

# THE BROADSIDE

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## REVIEW - MARION WILLIAMS AND THE STARS OF FAITH

## FOLK MUSIC AT MARBLEHEAD

Sunday, May 13, Marion Williams and the Stars of Faith gave a free concert at the Wellesley Greek Amphitheatre, under the auspices of Wellesley College. We had heard that they were very good having recently appeared in the Broadway Production of the BLACK NATIVITY. We were very much unprepared for the experience they provided. Even now, some eight hours after the performance, it is difficult to talk about it.

We watched a group of Gospel singers, stand before an audience, most of whom were unfamiliar with this type of music, and proceed to strip the facade of emotional reserve from everyone. It was without a doubt the most exciting concert we have ever witnessed, no, that's not correct, rather that we have ever participated in. We were all part of it. We have yet to recover to the point where we can talk about individual songs, but two which stand forward in our minds now are the remarkable syncopated undescribable "What Month Was Jesus Born In", and the beautiful adaption of the Hallelujah chorus. We can't find words of adequate merit.

The group is now on the way to Washington DC to perform for the president at the President's Jazz Festival the first weekend of June, and will then leave for a tour of Europe. They won't be back to this country until December 1st. That is far too long away, but our regrets are somewhat tempered by our learning of their soon to be released record. We will review it for you as soon as we hear it.

FOLK MUSIC AT MARBLEHEAD is the title of a series of folk music concerts to be held this summer in Marblehead. It is the intent of the producers of this series to present a series of concerts which will display the scope and variations of folk music in America. For the most part, the series will rely heavily on local performers, but plans are to present one or more well known performers in the course of the summer. Consideration is being given to workshop programs and the possibility of hoot or two, for the purpose of giving local people who heretofore have not had the chance to display their talents, that opportunity.

The long range goal is to win enough support to produce a weekend folk festival towards the end of summer, 1963. Talking to the people involved, we understand that the festival would not be a concert festival such as the two Newport festivals were, or as oriented toward participation as the Indian Neck Festival, but would strive for a compromise between the two,

The first concert of the season will be held June 8th, 8:15 p.m., at the Marblehead High School Auditorium, and will try to give some idea of the scope of American Folk Music. SYLVIA MARS, well known to Boston folk enthusiasts will present Spirituals, Gospel songs, and Blues. ROBERT L. JONES will sing the ballads and topical songs of America, leaning heavily, we imagine, on the songs of