

Five-Fifteen

A Tribute to the
BBC Dance Orchestra

Mr. **MART SANDER**
and his **SWING SWINDLERS**

The first resident BBC dance band was the London Radio Dance Band under the direction of violinist leader Sidney Firman, brother of bandleaders Bert and John Firman. The newly-named dance band made their first broadcast on 16th February 1926. During its two years of existence, the band was heard on the "wireless" almost daily, regularly at 6 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and until November 1926 providing music for variety shows. From August 1927 onwards the band appeared each Saturday night from 8 PM till 10 PM in the programme "Dancing Time" with many guest artists. The band made their final broadcast on March 10th 1928. By that time the BBC had decided to form its very own house band. They chose to give the task to Jack Payne, whose Hotel Cecil Orchestra had made some broadcasts in 1925. The new orchestra, which was called "The BBC Dance Orchestra under the direction of Jack Payne", was first aired two days after the London Radio Dance Band's final broadcast. They stayed on the air for four years. When Payne decided to take his band on tour early in 1932, the BBC reached a surprising decision to hand the position over to a bandleader from "the provinces". But Henry Hall was no stranger to the BBC. The 33-year old bandleader was by that time the Musical Director for the LMS Railway hotels controlling 32 bands. In the middle of 1924 he had formed a band for the new ultra-grand Gleneagles Hotel in Perthshire, Scotland, and broadcast for the first time from the opening night ball. From then onwards Henry Hall and his Gleneagles Band was broadcasting practically every week (from the late 1920's until 1936 the BBC would broadcast live dance music between 10.30 PM and midnight, six nights a week). Hall formed a new orchestra; their first broadcast on March 15th 1932 was also notable for being the first transmission from Broadcasting House, London. For the next five years the Orchestra was heard most week days with regular daily broadcasts at 5.15 PM, every Thursday on the late night spot, later alternating Saturday nights with the Ambrose Orchestra.



As the leader of the BBC Dance Orchestra, Jack Payne had established a hot rhythm style as their trademark. But Henry Hall decided that a radically different approach was needed to identify his band. He put less emphasis on brass and more on melody, presenting his tunes in glorious, lush arrangements. The BBC Dance Orchestra was at its best between 1935 and 1937 when the band had a big sound, even sporting such instruments as flute and cello. In 1935 they were seen starring in the film *Music Hath Charms*, having a memorable scene where they arrive late at the sound studio and start broadcasting one by one until the whole band is complete by the last chorus. The next year Hall conducted the band of the "Queen Mary" on her maiden voyage.



By that time he was a household name and received the largest fan mail of any broadcasting artist at that time. After five years at the BBC, Hall decided to leave to start touring the country with his band. On 25 September 1937, The BBC Dance Orchestra directed by Henry Hall made its farewell broadcast. An estimated 40 million people tuned in to listen to their concert of over thirty favourite songs. The band went on tour to an enormous reception. Henry Hall and his Orchestra continued to record and tour throughout Great Britain and Europe until their last performance in 1947, when Hall went into theatre management business.

After his final broadcast it was agreed at the BBC that there would not be a new BBC Dance Orchestra, as more and more bands were broadcasting - as well as the regulars Ambrose, Roy Fox, Carroll Gibbons, there were now Billy Cotton, Nat Gonella, Brian Lawrance, Joe Loss, Oscar Rabin and many others. But nevertheless, in two years it was once again decided to have a resident house band. Billy Ternent, the chief arranger and deputy leader of Jack Hylton's famous orchestra, was asked to form the third BBC Dance Orchestra. He was appointed shortly after the outbreak of World War II in September 1939, and could be heard on the radio almost daily, broadcasting from 'somewhere in England' which often meant Bristol or Weston-Super-Mare, in Somerset. Billy Ternent resigned from the BBC in March 1944 due to ill health, and Stanley Black took over his baton at the BBC Dance Orchestra, broadcasting until 1952, when the "BBC Dance Orchestra" became the "BBC Show Band", lead by Cyril Stapleton. On June 28, 1957, the BBC announced a decision to end the band. That same year Henry Hall's "Guest Night", which he had introduced in 1934, came to an end after 23 years and almost 1000 programmes. A memorable era had ended.

