

# THE BROADSIDE

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## SPOTLIGHTING \* SYLVIA MARS

The singing of Sylvia Mars is easily traced to her own roots and the traditions of her race. Sylvia, whose grandfather used to be one of the better down country blues singers in South Carolina, has been singing professionally for six years.

Sylvia has a fine rhythm and blues and folk repertoire vocally, but began her career dancing, a talent she still enjoys. At the age of five she would wait for the mill in her hometown to close for the day, and its whistle was her cue to begin tap dancing on the street corner. The men coming home from work would gather around and throw money down for her, which an older woman with whom she was living would collect in her apron.

She has sung at the Roxbury Freedom House in connection with CORE, for the benefit of the people in Tent City, Tennessee. The satisfactions of singing are not always financial. "My biggest thrill" she says, "was the reception I got from the men at Chelsea Naval Hospital, who in spite of their critical condition, were able to show cheerful gratitude for my entertainment."

Sylvia's professional talents have been illustrated in night clubs, coffee houses, and on several radio and TV programs, as well as political shows hospitals and schools. She has appeared at the Brown Derby, the Hotel Bostonian's Jewel Room, Storyville w/ Lionel Hampton, the Cafe-Lene in Saratoga, and a TV show with Pete Seeger and Sonny Terry, to mention only a few of her numerous appearances.

Sylvia has recently returned from Canada where she did a TV show, (P.M.), in Hamilton, Ontario, and sang at the "Downstairs" Coffeehouse. She plans to start a folk music circuit in Canada, especially throughout Ontario, as she feels the desire for folk music there is great, but undeveloped.

In addition to her musical talents, Sylvia has been writing poems, short stores, and articles since the age of ten. Her specialty is writing pop songs which she publishes under a pen name; her six years of piano and theory study come in handy for this.

Sylvia, a refreshingly charming and sincere person, has recently cut a record album of spirituals, ballads and blues (with Mitch Greenhill and Gordy Edwards) to be released by Folk Lyric in the near future.

## 1962 NEW ENGLAND FOLK FESTIVAL

The New England Folk Festival will begin at 6:30 Friday evening, April 13, and continue through the weekend to Sunday afternoon. It will be held this year on the grounds of Bridgewater State College.

Although in previous years, there has been little in the way of folksinging, this year the program promises more in the folksinging aspects of folk art than ever before. The main emphasis however will remain on the folk dance as it has in previous years. The festival will include booths, of working craftsmen and, of international foods. The dancing demonstrations will include Swedish, English, Irish, Lithuanian, Scottish and Latvian groups.

A Dance Workshop will be held on Sunday from 1:30 to 8:00 PM led by Rod Linnell and Dick Crum.

For additional information, drop a card off to Mrs. Pat Marston, 8 Harrison Street, Taunton, Mass.

## FOLK MUSIC AT BPL

Each Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM, the Boston Public Library presents a concert of record folk music, in the audio-visual auditorium downstairs.