



A TV crewman holds a chalked sign in front of the camera, another lifts high a banner with words on it, and the show gets underway

Come on, let's sing out

A camera man at the back of the room yelled, "30 seconds," and someone held up a banner with the words:

*Sing along in chorus
Hum or whistle or shout
There's room for all in
the hootenanny hall
So come on let's sing out...*

And about 400 University of Manitoba students sitting on the floor of the agriculture building auditorium blossomed into song.

It was one night this week and the university was joining Oscar Brand to video-tape three half-hour programs for CTV's Let's Sing Out show.

"Please don't look anywhere but straight at the performer," said Mr. Brand. "Sing twice as loud as you normally would and if you notice that the camera is focused on some one beside you don't poke him."

Despite the cameras, the instructions and the professional calibre of the show, it was one of the most spontaneous hootenanny's the university has ever held.

Mr. Brand kept everyone comfortable with an unlimited supply of ad lib humor and an entertaining and versatile group of performers.

"It's not enough to be absorbed," he said. "You have to LOOK absorbed." He explained afterwards that everything he says is spontaneous.

Brand's show has been on for three years now and is in the top 10 rating, but the 45-year-old artist says that writing is really his career. He's just written a Broadway play, The Joyful Noise, which he says will go into rehearsal in March. He is presently working on a novel.

ALTERNATELY

Originally a Winnipegger, Brand spent his childhood alternately this city, Minneapolis, Chicago and New York. He was working on a farm on the United States-Canada border when he decided to go to college. He decided, he says, "because it was free."

He majored in psychology, because that was the only course he did well in, and practiced for a while but decided that he didn't want to spend his life at it.

"A writer — that's all I want to be," he says.

Two of his television shows have been up for Emmys, he's written movie scripts and is currently planning for an NBC show called The First Look, a program of original songs for young people.

Brand is also co-ordinator of folk music for New York City's municipal radio station and has been presenting a program every Sunday since 1945 — Folksong Festival. He does a show for the social security department of the U.S. govern-

Story by
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ment that is broadcast over 1,880 stations.

Speaking of Let's Sing Out, Brand says the only problem is that as soon as a show has made it, it gets taken off the air. "So I don't know why we're still on."

VARIED TALENT

This week, his show was composed of talent from Saskatchewan to New York. It had the traditional long-haired grubby-shirt types, blonde Joan Anderson from Saskatchewan, The Three's A Crowd group and the hit of the evening, the Chapins.

The Chapins are a family

foursome from New York City who explain that they don't need sideburns and tight pants to get a message across.

"We have a message," say 22-year-old Harry, "but our message is positive."

The Chapins, who write and sing what they call Chapin music, are composed of father James, 46, a jazz drummer by profession, 18-year-old Steve, 20-year-old Tom and Harry, 22.

"We have another brother James but he's tone deaf," they explained. "Besides, he's studying American diplomacy."

The Chapins decided to go professional in June and since then have been on the Merv Griffith Show, a counterpart of the Tonight Show, played two and one-half weeks at a New York folk-singing mecca, The Bitter End, and have just auditioned for a recording contract with RCA Victor.

"Chapin music isn't typed in any way at all," says Steve. "But all our songs say that we believe in living life to the hilt and taking all the risks. We do everything from pop to rock and roll to folk and show music."

Most important, the Chapins enjoy what they are doing and inject a youthful vigour into their numbers. They claim the

whole family is creative. One grandfather was an American painter who did covers for Time Magazine, another was a critic who is up for the Gold Prize in American Letters.

FAR BACK

The family has been musical as far back as they can remember. Steve took piano lessons for four years, Tom studied the clarinet and Harry studied the classical trumpet for 12 years.

Eventually, however, Steve wants to be an engineer, Tom a teacher and Harry a motion-picture writer.

"But for now this is enjoyable," says Steve.

Although the Chapins haven't become well-known in their field yet, they have bookings now to play at various American colleges, and are leaving a very favorable impression where ever they go, not only as performers, but as energetic and happy people.

