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#### **The Fisher XP-7**

 Woofer: 12" free-piston; approx. 20 cps free-air resonance; 1½" voice coil; 5½-lb. magnet structure.
 Midrange: Two 5" cones; each with ¾" voice coil and 1-lb. magnet structure.
 Tweeter: 1½" soft-cotton dome type; 2-lb. magnet structure: 15,000 gauss flux density.
 Crossover: Full 3-way LC-type network with air-core coils; crossover points at 300 and 2500 cps.
 Impedance: 8 ohms
 Frequency Response: 30 cps to beyond range of audibility.
 Power Requirement: 10 watts minimum; 60 watts maximum (program material).
 Cabinet: 24" by 14" by 12" deep; Scandinavian walnut.
 Weight: 45 lbs.
 Price: \$139.50

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#### **The Fisher XP-9**

Woofer:	12" free-piston; approx. 18 cps free-air resonance; 2" voice coil; 6-lb. magnet structure.
Midrange:	Three 5" cones; each with 34" voice coil and 1-lb. magnet structure.
Tweeter:	$1\frac{1}{2}$ " soft-cotton dome type; $2\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. magnet structure; 17,000 gauss flux density.
Crossover:	Full 3-way LC-type network with air- core coils; crossover points at 300 and 2500 cps.
Impedance:	
ency Response:	28 cps to beyond range of audibility.
r Requirement:	10 watts minimum; 60 watts maximum (program material).
Cabinet:	24" by 14" by 12" deep; Scandinavian walnut.
Weight:	
	\$199.50

Freque Power

## Introducing three n Fisher bookshelf sp design principles of

No loudspeaker design in recent years has caused as much excitement among high fidelity connoisseurs as the Fisher XP-10. (Audio magazine called it "truly a step forward in smoothness, transient response and musical quality.") The superb performance of the 5-cubic-foot XP-10 is the result of several highly sophisticated engineering features, two of which are now incorporated in the new bookshelf-size Fisher systems. One is the exclusive Fisher soft-cotton dome tweeter, whose exceptional dispersion characteristics and uniquely smooth, resonance-free response result in the most natural-sounding treble range ever achieved. The other important feature is the assignment of more than three octaves of the audible spectrum to the midrange channel, with a considerably lower bass-to-midrange crossover than is conventional. This flattens the upper bass and lower midrange response to an unprecedented degree, completely eliminating the slightest suggestion of boxed-in 'bookshelf' sound. Thus it becomes possible to own a moderately priced bookshelf speaker whose sound is a close approximation to that of the XP-10 – which is just about the best sound there is.



For those who <u>must</u> have Fisher quality in an absolute minimum of space: the ultracompact Fisher XP-5.

Only 20" by 10" by 9" deep; 8" low-resonance woofer; 2½" wide-dispersion tweeter; 2000 cps crossover; clean response down to 38 cps; price \$54.50 in walnut.



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#### **The Fisher XP-**

Woofer:	10" free-piston; app free-air resonance; 1
	coil; 51/2-lb. magnet
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CIRCLE NO. 23 ON RE

Of <u>course</u> you want the Fisher XP-10. (Who doesn't?) But if you don't have the space for it, don't give up yet!

Just turn this page.



#### **The Fisher XP-10**

 Woofer: 15" free-piston; approx. 16 cps free-air resonance;

 2" voice coil with exclusive eddy-current damping: 6-lb. magnet structure.

 Midrange: 8" cone: 1½" voice coil; 5½-lb. magnet structure.

 Tweeter: 2" cotton. soft-dome type; 5½-lb. magnet structure;

 14,000 gauss flux density.

 Crossover: Full 3-way LC-type network with air-core coils;

 crossover points at 200 and 2500 cps.

 Impedance: 8 ohms.

 Frequency: Response: From below 28 cps to beyond range of audibility.

 Power Requirement: 10 waits minimum; 60 waits maximum (program material).

 Cabinet: 3012" high, 243s" wide, 1434" deep; Scandinavian walnut.

 Weight: 80 lbs.

