May 2018

Inaugural Gala Committee. [program - Inaugural gala in honor of the inauguration of President Harry S. Truman]

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41st INAUGURAL
JANUARY 19, 1949
THE ARMORY - WASHINGTON, D.C.
Inaugural Gala

In Honor of the Inauguration of

President Harry S. Truman
Vice-President Alben W. Barkley

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19th
1949

THE ARMORY
Washington, D. C.
The 41st Inaugural

For one hundred and sixty years Presidential Inaugurals have traced an expanding pattern of American tradition.

Since Washington's first inauguration in New York in 1789 they have expressed the veneration and gratitude of the people for their government; the faith, courage and unified strength inherent in the spirit of free men.

They have demonstrated to the world that Democracy is dynamic and enduring, the living symbol of the loftiest aspirations and highest hopes of those who cherish freedom and the dignity of man.

They have, furthermore, given proof that the spirit of this free people is instinct with the greatness that rises to emergencies and supplies leadership to meet the needs of its time.

We have had a Washington, a Jefferson, a Lincoln, a Wilson and a Franklin Delano Roosevelt, leading our nation triumphantly in periods of acutest crisis, but never a more decisive expression of the people's will in an era of world unrest and chaos than in the election of Harry S. Truman, as President of the United States, and Alben W. Barkley, as Vice President.

The Inaugural of 1949, inducting these two distinguished and courageous Americans into office, in accordance with their wishes will perpetuate the American tradition colorfully and joyously but with simplicity and dignity.

In this Inaugural Gala we are celebrating tonight will be reflected the spirit of rejoicing shared by all the people and expressed in the welling jubilance of magnificent music, pageantry, mirth and a parade of the arts.

In it the foremost artists of the entertainment world find a common medium for the expression of their respect and support of the new administration as voices of all the people.

The Inaugural Gala came into being as a suggestion of Carter T. Barron on January 19, 1941, with the world in so dire a state that a more pretentious observance of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's third inauguration was inexpedient. The first Gala was participated in by a distinguished roster of artists and celebrities.

It attracted so huge and enthusiastic an audience to Constitution Hall that its permanent place in all future Inaugurals was accepted in effect as a people's mandate.

Tonight's program, dedicated to the unified rejoicing of a grateful nation, is in fulfillment of that mandate.

Stars from every field of artistic endeavor have rallied to the opportunity to participate in this paean of all the people. In music, mirth, spectacle and the dance they will herald to the farthest corners of this country and to the envious admiration of less favored nations America's patriotic pride in those bold concepts of liberty that are its heritage from the founding fathers.

Tomorrow President Harry S. Truman will take his oath to uphold the right of man to live on terms of equality with his fellows. That solemn pledge will echo beyond the boundaries of the United States across the world in which these rights are scorned and in much of which they are no more than tragic memories.

Where else on earth could such a Gala as tonight's be so fittingly and wholeheartedly celebrated?

In profound gratitude for the God-given privilege of serving as the guiding light of freedom, dignity, honor and friendliness among all men, America must guard well the priceless possessions symbolized by the Inaugural Gala.

Sing out, Sweet Land!

Melvin D. Hildreth
Inaugural Committee 1949

Chairman: Melvin D. Hildreth

The Inaugural Gala

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THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
BUD ABBOTT and LOU COSTELLO to millions of motion picture fans are the funniest people on the screen. The pair already have twenty-one pictures to their credit. Former vaudevillians Abbott and Costello supply comedy that is enjoyed by the old and the young, and their humor never offends anyone. They had a large following before they entered motion pictures, but their films have gained them an even larger audience. Radio shows have brought their humorous comedy routines into many American homes.

EDGAR BERGEN, as the outstanding ventriloquist of the world today, and his two wooden friends, Charlie McCarthy and Mortimer Snerd, are heard in every home that has a radio. Bergen was born in Chicago and his real name is Edgar John Bergren. He and Charlie became popular as guests on Rudy Vallee's NBC show in 1936. They have made entertainment history since then. During the war Bergen and his wooden friends brought chuckles and laughs to GI's in all the theatres of war. They are today among the foremost American entertainers. At present Bergen has organized his own television production unit.

JOAN DAVIS has the puckish ability of making more faces than any other comedienne, but it doesn't hide the fact that she is more than just a pretty girl. Her appearances in motion pictures are always greeted with laughs and chuckles. She has spent her whole career making people laugh and letting the other girls get the title of Glamour Queen. In addition to her motion picture fans, she has added hundreds of thousands of radio listeners who have enjoyed her radio shows. Among her best pictures are "She Gets Her Man," "George White's Scandals" and "She Wrote the Book."
TONY AND SALLY DE MARCO are America's incomparable dancers. They have won a following of millions of Americans through musical comedy, theatre, motion pictures and concert tours. They deserve the acclaim they receive, for they are profound artists of dance. Both are perfectionists who are satisfied with nothing less, and constantly improving routines. Damon Runyon referred to them as "one of the marvels of the theatrical profession." Their lives belong to the people of America for their names are today synonymous for perfection in dancing. And wherever their engagements take them they are greeted with enthusiasm and appreciation by fans.