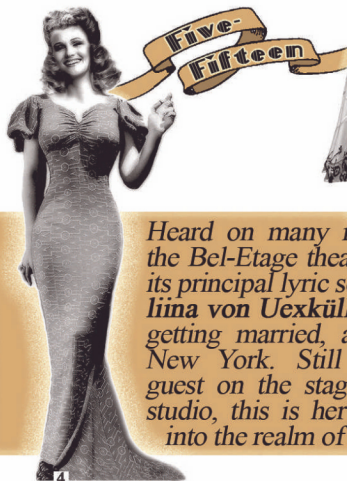
Throughout the three decades of the BBC Dance Orchestra, it's the five years of Henry Hall's leadership, which have turned into legend. I hope this album can fill the listeners with the same excitement that made millions rush home to tea and listen to Henry Hall and his BBC Dance Orchestra at 5:15, more than seventy years ago.

SWING SENSATIONS



We are proud to present the Bel-Etage Swing Swindlers' first album, a tribute to the legendary BBC Dance Orchestra. Enjoy!
But now, let's meet the featured vocalists:

The principal female vocalist with The Swindlers is Miss Kelli Uustani, who is well known as a rising star of musical comedy. Her exceptionally wide vocal range and strong musical sense allow her to perform different styles with the greatest of ease.



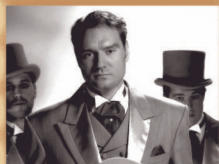
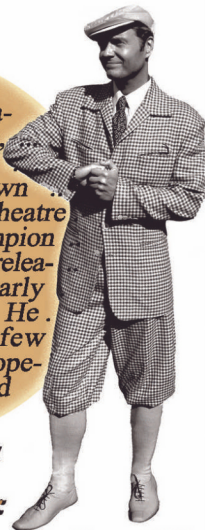
Heard on many recordings of the Bel-Etage theatre company, its principal lyric soprano **Mari-liina von Uexküll** is now, after getting married, a socialite in New York. Still a welcome guest on the stage and in the studio, this is her first venture into the realm of swing music.

The leader and principal vocalist of The Swindlers, Mr. Mart Sander is an internationally well known musician and film and theatre personality. He is a champion of British music, having released several albums of early 20th century repertoire. He has also directed a few films, composed an opera and published two novels.

Ladies and gentlemen behind
Five-Fifteen.

Trumpets: Andres Peetson, Jaak Vasar, Vallo Mänd or Ivar Tillemann **Trombones:** Mart Sork, Priit Zimmermann or Ivar Kiiv **Saxophones:** Virgo Veldi, Edmund Altmanis, Siim Aimala, Lauri Sepp, Sulev Sommer or Aulis Nemvalts **Violins:** Toomas Bubert, Alar Villems, Kaur Kuurme **Bass:** Tõnis Tüür **Drums:** Eno Kollom **Guitar:** Madis Arvisto **Piano:** Mart Sander

Members of the vocal quartet: Kelli Uustani, Airi Allvee, Mart Sander, William Vesilind. Recorded at the Estonian Broadcasting House, August to September 2004. Recording engineers: Tanel Klesment, Tarmo Pajusaar. Editing: Arne Holm. Photos: Kaupo Kikas, Tõnis Tüür. Album art: Mart Sander. Produced by Mart Sander.



