MUSEUM OF MODERN ART TO PRESENT SERIES OF NON-CONCERT MUSIC
INCLUDING SWING, FOLK SONGS, GOSPEL SINGERS, SPANISH DANCERS
AND VOODOO DRUMMERS

Music ordinarily heard only in night clubs and other music
of a non-concert nature is to be presented in the auditorium of the
Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, in a series of six Coffee
Concerts on consecutive Wednesday nights at nine, beginning April 30.
The series will include a swing orchestra, pianist and quintet;
gospel singers; Spanish bagpipe players; a group of South American
Indian musicians and dancers; and modern operas in oratorio form.
The group will also contain such diverse artists as Elsie Houston,
Utah Smith, a singing Negro evangelist, members of the original cast
of Four Saints in Three Acts, former Hall Johnson singers and others.

The series has been arranged by Louise Crane, a member of
the Museum's Music Committee. Miss Crane is interested in having
presented to a wider and perhaps more appreciative audience fine
musicians who are often famous in night clubs but who have no oppor-
tunity to appear on concert stages. This is the case with many of
the artists who will be heard in the Coffee Concert series. The
rich variety of their music, much of it unsuited to night clubs,
will at the Museum be provided with a suitable background and a
responsive audience. The music is modern and expert and, in some
cases, experimental in presentation. The concerts will be informal.
Coffee will be served during intermissions.

The first concert of the series, Balon Swing, will be given
by The Sophistichords, John Kirby and his orchestra and Herman
Chittison, pianist. It will mark the debut of The Sophistichords,
a quintet of Negro singers who have long been known individually as
solists in radio, choir work and stage musicals such as Porgy and
Bess. For their debut at the Museum April 30 they will give modern
swing versions of German, French, Italian, Spanish and English songs.
They will also present for the first time anywhere two special swing
versions of Ravel's Bolero and a selection from Pagliacci. The
members of The Sophisticords are Mae Harrison, Altonell Hines,
Carrington Lewis, Henry May and David Lawton.

Although unknown in this country, the Negro pianist Herman
Chittison has played in Paris and on the Continent with his
orchestra. He gave a command performance at the wedding of the King
of Egypt's sister and has appeared on the concert stage in Belgium,
Spain and Italy. While in Europe Mr. Chittison was engaged as
pianist with a band of French and Martinique musicians to play the
background music for the motion picture Per., Le Moko. Since Mr.
Chittison's return to this country he has played in a small night
club in Harlem and he is now intermission pianist at the Ruban Bleu.
Mr. Chittison is known for his distinguished and unusual swing
versions of Chopin and Schubert.

John Kirby and his orchestra, now at Cafe Society Uptown,
will, among other numbers, play some special swing arrangements of
Debussy. The program of the Salon Swing concert is as follows:

1. John Kirby's Orchestra:
   Rehearsing for a Nervous Breakdown...Charles Shavers
   Effervescent Blues...Charles Shavers
   Double Talk...Lou Singer

2. The Sophisticords
   Parlez-Moi
   Dark Town Strutters Ball
   Bolero

3. Herman Chittison, solo pianist
   Chopin's Minute Waltz
   Blue Danube
   The Man I Love

4. John Kirby's Orchestra
   Clair de Lune...Debussy, arranged by Kirby
   Golliwog's Cakewalk...Debussy
   Nocturne...Griselle
   Serenade...F. Schubert

5. The Sophisticords
   Wien Wien
   Old Man River
   Pagliacci

6. Herman Chittison
   How High the Moon
   Tea for Two

7. John Kirby's Orchestra
   Blue Skies...Irving Berlin, arranged by Kirby
   Ebony Rhapsody...Ellington
   Message From Mars...Sidney Phillips

The rest of the programs will be extremely varied. A special
preview presentation in oratorio form of the celebrated Four Saints
Three Acts with the original cast end under the direction of its composer, Virgil Thomson, will be heard as the second of the series on May 7. The third program, Review America, will consist of Spanish bagpipers, Spanish dancers, a flamenco singer-guitarist and Spanish folk singers. This will be on Wednesday, May 14.

On May 21 a concert of Negro harmony and gospel singing will be given under the general title Jubilee by the Reverend Utah Smith, singing Negro evangelist, together with the Pentecostal Five, the Little Unknown Four, the Silver Bell Quartet, the Rolling Stones, the Royal Light Quartet and other quartets.

The fifth program, South American Panorama, on May 28, will have as its soloist Elsie Houston, noted Brazilian soprano, supported by Haitian Voodoo dancers, Incan musicians and dancers, and other artists. South American Panorama will be heard May 28. Artists will be announced later for the final program June 4 of Concert Swing.