

1969 ALADDIN TEMPLE SHRINE CIRCUS Musical Program

By Eric Beheim, WJU #66



Izzy Cervone and the Aladdin Temple Shrine Circus band, photographed in 1968

My article in the July/August 2020 *Circus Fanfare* explained how, during my college years, I got to know and work with the local musicians who played in the **Aladdin Temple Shrine Circus** band in Columbus, OH. After graduation and while on active duty in the Navy, I remained in contact with many of them, including tuba player Robert P. Hills, Jr., who would later serve three terms as Windjammers Unlimited's first president (WJU #71; WJU Hall of Fame 2013.)

Each year, Bob would record the Aladdin Temple Shrine Circus performance using his own professional-quality equipment. He would later edit these tapes into finished recordings that rivaled those produced in major media centers such as Los Angeles or New York City.

One of Bob's best circus recordings was done in April 1969 in the State Fairgrounds Coliseum in Columbus, OH. The bandleader that year was Izzy Cervone. In addition to traditional circus material, the music included what were then the latest "pop" hits, Broadway show tunes, and movie & TV themes.

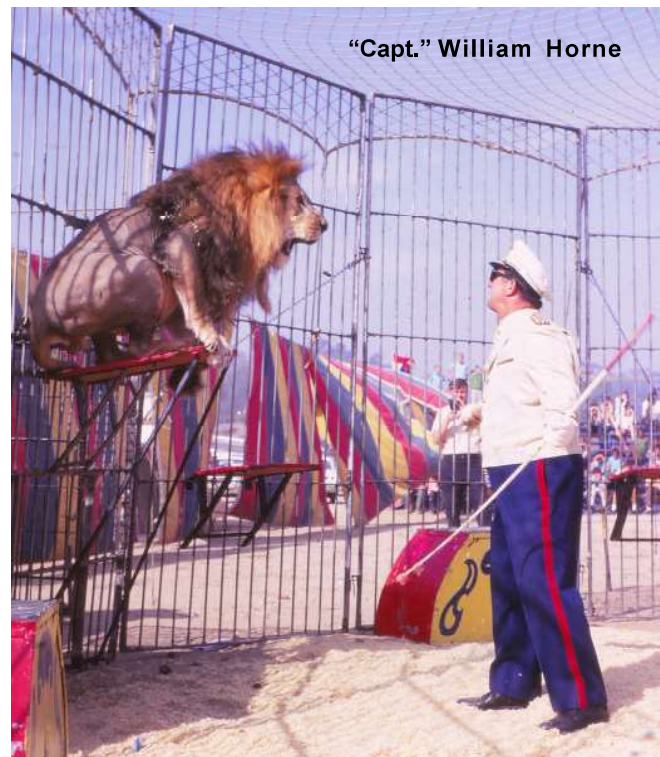
Recently, I relistened to that tape and wrote down as many of the titles as I could recognize. Don Covington (WJU #119) identified the Pérez Prado mambos played for Display 12.

Bob's edited version of the 1969 performance eliminates the opening grand entry and starts with the first act.

Display No. 1: Keller's Jungle Killers, mixed wild animals
Fanfare, *Washington Grays* (Grafulla), *Poinciana* (Simon), *The Young Prince and Princess Theme* from "Scheherazade" (Rimsky-Korsakov), *The Breeze and I* (Lecuona), drum roll, *Charge* (Walker), *Assembly Fanfare*, *Entry of the Gladiators* (Fučík), chord & drum roll, *Special Exit Music*

This is the act that, for many years, was presented by Prof. George J. Keller, a former college professor turned wild animal trainer. In 1955, Keller's was one of the first acts to appear at Disneyland. He also appeared with Polack Bros., Rudy Bros., and with the Ringling Bros. and

Barnum & Bailey Circus during its Madison Square Garden engagements. After Keller's death in 1960, the act was presented by his long-time assistant Bill Scamihorn, who was introduced as "Capt." William Horne. *Washington Grays March* was always played for the opening of Keller's act, and is now accepted by many as a piece of traditional circus music even though Keller was the only performer who ever used it.



Display No. 2: Simon Duo aerial act
Puttin' on the Ritz (Berlin), *Russian Sailors Dance* (Gliere)

Display No. 3: Wainwright Lamberti Cassidy Sisters, juggling and hand balancing
Theme from Exodus (Gold), *Hello, Dolly* (Herman), *The Impossible Dream* (Leigh), *Serenade from The Student Prince* (Romberg)

Display No. 4: Blondins Les Blue & Yvette Navarro
Step to the Rear (Bernstein), *Talk to the Animals* (Bricusse),
Cabaret (Kander)

**Display No. 5: Diane Wilson, seals; Nicolinis, chimps;
Uncle Heavy, trained pigs**
By the Time I Get to Phoenix (Webb), *Let Me Call You
Sweetheart* (played on the air calliope) (Friedman), *The Beat
Goes On* (Bono)

Display No. 6: Tuseks, Elkin Sisters, Chiquita & Johnson
Put on a Happy Face (Strouse), *Thumbelina* (Loesser), *For
Dancers Only* (Oliver), *Slaughter on Tenth Avenue* (Rodgers)

Display No. 7: Aerial Ballet
Ça c'est Paris (Padilla), *Special Climb-up Music*, *People*
(Styne), drum roll for spin, *People* (web girls' exit)