On this album:

1. **Five-Fifteen, BBC Orchestra** (Estate of Henry Robert Hall)
2. **It's D'Lovely Vocals: Mart Sander** (Chappell Music Ltd)
3. **Avenue of Trees Vocals: Kelli Uustani & Mart Sander** (Copyright Control)
4. **Keep Young and Beautiful Vocals: Kelli Uustani** (B.Feldman & Co. Ltd.)
5. **Too Marvellous for Words Vocals: Mart Sander** (Chappell Music Ltd.)
6. **Rise'n'Shine Vocals: Kelli Uustani & Mart Sander** (Redwood Music/Warner Chappell Music Ltd)
7. **Love Is the Sweetest Thing Vocals: Mart Sander** (MCPS)
8. **Concert in the Park Vocals: Gentlemens' Trio** (B. Feldman & Co. Ltd.)
9. **What a Difference a Day Made Vocals: Kelli Uustani** (Peter Maurice Music Ltd.)
10. **Some Day My Prince Will Come Vocals: Mariliina von Uexkull** (Chappell Music Ltd.)
11. **I've Got a Pocketful of Dreams Vocals: Mart Sander** (Campbell Connolly & Co. Ltd.)
12. **Cherry Blossom Lane Vocals: Mart Sander** (Redwood Music Ltd/Hornall Brothers Music Ltd.)
13. **Jeepers Creepers Vocals: Vocal Trio** (B.Feldman & Co.Ltd.)
14. **By the Sleepy Lagoon Vocals: Kelli Uustani & Mart Sander** (Chappell Music Ltd.)
15. **Radio Times Vocals: Mart Sander & Gentlemens' Trio** (Estate of Henry Robert Hall)
16. **You Grow Sweeter As the Years Go By Vocals: Kelli Uustani & Mart Sander**
(MCPS)
17. **Yours and Mine Vocals: Mart Sander** (EMI United Partnership Ltd.)
18. **Shuffle Off To Buffalo Voc: Kelli Uustani & Mart Sander** (B.Feldman & Co. Ltd.)
19. **I'm Getting Sentimental Over You Vocals: Kelli Uustani** (MCPS/Dash Music Co. Ltd.)
20. **Pagen Love Song Vocals: Ladies Trio** (EMI United Partnership Ltd.)
21. **Once in a While Vocals: Mart Sander** (EMI United Partnership Ltd.)
22. **Wishing Vocals: Mariliina von Uexkull & Mart Sander** (Redwood Music Ltd.)
23. **One Night of Love Vocals: Kelli Uustani** (Chappell Music Ltd.)
24. **You're Getting To Be a Habit With Me Voc: Mart Sander** (B. Feldman & Co. Ltd.)
25. **Happy Ending Vocals: Vocal Quartet** (Copyright Control)

Listening to the great job Mr Sander is doing, brings back memories of the years with Henry Hall and his orchestra. Mr Hall was a very decent bloke, a real gentleman. From a Salvation Army background he was teetotal and very religious - a "decent family man". In September 1937 the band went on tour playing in halls and cinemas around the country, often having to use lesser musicians. However, one show a week was broadcast and for these shows top-rank musicians were brought in. I was fortunate to be one of these. I played violin, saxophone and clarinet, was one of a team of arrangers and stayed with the orchestra on and off for about five years. During these years, I learnt a lot from Henry Hall, who was always very friendly but not "one of the boys" - in other words he kept himself slightly apart and was always very correct and proper in his behaviour.

It is good to know, that the music we once performed is not forgotten, but enjoys a new life in these very authentic-sounding recordings by the wonderful Bel-Etage orchestra.

 Martin Sacks

In the 1930s Mr Martin Sacks also played under Debroy ("Bill") Somers and his various bands, and for some time just before World War II also led his own orchestra playing at the Savoy and other London hotels.



Henry Hall and his BBC Dance Orchestra in the mid-thirties.



Henry Hall broadcasting

The **BEL-ETAGE SWING SWINDLERS**

www.martsander.com

www.bel-etage.ee



The young swinging gentlemen of the renowned Bel-Etage Orchestra, all professional musicians of the highest rank, enjoy playing both light classical repertoire - as proven on their successful *The Monckton Album*, as well as popular swing.

Here they can be seen recording at one of the studios of the Estonian Broadcasting House, led by Mr. Mart Sander, a well known singer, composer and actor.

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