 Price: 5249.50

FEBRUARY 1965



Q. Mr. Marantz, your new 10-B tuner is quite revolutionary. Do you feel it will obsolete all other tuners?

Mr. Marantz: In one sense, yes. The performance of this tuner is so dramatically superior to conventional tuners that anyone who wants or needs perfect FM reception today has no choice but to use the model 10-B. Its superiority, however, does not necessarily obsolcte conventional tuners. Rolls Royce, of course, makes superior cars, but they haven't obsoleted Chevrolets.

Q. Is this superior performance discernible to the average listener?

Mr. Marantz: Very much so. The difference is quite dramatic. As you know, conventional tuners have never been able to pick up and reproduce broadcasts which could match the quality of a fine disc or tape playback system. This has often been blamed on broadcasting quality. But the new 10-B disproves this theory. It reproduces the broadcast of a disc or a tape with the same clarity and separation as if played through a playback system - proving that broadcast quality is generally excellent.

Q. Is this true with weak broadcast signals also?

Mr. Marantz: Yes. In fact the model 10-B will reach 55 db quieting at only 3 microvolts! This is better than most conventional tuners will reach at 1000 microvolts. With a 25 microvolts station the Model 10-B reaches a phenomenal 70 db quieting which is about 20 db better than most conventional tuners can achieve at *any* signal strength. This means that with the Model 10-B there will be excellent reception even in fringe areas, particularly so because of the tuner's high sensitivity, its extremely sharp selectivity and reduced susceptibility to multipath effects, which on other tuners cause distortion.

Q. How are such improvements accomplished?

Mr. Marantz: The answer to that guestion is very complex, because the 10-B is far more than an improved tuning system; it is a completely new design concept with many technical innovations developed by Marantz engineers.

Q. Can you give us some examples?

Mr. Marantz: Yes. The RF section, for example, contains a balanced-bridge di-

## Mr. Saul Marantz discusses his revolutionary new model 10-B FM Stereo Tuner

ode mixer - a technique used in modern sensitive radar designs to eliminate a major source of noise, harmonic distortion and other spurious interference. The whole RF circuit is balanced-tuned, using a precision tuning capacitor with four double sections, for further reduction of spurious images.

For the critical IF strip, we've developed the first commercial application of the "Butterworth," or phase-linear filter. This new concept provides a number of distinct characteristics essential for good results. The passband, for example, is phase-linear for extremely low distortion - especially at high frequencies and it remains essentially phase-linear at all signal levels.

Cutoff slopes beyond the passband are extremely steep, allowing unprecedented selectivity: it is much less subject to the effects of multipath, and it doesn't require realignment with tube changes or aging. The old standby coupled IF circuits currently in use do not have any of these characteristics.

Q. Are there any innovations designed specifically for multiplex?

Mr. Marantz: Yes. For multiplex reception we've developed our own unique



Passband retains phase linearity and sharp slopes at any signal strength for low distortion, sharp selectivity.



Conventional mutuallycoupled IF circuits change characteristics drastically depending on signal strength.

3



variation of stereo demodulator, which

permits phase correction to maintain a

very advanced order of stereo separa-

tion throughout the whole audio band.

Q. What is the purpose of the tuning and

Mr. Marantz: This oscilloscope device is

so versatile its single trace tells many

easily understood stories. It shows when

a station is tuned exactly to the center

of the passband. The height of the pat-

tern shows the signal strength. The in-

dicator shows how much multipath is

present, making it easy to adjust the

antenna for best reception. It shows if

the station is creating distortion by over-

modulating. Also, technically informed

users can check stereo separation of

transmissions, discs and other sources,

Q. And how soon will the model 10-B be

Mr. Marantz: The Model 10-B is a labo-

ratory instrument of extremely high

quality which will never be mass pro-

duced in the usual sense. However, pro-

duction has been stepped up fourfold and

all back-orders are now being filled by

available in quantities?

multipath indicator?

MARANTZ MULTIPATH/ TUNING INDICATOR Station tuning is simply and accurately adjusted by centering the trace.

Marantz franchised dealers.

Multipath (Ghosts) shows up as 'wiggles' on the tuning trace. Antenna is simply rotated until trace is smooth.



