



"Canned music is like audible wallpaper" — Alistair Cooke

Vegas home to sophisticated junkyard music

BY VAEDRA ROSEMAN-SOWERBY

Staff Writer

The steel drum is unfortunately an instrument which is unknown to most of the world. It is used primarily in the West Indies where pan, as the steel drum is often called, is quite a common and detrimental part of the culture. It is also the only musical instrument invented in the 20th century.

The drums were originally made from the bottoms of giant steel garbage bins which were hammered in certain places to produce different musical notes when struck. However, modern

technology now manufactures the drums and the notes are in precision with the musical scale. The resultant sound is beautiful and smooth with an almost serene quality to it.

Like most instruments, the drums range from soprano to bass and many can join together to form

huge ensembles with rich tranquil sounds.

Where can you go to hear the steel drum

midst. One in particular is Arnold Duprey who performed at the San Remo hotel last week.

Duprey played solo on two beautiful silver pans polished to a shine. He is originally from Trinidad in the West Indies, where pan was created, and came to the

Vegas.

Performing hits from all genres of music from reggae to pop, Duprey is calm and cool. His hat is tilted slightly to the side and his foot faithfully taps out the beat. Every note is struck perfectly even though he has never had a lesson nor uses sheet music. All of his pan performances are played solely by ear along with a sequencer for the background sound which Duprey jokes "is just another fancy name for a music computer."

Arnold Duprey performs at several locations around the city so check the papers and try to catch the show, it is definitely worth the effort.



played? Well, believe it or not, Vegas has between five and 10 known steel drum players in its

states as a musician in 1969. He first settled in New York but, luckily for us, he migrated to

Reba continues commitment to country music

BY BRAD PALMER - STAFF COUNTRY CRITIC

Versatility, powerful harmony, and poise has made Reba McEntire the leading female vocalist of the last decade, as well as a class entertainer.

"Mama kept telling me, 'Reba, you're gonna have to quit copying everybody else. When they buy Dolly's style, they buy Dolly Parton. They don't buy Reba McEntire singing Dolly Parton.' It was good advice, and I really did work hard to have my own style and sing it free from the heart" McEntire claims.

Reba Nell McEntire was born in Oklahoma in 1955. She was the daughter of Jacqueline and, champion steer roper, Clark McEntire. She and her brother Pake, and sister Susie, along with the rest of the family, traveled long stretches of highway to catch the rodeos. During the time on the road, their mother, Jackie, taught them to sing in harmony. By high school, McEntire's talents blossomed, thanks to the talent of both parents. Later, along with the help of her brother Pake and sister Susie, they formed a singing group. They toured as well as competing in the rodeos. Back then she didn't sing like millions of her fans know her today.

It wasn't until 1974, during her sophomore year at Southeastern State University at Durant, that her father encouraged

her to sing the national anthem at the National Finals Rodeo. Singer Red Stegall heard her, was impressed, and 11 months later, after debating about a trio, she had a contract.

She debuted on Mercury/Polygram in 1977 with *Reba Nell McEntire*, and a string of eight albums. In 1983, McEntire chronicled the first five years with *The Best of Reba McEntire*. It included the classics "Can't Even Get the Blues," "(You Lift Me) Up to Heaven," "You're the First Time I've Thought About Leaving," and the smash "I'm Not that Lonely Yet."

In 1984, she signed with MCA Records, and released what would later launch her career into monstrous heights. It included the title track, "Poison

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Buddy Rich, the worlds greatest jazz drummer



Buddy Rich (1917-1987). He was the maestro of jazz drummers, considered by most American jazz historians as the greatest drummer of all time. The Buddy Rich Memorial Scholarship Concert comes to Judy Bayley Performing Arts Center on Nov. 6th, with two shows (5 and 8 pm). Win tickets by finding John Malkovich (who played a stellar performance in *Jennifer 8* an unbelievable performance) in the Variety pages of each issue in your Rebel Yell.

Reba is filming "North" with fave director Rob "Meathead" Reiner