Display No. 8: Victor Julian dog act
Victor Julian Fanfare, *Lara's Theme* (*Somewhere My
Love*) from "Dr. Zhivago" (Jarre), *There's No Business Like
Show Business* (Berlin), *That's Entertainment* (Schwartz),
Everything's Coming Up Roses (Sondheim), *Thank
Heaven for Little Girls* (Loewe), *Poor Butterfly* (Hubbell),
Batman TV Theme (Hefti), *Alice Blue Gown* (McCarthy),
Sayonara (Waxman), *Roamin' in the Gloamin'* (Lauter), *Irish
Washerwoman*, *On the Beach at Waikiki* (Kailimai), *Pizzicata
Polka* from "Sylvia" (Delibes), *America the Beautiful* (Ward),
Yankee Doodle Dandy (Cohan), *You're a Grand Old Flag*
(Cohan)

Display No. 9: The Geraldos
Fanfare, *Mission Impossible TV Theme* (Schifrin), *It Had
Better Be Tonight* (Mancini), *The New Colonial March* (Hall),
Marche Militaire (Schubert), ascending chords for climb up,
Circus Echoes Galop (Hughes), chord

Intermission

Display No. 10: The Flying Dells flying trapeze
Unidentified 6/8 march, *España Waltz* (Waldteufel),
unidentified minor key waltz, *Lara's Theme* (*Somewhere My
Love*) from "Dr. Zhivago" (Jarre), special music, *Walsenburg
Galop* (King)

Display No. 11, John Herriott liberty ponies
Herriott Fanfare, *Horses, Horses, Horses* (Whiting), *76
Trombones* (Willson), *March of the Toys* (Herbert), chord,
Oh, What a Beautiful Morning (Rodgers), unidentified march,
Circus Days Galop (King), chord, *Down the Field March*
(Friedman), *Circus Days Galop* reprise, *Ta-ra-ra Boom-de-
ay*, drum roll, chord

These were undoubtedly the Circus World Museum liberty ponies. Later in 1969, they, along with the Museum's other performing animals, were purchased by Irvin Feld for the Ringling-Barnum show. Feld also offered John Herriott a two-year contract with the Red Unit, which he accepted.

Display No. 12: Antonetti Group
It had Better Be Tonight (Mancini), *Pérez Prado Mambo
Medley: Mambo #8, Que rico el mambo, and Pachuco
Bailarin*, chord, drum roll, chord

Display No. 13: The Franconi-Cristiani Riding Family
Light Cavalry Fanfare
(Suppé), *Gallito* (Lope),
Emperor Waltz (Strauss),
chord, *Puttin' on the
Ritz* (Berlin), *Mambo
No. 5* (Prado), *Siboney*
(Lecuona), drum roll,
Java (Toussaint),
chord, *Brazil* (Barroso),
drum roll & trombone
glissando, *William Tell
Overture* (Rossini), *How
Dry I Am* (Berlin), *William
Tell Overture* reprise,
Light Cavalry Bows Fanfare



Franconi-Cristiani Riding Family

Display No. 14: The Coronas high wire
El Choclo Tango (Villoldo), *Lara's Theme* (*Somewhere My
Love*) from "Dr. Zhivago" (Jarre), chord, *Burglar Music*,
Theme from Exodus (Gold), chord

Display No. 15: The Oscar Cristiani Elephants
Entry of the Gladiators (Fučík), chord, *Dance of the Archers*
from the "Prince Igor Polovetzian Dances" (Borodin),
The Young Prince and Princess from "Scheherazade"
(Rimsky-Korsakov), *Dance of the Wild Men* (another of
Borodin's Polovetzian Dances), *Peppermint Twist* (Dee
and Glover), drum roll, chord, *Pahjamah* (Henry & Onivas),
The Charleston (Johnson), *The Streets of Cairo* (Bloom),
unidentified march, *London Bridge*, unidentified march
(reprise), *Procession of the Sardar* (Ippolitov-Ivanov)

In September 1969, both Keller's Jungle Killers and the Oscar Cristiani Elephants were with the Rudy Bros. Circus when that show made an outdoor appearance in San Diego's Balboa Park under the sponsorship of the local Jaycees. By then, I was stationed in San Diego and got to attend the two matinee performances. I had my camera along, and Capt. Horne invited me to photograph his act from just outside the

steel arena and right up by the bars. Being that close to a cage full of wild animals was a memorable experience to say the least!



Oscar Cristiani and the Cristiani Elephants photographed in San Diego in 1969



Display No. 16: The Zacchini cannon act

Zacchini Introduction Fanfare, *French National Defile March (Le Régiment de Sambre et Meuse)* (Planquette), *The Best Things in Life are Free* (Henderson), *Tannhauser: Pilgrims' Chorus* (Wagner), Zacchini Bows Fanfare

Still going strong after over 70 years, the **Aladdin Temple Shrine Circus** is still being presented on the State Fairgrounds in Columbus, Ohio. Tempus fugit! The little kids who saw the show in 1969 are now bringing their grandchildren to see it, thus helping to create a new generation of circus fans.



SHRINE CIRCUS HISTORY

The Shrine Circus was founded in 1906 with initial performances for the Moslem Shrine Center on Woodward Avenue in Detroit, MI. There is a state historical marker at the former site proclaiming its contribution to circus history. In years past, the show traveled to roughly 120 cities annually in the U.S. and another 50 in Canada using a separate unit. It is affiliated with the former Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine (AAONMS), now called Shriners International. (It is probably not a coincidence that the original initials, rearranged, spell out the words "A MASON.")

At the outset, the circus was a one-ring affair, but grew to three rings by 1925. In the 1920s Shrine Circuses were being conducted throughout the United States with the first of the season usually being in Flint, MI in January. It continued to travel through November. The term "Shrine Circus" is usually prefaced by the name of the host Shrine in each geographic area. Over the years, the shows have included many famous circus performers such as Emmett Kelly, the Hannefords, Zacchini brothers, Clyde Beatty, the Wallendas, and the Concellos, and bandmasters we would know and love.