CIRCLE NO. 31 ON READER SERVICE CARD

HIFI/STEREO REVIEW

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## HiFi/Stereo Review

FEBRUARY 1965 · VOLUME 14 · NUMBER 2

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#### THE REGULARS

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### EDITORIALLY SPEAKING

#### by FURMAN HEBB

**F** OR THE past two months Technical Editor Larry Klein and I have been at work on a rather interesting project. We are in the process of selecting a group of records—from the thousands that are available—that **be**st demonstrate the highest present-day level of the sound engineer's art. Needless to say, such a list of records should be of significant interest to anyone with either a professional or an amateur interest in sound reproduction.

Our first step was to ask twenty-five professionals—most of them record reviewers or equipment manufacturers—to nominate records they felt were technically outstanding. Then these records, together with our own nominations, had to be checked by ear. Our procedure for checking them is fairly simple: each of us listens (at home) to the same records, and then we compare notes. It we are in agreement, all well and good. If we disagree, we listen again.

Fortunately—as far as our time is concerned—we have so far been in agreement on about ninety per cent of the records, and therefore haven't been obliged to do much rechecking. Actually, although our record-playing setups are of about the same quality (each system is in the \$1,000 class), the components in the two systems are almost completely different, and we had anticipated more disagreements than we have had. There is, after all, a wide area here in which differences of opinion are to be expected—an area in which no one is either right or wrong. As an example, a comparison of a typical Command orchestral recording with a typical Deutsche Grammophon recording will indicate that Command's sound is much farther forward. But which is better, or truer—or more natural? DGG's sound will seem more real if your usual concert seat is toward the rear of the hall. But if your point of sonic reference is a fifteenth-row-center seat, you will prefer the greater presence of the Command disc.

In any event, as our marathon listening project nears its end, we must acknowledge that it has been instructive, and that we have heard some wonderful records in the bargain. We expect that the list of 150 nominated records will be pared down to about twenty-five, which will represent the cream of six years of stereo recording activity. If our auditioning continues apace, the list of stereo demonstration records should be published in one of our issues in the late spring or early summer.

Coming in March's HIFI/STEREO REVIEW-On Sale February 22

#### SIXTH ANNUAL TAPE-RECORDER ISSUE

HOW TO SELECT A RECORDER

WHAT MAKES A RECORDING TAPE GOOD?

#### HOW TO TAPE-RECORD CHILDREN

THE IMPORTANCE OF HIGH-QUALITY TAPE HEADS

HIFI/STEREO REVIEW





It's a phenomenon of great speakers. Reproduction is so faithful you're totally absorbed in sound...unaware of its source. You'll find this particularly true when you hear the University Classic Mark II 3-way system. There is absolutely no distortion, no coloration... up to 40,000 cps. According to Julian D. Hirsch, Hirsch-Houck Laboratories, "... The University Classic Mark II justifies substantial claims that the manufacturer has made for it. It is one of a limited group of speakers to which I would give an unqualified top notch rating." Cabinetry in oiled walnut. \$295. Classic Dual 12 3-way system, finished in oiled walnut-\$229.50. Write today for your free "Guide to Component High Fidelity": Desk D-25 LTV University, 9500 West Reno, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

### LTV UNIVERSITY A DIVISION OF LING-TEMCO-VOUGHT, INC. 9500 West Reno, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

CIRCLE NO. 44 ON READER SERVICE CARD

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

chance to hear true folk singing. I agree with Gene Lees one hundred per cent contemporary folk music is a bomb. BARRY A. BUTANI Walnut Creek, Calif.

#### **Composers Translated**

• May I congratulate you on Michael Denslow's delightful quiz "What's in a (Composer's) Name?" in the November issue? It was certainly the most fascinating brain teaser I have encountered in many a year, and it gave me several hours of keen pleasure. The illustrations accompanying the article suggested that an equally fascinating and perhaps even more difficult quiz could be compounded from composers' likenesses for a future issue.

I wonder if any of your other readers has brought to your attention the existence of a "Jack Dyer" whose identification would require less devious means than your John Stainer. Johannes Tinctoris (John Tinctor), a Belgian composer and writer, ca. 1436-ca. 1511, is the man in question, and his name would, I think, provide a better answer to your question number 26, since it is a true translation, as implied in your introduction, and not merely a synonym such as John Stainer. STEWART A. BROWN

Peterborough, Ont.