JANE FROMAN is radio's "First Lady of Song." She is starred in the CBS show, "The Pause That Refreshes." Her career has taken her into motion pictures, radio and the musical stage. On Broadway, she appeared with Jimmy Durante in "Keep Off the Grass." In 1943 the plane in which she was flying to entertain service men crashed and it has taken five years for her to get back on her feet. In between numerous operations Miss Froman fulfilled many theatre and night club engagements. The naturalness of her style and courage make Miss Froman one of America's finest entertainers.

LIONEL HAMPTON was a star before he ever thought of starring his own band. He was a "name" when he was a member of Benny Goodman's Trio. He is known as the world's greatest Vibraharp player. He was born in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1914, and was educated in Chicago and Los Angeles. He studied music at the University of Southern California. He was a member of Louis Armstrong's band. Later he joined Benny Goodman and became a stellar attraction. In 1940 he organized his own band and in one year it became one of the most popular orchestras in the country.
PHIL HARRIS and ALICE FAYE and their comedy show have been entertaining radio audiences for three years. With each broadcast the comical situations into which the Harris's find themselves win them new fans. Both Phil and Alice received their boost to fame through Rudy Vallee. Alice was starred in many hit musical films. She retired from the screen after marrying Phil. Her husband became one of the leading bandleaders in the country and joined Jack Benny's show in 1936. Phil and Alice have been married seven years and have two children. They are the most popular husband and wife team on radio today.

DICK HAYMES has taken his place as one of the foremost popular singers of screen and radio. He was born in Argentina and was educated in Paris, Switzerland and Canada. He made his singing debut in New Jersey at the age of fifteen. Early in his career he sang with Bunny Berigan's orchestra. Later he joined the famous Harry James Musical group. His first motion picture was "DuBarry Was A Lady." Personal appearances in theatres and clubs and his radio program have spread his popularity far and wide. His spare time is spent singing with scores of camp shows.

LENA HORNÉ's contralto voice has advanced her career with every theatrical engagement she has had. From the Cotton Club, New York, to stardom with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, each engagement has won her more friends and followers. She was born and attended school in Brooklyn. At 19, she was a Broadway celebrity. She has sung with Noble Sissle and Charlie Barnet's Orchestras. An appearance in a Hollywood night club resulted in a motion picture contract and a screen debut in "Panama Hattie." Since then she has been seen in "Thousands Cheer," "Stormy Weather," "Two Girls and a Sailor" and many others.
GEORGE JESSEL'S name was first linked with comedy in show business. But today he is known as an all-around showman who is in great demand as a master of ceremonies. He was born in New York City and his stage experience started when he was nine, with the famous Gus Edwards. He starred in many Broadway hits and later was featured in his own radio show. He has composed scores of songs. Today he is considered to be one of Hollywood's most progressive producers. Among his pictures are "Four Jills in a Jeep" and "The Dolly Sisters".

GENE KELLY achieved outstanding success on Broadway before Hollywood claimed him in "Leave It to Me," "The Time of Your Life," and "Pal Joey." He had shown theatre goers that he was on the way to becoming one of the outstanding dancers in the theatre. Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, he attended the University of Pittsburgh and Penn State. "Pal Joey" brought him to the attention of Hollywood producers. He is considered by many the foremost dancing star of today. Among his motion pictures are: "For Me and My Gal", "DuBarry Was a Lady", "Anchors Aweigh", and "Words and Music".

HANS KINDLER as conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra has been one of the primary reasons for that musical group to be considered one of the five best symphony orchestras in the country. Organized in 1931 the orchestra has a large and enthusiastic following throughout the country. Critics here and in other cities have warmly applauded Dr. Kindler for the manner in which he developed this musical group. He was one of the founders of the orchestra and has served as its Musical Director since that time. He has received the Gustav Mahler Medal among the many honors showered on him.
1. "Whistle Stop Express", Gene Archer
2. George Jessel
3. Phil Spitalny and His All-Girl Orchestra
4. Joan Davis
5. Tony and Sally De Marco
6. Lena Horne
7. Phil Harris and Alice Faye
8. Phil Regan
9. Abbott and Costello
10. Jane Powell
11. "I Love a Piano"
   INTERMISSION
12. Lionel Hampton
13. Dorothy Maynor

Staged and Staged
Lester Isa
Sidre
Sam Jack K
Justin L
Joel Ma
Ideas, special lyrics and sp
Charles Allredge, A
Orchestrations by J
Entire Production under the