Dave Van Ronk, a bearded gravelly-voiced blues singer, appeared on the program coming from a sojourn on the folk-circuit in England. And Pat Sky, a Canadian working out of Greenwich Village, entertained with his own protest songs, guitar in hand and mouth organ between his lips.



Joan Anderson, a 21-year-old singer from Saskatchewan, Oscar Brand, emcee and star performer originally from Winnipeg and Dave Van Ronk, entertain about 400 University of Manitoba students while CJAY cameramen shoot for Let's Sing Out.



University of Manitoba students sardine themselves into the Agriculture building auditorium.



Harry, 22, Tom, 20 and Steve, 18, Chapin entertain the university audience with one of their own songs. The head behind the boys is their father 46-year-old James Chapin, a jazz drummer. The family lives in New York and decided to go professional in June of this year. They claim you can't categorize their type of music so they call it Chapin Music. It's somewhere between jazz, rock and roll and folk music.

'Flunk out or starve out'

"I went to your cafeteria," emcee Oscar Brand of Let's Sing Out told students. "Fine food — here you either flunk out or you starve out," he said.

Although Brand has made quite a success of his TV and radio career, he is co-ordinator of folk music for New York city, he claims that all he really wants to be is a writer. He's already written 10 books and

presently is in the midst of a novel. He's also working on a Broadway musical comedy, The Joyful Noise.

Let's Sing Out has been on the air for three years now. Brand says that whenever a show gets top rating it seems to get taken off the air. Let's Sing Out now has a top 10 rating. "I can't figure out why it's still on," he muses.

Architecture students seek stamp of approval for their art

The faculty of architecture at the University of Manitoba is in the throes of a mission to make the people of Winnipeg aware that architecture can and should play an integral part in their lives.

"The people in Winnipeg need an education," says a third-year student Alec Katz.

"No, the people in Winnipeg need to want an education," corrects Prof. Jacques Collin.

"Architecture engulfs everyone whether they are aware of it or not," says Prof. Carl Nelson. How many people enjoy the walk from the house to their garage, he asks. How many people notice what's around them on the way to work? To most people architecture is just a floor plan.

ENVIRONMENT
"But it's not," he continues. "The purpose of architecture

is to make a natural environment human. It has to be done as an art with careful consideration."

In Canada less than 10 per cent of buildings go through architects hands. The law states that those over the \$35,000 mark must, but for most of the others there are no real architect's plans, he says. In England where no such law exists 68 per cent of

buildings are handled by architects.

So to help develop an awareness of architecture's place in a modern society, second to fifth year students have just completed a stamp designing project.

"What the architect expresses is what's important to society," says Prof. Nelson. And the best stamps will be sent to Ottawa with the hope that they will be put into circulation.

How does stamp-designing tie in with the importance of architecture and expression? Prof. Collin says that the quality of Canadian stamps has not been high and there have been many real blunders.

Even choosing a stamp and putting it on a letter is a valid expression of human values. "If I put the stamp on crooked, upside down, I'm expressing myself," he says. At the moment choice in stamps is largely limited to a picture of the queen or

a picture of the queen. "Not that I have anything against the queen," he adds, "but there should be something that people can choose to put on their letters."

Both professors agreed that a dozen of the drawings submitted, (all told there were about 400) are as good or better than anything that has been issued in Canada yet.

UNDERSTANDING

The stamp project will also educate the students through a problem. The faculty is planning a series of projects, one a month, to allow the professors to attain a better understanding of the capabilities of each student. The projects will be 12 hours each.

The winning stamp designer will receive a book, an engraved certificate and a travelling trophy he will keep until the next project is judged. The projects will be on display at the faculty's open house Nov. 7.

As for the citizens of Winnipeg, Prof. Collin says the situation is gradually changing. He says that people from outside the province and the country are coming in and

bringing in different ideas with them.

INDIFFERENT

If there is only one thing to choose from you really have no preference and Win-

nipeggers have become rather numb, neither liking or disliking.

But when they have some choice, the city is going to change considerably.