• I have just read "What's in a (Composer's) Name?" and cannot pass up the opportunity to send you a real gem. Translated from my native Hungarian, Ferenc (Franz) Liszt reads Frank Flour. A. J. SZASZDI

Washington, D.C.

#### Whose Gamelan?

• The picture of the gamelan orchestra in Nat Hentoff's article "Music of Other Lands" (November) is not that of a "typical" Balinese orchestra. Judging from the dress and headdress, I would say it is a Javanese orchestra, specifically from Central Java.

D. G. OEI Lexington, Ky.

Mr. Oei is correct in identifying the beaddress in the picture as Javanese. The orchestra, however. is Balinese—such groups frequently don the apparel of the host locality when they go on tour.

#### **More Views on Lees**

• I have just read Gene Lees' "The Folk-Music *Bomb*" in the November issue. In my opinion it is a fabulous article. I have been preaching the same line of thought since this folk idiocy started.

Folk music has hurt a great deal of modern jazz musicians—some professionals are in the soup line. Of course, nothing can really injure contemporary jazz, because it is an art form.

I will treasure the article and force it on

all my acquaintances who believe folk **On II** music is "where it's at."

> Lew BRACKEN Branford, Conn.

• Bravo for Gene Lees! His devastating review of the folkie trend should provide food for thought for those who disagree as well as those of us who all too heartily concur.

FRED T. HIMMELEIN III East Lansing, Mich.

• It seems your reviewer Gene Lees is a rather controversial fellow. Count me on his side—well, for the most part, anyhow. He is right in saying that Robert Horton can't sing and that the My Fair Lady sound-track recording is awful. I believe he's missed the boat on Barbra Streisand,



FRANK FLOUR

however. She's good talent, although at times poorly recorded. I'll agree that the "Second Barbra Streisand Album" was just terrible, but the third and fourth ("People") are quite fine, at least as far as Miss Streisand is concerned.

ROBERT NAUJOKS St. Joseph, Mo.

• I would pay twice the price of your magazine just to read Gene Lees' wonderful articles and reviews. Whether he is always right is undoubtedly a matter of opinion. What is certain is that one can seldom find such delightful and provocative writing among the generally bland fare offered by most writers on music or on most other subjects.

T. H. ALDEN Schenectady, N. Y.

• Gene Lees' article on modern-day folk music had me in a rage. I was quite distraught at the way he disparaged modern-day folk music and musicians. I quickly changed my mind, however, after hearing the Harry Belafonte concert at the University of California in Berkeley November 21. Harry and his group play folk music the way it should be played, with warmth and feeling. Today's folksinging audience has never really had a

#### On Impulse

• Congratulations to Nat Hentoff for his very interesting article "A Volcano Named Mingus" (December) and for honest and well-written reviews of three Impulse records in the same issue—"The Happy Horns of Clark Terry," "Everybody Knows Johnny Hodges," and Terry Gibbs' "Take It From Me." I consider all of these albums assets to my jazz record collection. If these are any indication of things to come, then look to Impulse as one of the major forces in jazz in 1965. DENNIS R. HENDLEY

Milwaukee, Wis.

#### Tree of Jesse

• Your December cover was certainly beautiful, but I am curious to know exactly what a "Tree of Jesse" is.

Alma Berghof Decatur, Illinois

The "Tree of Jesse" is an example of the very old practice of representing a genealogy in the graphic form of a family tree. The great number of "begats" in the Old Testament provided Bible illustrators of the Middle Ages with almost unlimited opportunities to exercise this decorative convention.

Jesse was the grandson of Ruth and Boaz, and the father of David. His ancestral line is mentioned twice in the Old Testament: Ruth 4.18-22, and First Book of Chronicles 2.5-12. References to the Tree of Jesse also occur twice, once in the Old Testament, Isaiah 11.1:

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots....

and once in the New, in Paul's Epistle to the Romans 15.12:

And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust.