"I Love a Piano"
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Program

Gene Kelly — Phil Regan
Ceremonies

Directed by Allan Zee
Technical Director
Talent
Musical Director
Chorus Master
Stage Manager

Music for all Production Numbers:
Pierce and Sam Jack Kaufman
Pierce and Harold Richardson
Supervision of Carter T. Barron

O’—Pianists

Noddy
Antonio
Cecil
 retour
Hanna
Dick Slicker
Sister
liams
Cookston

O’—Singers

Aline
Druceau
roop

Witt

14
Gene Kelly

15
Kay Starr

16
Margaret O’Brien

17
Lum and Abner

18
Dick Haymes

19
Edgar Bergen

20
Jane Froman

21
National Symphony Orchestra
Conductor: Dr. Hans Kindler

22
Ferruccio Tagliavini

23
FINALE
Sam Jack Kaufman, Conductor

Justin Lawrie and the Inaugural Choral Group
Dr. Robert H. Harmon and the “Singing Capital Chorus”

24
Lucy Monroe, “Star-Spangled Banner”
LU M and ABNER are perfect partners in comedy and humor. They have been friends since childhood and this may account for their perfect timing. They didn't start as a comedy team but as individual owners of grocery stores and a lumber yard. Their real names are Chet Lauck and Norris Goff, and their first appearance as Lum and Abner was on an Arkansas radio station. Their names have become a popular feature of stations throughout the country and their humor about a pair of Ozark old-timers is known to everyone. Fans of the "Jot 'Em Down Store" are countless.

DOROTHY MAYNOR's musical heritage has been the folk music of her people. As a child in the home of a Methodist vicarage in Norfolk, Va., she absorbed the haunting music of negro spirituals even before she could talk. Since her "discovery" by Serge Koussevitsky at the Berkshire Music Festival in 1939, Miss Maynor has staked her claim to the top rank of singing stars on America's musical horizon. One music critic says of her voice: "There is in her voice that rare quality we call inner ecstasy. It is as if the music welled up inside her and simply had to be released in song."

LUCY MONROE, glamorous young soprano star of stage, screen and radio has appeared in person before ten million people and is noted for her many appearances for hospitalized veterans. Beloved singer of folk and patriotic songs, she is known as the "Star Spangled Soprano." She has appeared with both the Metropolitan and Chicago Opera Companies. She originated the giant war time Community Sings and has sung the Star Spangled Banner at public gatherings over 5,000 times. She opened the Democratic Convention in July singing the national anthem and on the second night sang at the Memorial Services for Franklin D. Roosevelt.
MARGARET O'BRIEN was born in Los Angeles, January 15, 1937, and since 1942 she has become a familiar face on motion picture screens. Her talent at mimicry was in evidence while she was very young. She has a wistfulness in her screen characterizations that endears her to all who see her. She has a flair for learning foreign languages. She made her first motion picture appearance in “Babes on Broadway.” With each screen appearance she has enlarged her following. Among her other pictures have been “Journey for Margaret,” “Lost Angel,” “Our Vines Have Tender Grapes” and “Three Wise Fools.”

JANE POWELL, 18-year old Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer lovely singing star, has become one of Hollywood’s brightest musical luminaries in two short years. Born Suzanne Bruce on April 1 in Portland, Oregon, Miss Powell received her first Hollywood bid at a talent audition broadcast. She has appeared in such pictures as “Song of the Open Road,” “Holiday in Mexico,” “Three Daring Daughters,” “A Date With Judy,” and “Luxury Liner.” Her favorite stars are Greer Garson and Walter Pidgeon. Lily Pons and Lauritz Melchior are her favorite opera stars. Blue-eyed and weighing 98 pounds, diminutive Miss Powell’s nicknames are “Hep” and “Bert.”

PHIL REGAN entered show business by accident and through the Burns and Allen show. Visiting the Columbia Broadcasting Studios, he sang into a “dead” microphone just to find out “what it would feel like.” Guy Lombardo, who had been auditioning professional singers for the show all day, heard him and was impressed. Son of a teamster in Brooklyn, he learned all he knew about singing from evenings of listening to his father singing Irish ballads. He has appeared in a number of motion pictures and the boy who wanted to become a fireman has fans all over the country.
PHIL SPITALNY and the HOUR OF CHARM ALL-GIRL ORCHESTRA are known to millions of radio listeners and motion picture fans. This organization of thirty-five talented and beautiful women was organized six years ago and has earned vast popularity because of fine musicianship, programs specializing in heart appeal, unusual arrangements and tonal precision. The members are adept at everything from the lighter classics to symphonic swing. The orchestra is composed of graduates of leading music schools. Soloists featured are Evelyn and her magic violin, Jeanne of the haunting contralto voice, and the Brass Choir section of eight talented trumpeters.

