

INTRODUCING FREDDIE GAMBRELL

The Chico Hamilton Trio

PERSONNEL: Freddie Gambrell (piano), Ben Tucker (bass) and Chico Hamilton (drums).

Items: "Devil's Demise," "You're the Cream in My Coffee," "Midnight Sun," "Five Minutes More." Recorded March 24, 1958.

Chico Hamilton leads a quintet which is one of the most keenly sought after groups for night club work in America today. Its music is respected and its ideas refreshing. To keep it that way, Chico is constantly searching out new talent and men such as Buddy Collette, Fred Katz, Paul Horn and Jim Hall are all Hamilton discoveries. His latest is pianist Freddie Gambrell.

Gambrell first displayed a sense of rhythm on the bongoes and the conga but at the age of ten showed some interest in playing the guitar. A year later, he took his first formal training and the chosen instrument, a violin. Then followed the trumpet and the piano and it was not until he turned seventeen that he decided to concentrate solely on the piano and modern jazz in particular. He also knows his way around the trombone, tuba, French horn, mellophone, cello, bass, harmonica, tonette and flute; and before he lost his sight, about five years ago, he had written nearly three hundred compositions. These included works for string quartets, symphony orchestras and concertos for a flute and a violin.

Ben Tucker's catchy little riff melody "Devil's Demise" spots all three musicians. Chico's drum work has seldom sounded finer while Tucker plucks his way all over the bass producing a rich, round tone. Together they brew up quite a storm behind the pianist. There is a Monkish fascination about Gambrell's music. Modern as they come yet surprisingly melodic with it, he gets a great deal out of the piano even though he works in a comparatively small area of the keyboard. His chords are his forte rather than his single note passages and they have just that something that make them sound new and exciting. Whatever else they are, they are really full! The "Demise" bows out with a touch of "Savoy" and then some of the loveliest music ever recorded. With Tucker's melodic bass working overtime, Gambrell produces chords that defy description, they are so beautiful, and the listener is left begging for more.

"Cream" is introduced by Tucker who spends most of the first chorus on a two beat kick. Freddie has his own ideas about this standard, and his path and that of composers De Sylva, Brown and Henderson seldom cross. The last chorus with its deeply thoughtful chord work and its snatch of "In a Little Spanish Town" is the highlight of the track. As with Thelonius Monk, one wonders whether the chords employed are right, but after careful consideration you realise that they are, just!

Lionel Hampton's "Midnight Sun"

receives a J. Arthur Rank presentation. Gambrell lets this lovely ballad transport him into another world. Note values are changed slightly to allow for his rhapsodising, and with one or two Garnerisms, the "Sun" takes on a haunting midnight hue. Rather a similar effect was created by Debussy in his impressionistic music and by its unusual beauty it has commanded attention. The fact that Gambrell is blind, too, adds something to his music. I often have that same feeling when I listen to Shearing improvising at will on a ballad. Somehow or other their music gets right at you, and you and the musician are one. The experience is wonderfully satisfying. Don't overlook the sympathetic accompaniment provided by Tucker and Hamilton—their lot was not an easy one on this track.

The rather pedestrian "Five Minutes More" gets a real work-out. From the opening chorus Gambrell has you guessing as to what might happen next. In the middle section of this three-minute arrangement he latches on to something that Stan Kenton wrote in his early days and uses it to good effect

as a basis for improvisation. The perceptive listener will also catch the brief snatch of Duke Ellington's "Satin Doll." I feel fairly certain that such quotes are not the result of prior thought and they certainly add listening interest to the music.

Here then is Freddie Gambrell, a new name in the realms of jazz. I can now understand what Chico Hamilton meant when he said: "About three years ago, when I was in San Francisco, I went to Bop City. As I walked in I heard this fantastic piano being played by a young man whom I, at the time, didn't know. I was so impressed while listening to him play that I felt I must sit in with him and so I did. Introductions followed as a matter of course and I found that this complete musician was Freddie Gambrell."

"It's a funny thing about pianos and piano players. There are so many, but yet so few, and I sincerely believe that Freddie is and will be among the few. I think he will develop into one of the real giants."

Yes, Gambrell has a lot of worthwhile things to say. Won't you be receptive?

Playing: Station 1YA, November 12, 10.37 p.m.

—Ray Harris



LIBRARY SCHOOL WELLINGTON

PROFESSIONAL COURSE, 1960

The Library School which is a division of the National Library Service accepts University graduates with a bachelor's or higher degree, including Science, for its diploma Course which lasts from March 1 to November 26, 1960.

The Course is the only full-time Course in New Zealand training men and women for the library profession. Libraries provide a widening range of services to the general public, hospitals, schools, universities, government departments, research workers and industries. Students of the school are trained in the basic professional skills required to administer and develop such services.

An allowance is paid to students to cover living expenses, based on the scale applicable to Division C students of Teachers' Training Colleges. Those taking the Course are expected to give their full time to the work of the school.

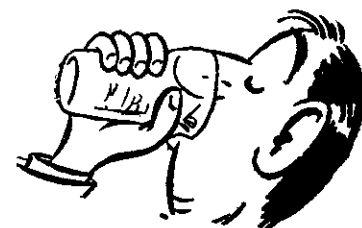
Application forms can be obtained from the Acting Director, Library School, National Library Service, Private Bag, Wellington; the Librarians of the Public Libraries of the four main cities and the Librarians of the University libraries.

Applicants will be interviewed by the Selection Committee in the four main cities during November, 1959.

New Zealand's licensing laws,

it has been said, "are the result of a battle between greed and fanaticism, in which the interests of ordinary sensible citizens have been ignored . . ."

so opens
Conrad Bollinger's
witty, hard hitting
controversial book



GROG'S OWN COUNTRY

Publisher **Price Milburn** Available all booksellers
Box 2919, Wellington only 10/6

HEALTHY FEET ARE HAPPY FEET

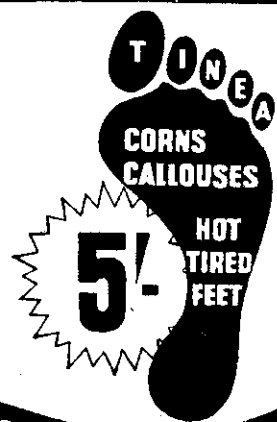
To neglect your feet is to neglect your health and physical comfort. Ortho-Sal, an active emollient, revitalises hardened, sore, inflamed feet by rapid but gentle stimulation of unhealthy skin tissue. Insist on vital, soothing Ortho-Sal.

MAKE WALKING A PLEASURE WITH

Ortho-Sal FOR FOOT COMFORT

FROM YOUR CHEMIST

Manufactured by Ortho-Sal Ltd.,
P.O. Box 8035, Riccarton, Christchurch



New Zealand's Oldest-Established Second-hand Bookshop

★ offers a wide range of Out of Print and Rare Books and of Current Books at Cheap Prices in Guaranteed Condition.

SMITH'S BOOKSHOP LTD.

34 MERCER ST., WELLINGTON, C.1.
Telephone 41-931.