Isaiab's prophecy. of course. concerns Christ. and a "Jesse Tree" thus is a representation of the family tree of Jesus. It is an interesting fact, as yet unexplained by Christian iconologists, that many of these representations—including the one on our December cover—depict the ancestors of Christ as musicians. It may be that some early illustrator naïvely decided that, since Jesse's son David was an accomplished harpist (good enough, at any rate, to allay King Saul's fits of madness), then musical talent might very well run in the family—or the convention could have some deeper significance.

#### **Opera in a Sixth City**

• I have read George Jellinek's "Opera (Continued on page 8)

## JB<sub>L</sub>-egant

How will an Olympus Energizer/Transducer look in your home? Elegant, whatever your style. Accustomed as we are to viewing the Olympus in a contemporary setting, it is revealing to see here how comfortably it belongs among the rich and carefully selected traditional furnishings of an actual owner. This universal compatibility is the result of a manufacturing philosophy . . . a determination to handcraft components of such enduring excellence that they are destined to become heirlooms, passed on from one generation to another. The photograph shows only one Olympus of a matched pair powered by

> a JBL solid state stereophonic Energizer that is precisely matched to the characteristics of the transducers.

At the foot of the stairs we see the new JBL Delphi, an equipment cabinet styled to complement the Olympus, and in which this owner has installed a Graphic Controller, JBL's

latest solid state component. There is a completely new JBL catalog which we will be happy to send at your request.







FEBRUARY 1965



Looks like any other single lens reflex ! (FROM THE FRONT)



## Handles like no other single lens reflex!

This is the new electric eye Fujicarex. Behind its conventional looking front, is a rather revolutionary back. See the film advance lever? Right below are all essential controls...automatic electric eye exposure control wheel and the focusing wheel. Your thumb sets the proper exposure, focuses and advances the film. Your 9 other fingers don't do very much. Don't grope. Don't fumble. Don't poke the lens.



Our exclusive "Control Cluster" makes the Fujicarex the fastest handling reflex. And a lot more convenient.

Other special features include: Automatic instant-return mirror. Automatic instant-reopen diaphragm. Automatic push-button preview control. A very bright Fresnel viewingfocusing screen and range-finder. And a superb lens (the 50mm Fujinon f/1.9) for brilliant color and black and whites. Accessories include wide angle, telephoto and close-up attachment lenses.

A lot of camera for less than \$150, isn't it? Let your own thumb demonstrate the new Fujicarex for you at your camera store or write for **FREE** booklet.



FUJI PHOTO OPTICAL PRODUCTS, INC. 623 Stewart Ave., Dept. A-93, Garden City, N.Y. A subsidiary of Ehrenreich Photo-Optical Industries Inc. EIRCLE NO. 24 ON READER SERVICE CARD in Four Cities" (October), regarding the repertoire of the world's four major opera houses, and the letter to the editor by Mr. Lowell V. Cary (December) in defense of the San Francisco Opera Company. I think equal time—or space, in this instance—is in order for the Lyric Opera of Chicago.

If casting and repertoire were Mr. Jellinek's basis for calling opera houses "major" ones, then I most certainly would consider Chicago and San Francisco better qualified than the Metropolitan for the adjective. Mr. Cary noted San Francisco's enterprising productions, but is he or Mr. Jellinek aware that Chicago can counter with such productions as Giannini's Taming of the Shrew and The Harvest, Monteverdi's Ballo delle Ingrate. De Banfield's Lord Byron's Love Letters. L'Amore dei tre re. Jenufa. Thaïs. Cenerentola. Prince Igor. and La Favoritathe last not having been heard elsewhere in America for some fifty years? This is in addition to such staples as Bobème, Tosca. Walküre. Carmen, Don Gioranni, and The Marriage of Figaro.

Was it not the Chicago Lyric Opera that presented Maria Callas in her U. S. debut as Norma? Was it not Chicago that first presented such singers as Browenstijn, Ludwig, Berry, Cerquetti, Bergonzi, Moffo, Ghiaurov, Stignani, Stich-Randall, Cossotto, Crespin, Blanc, Ligabue, and Bruscantini in the U.S.? Is it not this same company that year after year offers such singers as Gobbi, Christoff, Simionato, Price, Vickers, Borkh, Gorr, Alva, Bumbry, Grist, and Evans?

