

Lovely to Listen to

JEROME KERN'S *Roberta* will be heard next Saturday night in YA Theatre of Music. Listeners will hear again such nostalgic old favourites as "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes," "I Won't Dance," "The Touch of Your Hand," "Yesterdays" and "Lovely to Look At," recorded by an all-star Broadway cast, including Joan Roberts, Jack Cassidy, Kaye Ballard, Portia Nelson, Stephen Douglass and Frank Rogier. When *Roberta*, the tale of an American footballer who inherits a Parisian dress establishment, was first produced in New York in 1933, its cast included the Russian singer Tamara, Lyda Roberti, Fred MacMurray, George Murphy, Bob Hope and the veteran Fay Templeton. The surprise hit song of the show was undoubtedly "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes," Kern's own favourite number, but the producer did not think enough of it even to have it included among the numbers from the show originally published. However, "Yesterdays" is considered by Sigmund Spaeth, the popular music historian, to be a far more appealing tune, and one of Kern's very best.



Jerome Kern

But if it had not been for the popularity of "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes" and the addition of some spectacular ballets, notably a "Shadows in Silver" sequence, *Roberta* would have been a failure. The critics were kind but uninterested, audiences appreciative but slim, and in its fifth week the show lost 5000 dollars. Suddenly, in the sixth week, the takings picked up miraculously and the show was a "hit." Inevitably, *Roberta* was made into a film, starring Irene Dunne, Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire, and it was for this that the two numbers "I Won't Dance" and "Lovely to Look At" were added. Fairly recently the film was re-made under the title *Lovely to Look At*, with Kathryn Grayson, Howard Keel and Marge and Gower Champion.

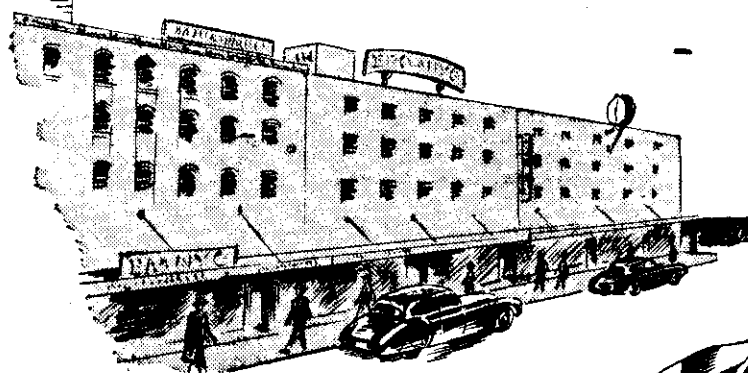
JAZZ CLUB



JAZZ in Britain, which is enjoying a great boost in popularity, especially among teenagers, falls broadly into two classes—"traditional" and "modern." In BBC Jazz Club, now going the rounds of YA stations, the traditional is represented by the bands of Humphrey Lyttelton, the Alex Welsh Dixielanders with George Melly, and the Chris Barber Band. Several of the programmes are contributed by a collection of star musicians assembled for each session just as they get together in basement clubs in London's West End. Big band jazz is represented by the orchestras of Johnny Dankworth, Vic Lewis, Ted Heath, Jack Parnell and Eric Delaney.

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