy based on the 15th Century air "Westron Wynde" won him the Cobbett prize in 1939. In the same years he won the Foli Scholarship at the College. The following year his prize-winning Centennial compositions were broadcast by the NZBS String Orchestra in combination with the 2YA

around 1940. According to one report, "to know and understand Dizzy is an indispensable key to an understanding of the contemporary jazz scene." He was born John Birks Gillespie in 1917 in Chehaw, South Carolina, and became a professional musician in his teens, playing in bands led by Frankie Fair-



Spencer Digby photograph

Concert Orchestra, conducted by one of the judges, Andersen Tyrer. They were the "Drysdale" and "Festival" overtures and the choral work *Prodigal Country*. For the last-named the combined orchestra was joined by the A Capella Choir, with Lawrence A. North as soloist; the words were taken from Robin Hyde's "Journey from New Zealand," Allen Curnow's "New Zealand City," and Walt Whitman's "Song of Myself."

At 2.18 p.m. on Sunday, October 10, 2YZ will broadcast Douglas Lilburn's Trio for Violin, Viola and 'Cello, in the *Music by New Zealand Composers* series. The performers are Ruth Pearl (violin), Jean McCartney (viola) and Marie Vanderwart ('cello).

fax and Teddy Hill. By 1937, when he went with the Hill Band to the Paris Exposition, Dizzy's trumpet playing already seemed rather strange to the critics.

Later he joined the big bands of Edgar Hayes, Cab Calloway and Les Hite, and soon his "strange" playing was causing considerable comment among the new generation. At Minton's on 118th Street in Harlem the young experimenters were getting together and comparing notes. They were breaking away from the stereotyped riffs used by the big swing bands of the time towards a more complex rhythmic and harmonic pattern. Their solos especially became freer, and they blew new melodic lines against the established chord structure of the tune, rather than over the established melodic line.

After playing with Fletcher Henderson and Duke Ellington, Dizzy joined Billy Eckstine's Band and there met Charlie Parker, Tadd Dameron, one of their arrangers, and Sarah Vaughan. While the band didn't make money, it exercised a tremendous influence on other musicians and gave the new movement needed prestige. In 1945 Dizzy went out on his own. He formed a band at Billy Berg's on Vine Street in Hollywood, and his career since has been spectacularly successful. He has played throughout the United States and Europe, has recorded for many companies, and has composed tunes that are now standards of the modern idiom. One critic has described his tone as the most beautiful trumpet tone in modern jazz, and his flamboyant, intricate solos on fast numbers are said to be so good they are beyond the scope of any other modern trumpet player.



ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD Annette

Swanson, of Thorneycroft Street, Fendalton, Christchurch, photographed at home after hearing that she was the winner of the recent "Mystery Sound" competition in the Jack Maybury programme, "Number, Please," broadcast from all ZB stations at 7.0 p.m. on Mondays. The prize was a refrigerator valued at £142. Annette was not told in advance that she had won the contest, but her parents were let into the secret so that they could make sure she was listening on the night the results were announced.



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