Can the Metropolitan or San Francisco boast that within the last ten years they have had a veritable monopoly of the world's leading conductors, a sampling of which includes the names of Serafin, Mitropoulos, Solti, Rodzinski, Kondrashin, Prêtre, Maag, Dervaux, and Von Matacic? I think not!

There have been instances, no doubt, in which unusual productions have led to box-office losses, but Miss Carol Fox, general manager of the Lyric Opera, is not content to make like an ostrich and hide in self-pity and excuses, as does the general manager of one of the "leading" houses. A certain faction of the public is, of course, unwilling to venture outside the standard, but the number dwindlesespecially since audiences here (and in San Francisco) know that they will hear the world's finest voices in roles suited to them, and will see productions which are visually beautiful and historically correct. This assertion is readily borne out by the fact that the Lyric Opera of Chicago is, to my knowledge, the only opera house in the world which is operating without a deficit. This is in itself a tribute to a great general manager and a most enterprising company.

It may seem strange that a Detroiter is writing to praise an opera company some three hundred miles away. But many Detroiters drive to Chicago for each weekend during the season. Each season brings growing interest in Detroit. One of our FM stations evidently felt this interest, because they have obtained the services of a music critic who broadcasts weekly reviews of Chicago's performances.

ROBERT G. VANCE Detroit, Mich.

#### **Dobson to Gerber to Snook**

• Regarding my letter printed in your July issue, perhaps I should try to clarify my point, which seemed to cause Mr. Gerber ("Letters," October) and Mr. Snook (December) so much unrest. I tried to get across the idea that many compositions not in the standard repertoire deserve *definitive* recordings in sound and performance. True, most of the works I listed were recorded at various times in the past, but these could hardly be classi-



fied as definitive. Only Columbia's recording of Roussel's Symphony No. 3 and Vanguard's of Janáček's Sinfonietta, both issued after my letter was printed, might be rated definitive.

Upon inquiry, the director of music programming for Radio Station WILL at the University of Illinois has informed me that most of the recordings made at the 1952 Pittsburgh International Contemporary Music Festival were never offered for sale to the public. To the best of my knowledge, Capitol issued two from the series: Vaughan Williams' Fire Tudor Portraits (P 8218) and William Schuman's Symphony for Strings, coupled with Bloch's Concerto Grosso No. 1 (P 8212). These recordings have long been absent from the Schwann catalog. Roy Harris' Fifth Symphony was never issued by Capitol, but I hope that some day Leonard Bernstein will program and record this masterpiece for Columbia.

> RICHARD F. DOBSON Bloomington, Illinois

#### **Speakers of the Future**

• I read with considerable interest Ken Gilmore's fine article on the hi-fi of the future in the December issue. Mr. Gilmore seems to imply, however, that an electrostatic speaker is composed of one fixed plate and one movable diaphragm.

(Continued on page 12)



FEBRUARY 1965

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#### UTC / GOODMANS OF ENGLAND MAXIMUS I LOUDSPEAKER SYSTEM

The Goodmans Maximus I is the smallest loudspeaker system we have ever encountered which is appropriate for use with high fidelity components. In this  $10\frac{1}{2}$ -in. wide x  $5\frac{1}{2}$ -in. high x  $7\frac{1}{4}$ -in. deep box the Goodmans people have managed to pack two speakers, a crossover network, damping material, and a surprising amount of music-reproducing ability.



Fig. 1. Goodmans Maximus 1 Loudspeaker System. Note size in relation to other objects.

In the past we have encountered miniscule speaker systems whose performance matched their size, and we could rightly say that it takes a large system to achieve large sound. Of course, we did not mean that all large systems are better than smaller systems; there are some bookshelf-sized speaker systems which will stand up to all but the most elaborate systems. But we had not imagined that a box *that* small could produce so much musical sound, unaided by special electronic circuits.