KAY STARR started her singing career as a child and has never regretted it. She was born on an Indian Reservation in Oklahoma and she began singing when she was eleven over a local radio station in Dallas. When the family moved to Memphis, she sang with Joe Venuti while attending high school. After graduating, she toured two years with him and later joined Bob Crosby and made her first appearance in New York. Miss Starr then joined Charlie Barnet's orchestra. Today she has her own network show over ABC called "Starring Kay Starr," which originates in Hollywood.

FERRUCCIO TAGLIAVINI, leading lyric tenor of the Metropolitan Opera, had his talent recognized early in life. In his home town of Reggio Emilia, neighbors spoke of him as "the little Caruso." Interested in engineering, he refused to take vocal lessons until he won a scholarship. Later, he won first prize in the important Florence May Festival. He made his debut as Rudolfo at the Teatro Communai in Florence in 1939. By the time he had toured Italy's leading opera houses his name was box-office in America. Through his superb singing, heartfelt acting and magnetic personality he has smashed the Metropolitan's box office records.
GENE ARCHER, Washington's favorite baritone, is constantly in demand for personal appearances. Archer was born in Parkersburg, West Virginia, and started singing as a boy soprano at the age of six. After studying at Morris Harvey College and Peabody Conservatory, he made singing his profession. He has been featured singer at Radio City Music Hall, and in the musical, "Virginia." He also did some work for CBS before he came to Washington in 1939 to sing into NBC microphones. Gene likes knowing "people in the news" here, but through night club, theatre and radio appearances, he is also well-known to Washingtonians.

KAY DEWITT is a former Arlington school teacher who has found that her lovely mezzo-soprano voice is something that the public enjoys. She was born in Alliance, Ohio, and appeared in a number of radio shows in that state before coming to Washington. At college she majored in dramatics and appeared in 4 major productions. She has sung with the Canton Civic Opera Company and the Chautauqua Opera Company. As featured singer at the Capital Theatre she has a large and enthusiastic following. She is the most popular songstress in Washington and her following grows daily.

DR. ROBERT HOWE HARMON is director of "The Singing Capital Chorus," composed of members of the District Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America. "The Singing Capital Chorus" is considered the finest barber shop harmony chorus in the world. Although Dr. Harmon is one of Washington's busiest practicing physicians, he has given of his time and talent to make that group a fine musical unit. The singers perform for the entertainment of the listeners and the singers themselves. President Truman has been a member of the Society since 1945.
SAM JACK KAUFMAN, guest conductor of the Loew's Capitol Theatre Orchestra, numbers his fans among the young and old. Kaufman started his career as a musician playing piano accompaniment to silent films. While attending New York University, he worked with music publishing firms. The stage bug reached him in 1919 and he entered vaudeville. In 1927 he organized an orchestra and since then has directed orchestras in large theatres from New York to Los Angeles. He has completed a symphonic work which will be given a public hearing soon. He has been conductor at the Capitol Theatre for the last nine years.

JUSTIN LAWRIE, as chorus master for the special group that will be featured in the Inaugural Gala performance has gathered the finest voices from choirs, colleges and organizations of Washington. Each member of the group of sixty is a fine soloist. Choir singing has been his interest and work since he was a young man. He and the musical groups he organized have appeared in everything from vaudeville to grand opera. He has been choirmaster of the Foundry Church for 17 years. The choral unit he has assembled for this occasion is considered one of the finest in the country.

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BAND, the concert band that travels by air, is a versatile organization. Its members come from 20 different symphony orchestras and 16 name bands. The band itself resolves itself into a 100 piece marching group, a 90 piece symphonic band, a 70 piece concert orchestra, 5 bands, chamber and instrumental groups and a 35-voice glee club. Lt. Col. George E. Howard is its conductor. Beginning as a clarinetist with the famed Conway Band, he made a name for himself in the field of music education. He was awarded a Doctorate in Music by the University of Chicago.
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Acknowledgements

The Inaugural Committee acknowledges with gratitude the generous assistance of James C. Petrillo, National Music Chairman of the 1949 Inaugural, and the Members of the American Federation of Musicians in the production of the Inaugural Gala.

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The Inaugural Gala Committee wishes to take this opportunity to thank the following organizations and individuals for their gracious cooperation in this program:

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The Metropolitan Police Department, Major Robert J. Barrett, Superintendent;
The Jordan Piano Company for the use of 18 Lester pianos in the production;
The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers and Broadcast Music, Inc., for the use of music under their control;
The Eaves Costume Company;
Philip F. Bell for costume suggestions;
Kemp Mohler, Mohler Construction Co.;
Horchar W. Spies, artist;
The Ted Shane Agency Girls;
Kliegel Bros. for lighting equipment;
Messmore-Damon for masks;
The Washington Terminal Co. for special equipment.

And Others Who Gave Their Services