Playground Authorities of Los Angeles
Find Harmonicas Popular With Children

Authorities in Charge of Juvenile Recreation in That City Report Both Girls and Boys Deeply Interested in Music With This Instrument

Los Angeles, Cal., May 14.—The popularity of the harmonica on Los Angeles playgrounds leads all other forms of musical recreation. Girls who were formerly contented to strum ukuleles have become advocates of the humble “blow and draw” harp and have organized their own harmonica bands at several of the municipal playgrounds. On other playgrounds they have joined with the boys in playing the mouth organ.

The interest in harmonica playing is not only with the children, however, for the grown-ups almost clamor to hear them play. Lodges, civic clubs, churches, State society picnics, and athletic associations make repeated calls for their “blow and draw” harp. The leadership provided through the Los Angeles Department of Playground and Recreation. The harmonica playing has become so popular in Los Angeles that the Los Angeles Department of Playground and Recreation is issuing a harmonica band book to its playground organizations on their programs, and harmonica bands receive the first call.

Harmonica playing was introduced into the playground program by George Hjelte, Superintendent of the Department of Playground and Recreation. The response to this innovation on the part of the boys was enthusiastic from the start. Largely through the efforts of the Playground Department the harmonica has achieved great popularity in southern California. The addition of harmonica playing to playground programs in Los Angeles has been quick in recognizing the value of music, particularly in the thickly populated foreign districts where opportunities for cultural self-expression are not many.

New Harmonica Is
Played by Music Rolls

Rolmonica Introduced to Trade by Rolmonica Music Co., of Baltimore, Md.

Baltimore, Md., May 19.—Announcement was made this week by Herbert G. Beyer, president of the Rolmonica Music Co., of the introduction to the trade of the Rolmonica, a new type of automatic harmonica that plays by hand with a music roll. It is a practical musical instrument, and is now being introduced to the music stores through Buegeleisen & Jacobson, 5-7-9 Union Square, New York.

The instrument is made of sturdy Bakelite construction, and the player breathes into a mouthpiece over the holes in a music roll as he winds it from one spool onto another. It is easy to play, small and easily portable, and at its retail price of $2.50, including four rolls, it promises to be a great seller as a remarkable novelty.

Forty-six rolls have been included in the first release of popular and standard numbers. These include such hits as “Ramsone,” “Blue Heaven,” “Among My Souvenirs” and many of the old favorites.

The instrument contains a genuine harmonica of German manufacture, and is packed in an attractive display carton. Dealers who have seen the instrument are enthusiastic about its sales possibilities.

Wins Bass Contest
Among Boston Schools

Boston, Mass., May 19.—The Boston City Schools recently had a prize competition among school bass players. The object was to pick the bass players for school symphony orchestra work. As a result of this contest, Carl Spear, Mattapan, Mass., was awarded first prize as the best bass player competing. As part of the reward the Boston City Schools presented Carl with a fine new Buescherphone. Having his choice of what make of instrument he would receive he selected that name. The competition showed unusual ability on the part of the young players. It was quite a distinction for this boy to win first place, and his friends expect him in the not distant future to prove to be one of the finest bass players in the country.

Cal Davidoff Is Married

Cal Davidoff, general manager for Harry Perlberg, importer and wholesaler of musical merchandise, New York, was married last week to Miss Ray Goodman, of New York. The couple are now enjoying a short honeymoon at Atlantic City.

Many of the boys and girls who learn to play the easily mastered harmonica become interested in other forms of music. Glenn M. Tindall, Supervisor of Musical Activities for the Los Angeles Department of Playground and Recreation, cites many instances of children who have taken up other musical studies as a direct result of the interest aroused through the mouth organ. The accordion, the clarinet and the piano lead all other instruments chosen by harmonica players. The general increase in musical interest, through the popularity of the harmonica, is considered almost as substantial a reason as the effect it has in the development of good citizenship.

Boy Scout troops, schools and other public welfare associations have taken advantage of the leadership provided through the Los Angeles Playground Department, and have organized their own harmonica bands; and surrounding towns have fallen in line in starting their children to play. And it is interesting to know that the thousands of boys and girls who have learned to play harmonicas in southern California have done their practicing and taken their instruction during their leisure, play-time hours.

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