

On the Air

By ELEANOR WIESE

Several weeks ago "Music Symposium," the five hours of classical music broadcast each day on FM radio, died a quiet death. And silence was the reason for this loss to our area—silence from listeners who enjoy serious music.

Bill DeMarco of Stereo Sound, who once managed one of the largest classical FM stations in California, believed that in Southern Oregon, too, could be found an audience responsive to "better" music. So far nearly two months he played on KBOY-FM the treasures from his high fidelity library, augmenting the music with comments concerning the composers and performers.

Because FM radio, like any other medium, is a commercial thing dependent upon an audience to justify any program, Mr. DeMarco asked listeners to drop him a card, give him a call, do anything to show that there were listeners. The response? Pathetically small. The radio station received only 16 letters and 8 phone calls in two months. Mr. DeMarco fared no better. With discouragement and sadness, the program was dropped.

This is perhaps just one example of the general apathy all over the United States in regard to the development and use of high-fidelity, distortion-free FM broadcasting. The number of FM stations has actually declined 10 per cent since 1948.

In other countries the situation is much different. There were only 4 FM stations in all of Europe in 1950. Today over 1000 stations are operating in an area about the same size as the United States. In the Soviet Union, too, FM is growing and has replaced AM in most urban centers.

Although Canada claims only one-twentieth as many FM stations as the United States, it has one of the longest FM networks on the continent. Until recently, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's FM network duplicated the AM programming. But because of growing interest in FM, the CBC now broadcasts separate programs on FM, primarily high-fidelity music and live drama.

Unless the listening public in the United States replaces apathy with demands for more FM programming, we will continue to fall behind other countries in distortion-free, high-fidelity broadcasting.

CONCERT HALL, 2 p.m. Sunday K-SHA radio, Mouskorgsky's "Night on Bald Mountain"; Offenbach's "Fantasies"; and Ravel's Bolero.

CONSOLE AT THE CATHEDRAL, 4:30 p.m. Sunday K-SHA radio, Dr. Herbert E. Richards plays on the organ of the Cathedral of the Rockies in Boise, Idaho with commentary on the music and composers.

UPDATE, 5 p.m. Sunday KMED-TV. A wrap-up on the Cuban situation and the Eumenical Council in Rome are featured.

COLLEGE BOWL, 5:30 p.m. Sunday KBES-TV. Oregon State University, last week's winners, meet a team from the University of New Mexico.

TWENTIETH CENTURY, 6 p.m. Sunday KBES-TV. "Laval: Portrait of a Traitor" follows the career of the man who became Hitler's chief pawn in the collaborationist Vichy government of France.

MEET THE PRESS, 6 p.m. Sunday KMED-TV. Mortimer M. Caplin, Commissioner of Internal Revenue and one of the outstanding tax experts in the nation, will be interviewed.

ED SULLIVAN, 8 p.m. Sunday KBES-TV. Guests include: Al Hirt, jazz trumpeter; Jerome Hines, Metropolitan Opera bass; Pearl Bailey, singing comedienne; and Maya Plisetskaya, prima ballerina of the Bolshoi Ballet.

SHOW OF THE WEEK, 10 p.m. Sunday KMED-TV. "Muntz," a dramatic interpretation of the only recorded mutiny in U.S. Navy history set in 1842. Dana Andrews and Robert Walker star.

CALENDAR, 9 a.m. Monday KBES-TV. Publisher Alfred A. Knopf will reminisce about famous literary figures and show films of Thomas Mann, Sigrid Undset, Rebecca West, Willa Cather, Elinor Wylie and others taken by Knopf in 1927-1932.

CHRISTMAS FANTASY, 10 a.m. Monday through Friday K-SHA radio. Robin Morrow won a Peabody award for this seasonal series presenting the music and legends of Christmas.

JACK BENNY, 9:30 p.m. Tuesday KBES-TV. Bob Hope and Jack Benny play two hungry song-and-dance men.

CHEY HUNTLEY REPORTING, 10:30 p.m. Tuesday KMED-TV. A special report about the Sino-Indian conflict. Prime Minister Nehru is interviewed in New Delhi.

HALLMARK HALL OF FAME, 9:30 p.m. Thursday KMED-TV. "Cyranos de Bergerac," Edmond Rostand's swashbuckling romantic drama. Christopher Plummer portrays Cyrano and Hope Lange is Roxane.

CLOSE-UP, 7 p.m. Friday KMED-TV. "India—the Troubled Giant." ABC News reports on the strengths and weaknesses of India and what America must do to help her keep her democratic structure.

ALFRED HITCHCOCK, 10 p.m. Friday KBES-TV. Tony Randall and Joyce Mansfield star in "Hangover," a story in which a man's wife is missing but a beautiful blonde appears in his living room. He can't remember the details of what happened.

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