The woofer contained in the Maximus I is about 3-in. in diameter and has a  $3\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. magnet. The L-C crossover network crosses over at 1900 cps to the slightly under 3-in. speaker which handles the mid and upper frequencies. Both speakers are cone type. The enclosure appears to be sealed so that the woofer is acoustically loaded. The high-frequency speaker is isolated from the enclosure by means of a metal cover to prevent interaction between it and the woofer.

The Maximus I is rated at 15 watts continuous. We drove it to its limit, and slightly beyond, with no harmful effects. In addition it appears able to withstand substantially higher peaks without being damaged. Musically, however, when driven beyond its limit continuously, it tends to lose some of its musical quality. This is not a fault since we were operating it beyond the manufacturer's ratings. The reason we mention it is to clarify its limitations so that you will not be tempted to use it in the wrong application. If you need greater power handling ability use one of its big brothers, the Maximus II or III.

The Maximus I has a very musical voice as we mentioned earlier. It provides rich bass reproduction although measurements indicate it begins to roll off at about 160 cps. Useful low-frequency energy is available below 100 cps. Of greater importance, the balance between the mid- and bass frequencies is such that the bass reproduction seems full. We would imagine, however, that the big brothers of the Maximus I (II and III), with a larger number of the same woofers, would provide even fuller bass.

Undoubtedly, the musical quality of the Maximus I derives from the smoothness of its response curve. In its effective frequency range there are few speaker systems smoother.

In essence, the Maximus I is an excellent choice for medium-powered



Fig. 2. Cutaway of Maximus I revealing two speakers and crossover network.

component systems, and, because of its size, ideal for audiofans with space problems. It should also be a big hit with the decor-minded because it is visually so unobtrusive.



This was in fact the original version of the electrostatic speaker, but it is highly unsatisfactory from the standpoint of high-quality sound reproduction. Today's lectrostatic radiators are of push-pull design; that is, they are composed of two parallel, perforated, fixed plates between which is a thin plastic diaphragm with a semiconductive coating. Bias voltage is applied between the diaphragm and the fixed plates. The audio signal is applied in push-pull to the plates, and the diaphragm, situated midway between, moves in response to the audio signal. Since the fixed plates are perforated, sound waves produced by the moving diaphragm escape into the listening area. This design requires that the diaphragm be able to move freely; therefore, the speaker cannot be placed close to a wall, as the pressure wave reflected from it would load the diaphragm. Because of this, the use of such a unit for "wallpaper" speakers is rather unlikely.

This is not to say, however, that Mr. Gilmore's proposal to make an entire wall of electrostatic radiating elements is unsound. In fact, a similar proposal was advanced by Peter Walker in Wireless IVorld, May, 1955. Mr. Walker suggested, further, a system whereby one wall of electrostatic radiators could be arranged so as to produce the stereo effect regardless of the listener's position in the room.

Mr. Gilmore also states that the radiating area of an electrostatic speaker must he "extremely large to produce adequate bass and enough sound for concert-hall volume." However, concert-hall volume can be obtained from a relatively smallelectrostatic unit if a special high-voltageoutput amplifier is used with it. In fact, such a combination linked with a bias potential of, say, 10,000 volts, could be much more efficient than any conventional cone system-including the folded horns-yet produced. As far as bass response is concerned, one has a choice of designing for large radiating area and small diaphragm displacement or for smaller radiating area and larger displacement. Very low resonant frequencies, down to 20 or 30 cps, can be obtained with diaphragms that are quite small-on the order of 300 square inches. I, myself, have built such a loudspeakeramplifier combination, and find both the efficiency and bass response to be more than adequate for superlative performance. Other full-range speaker-amplifier combinations have been described in the literature. See, for example, the article by Charles 1. Malme in the Journal of the Audio Engineering Society, January, 1959, which describes an excellent full-range electrostatic speaker of circular shape. Another design, employing a somewhat less desirable radiating element, was described by Rolf Rennwald in the June 1963 issue of Andio.

John Panitz Bayside, N. Y.







Mr. Miller is an audiophile. He's also a cost-conscious accountant who wants a new stereo receiver.

He listened to Brand X. \$425.

He listened to Brand Y. \$319<sup>95</sup>.

Then he saw the new Bogen RF35, a 35 watt FM-stereo receiver. "Interesting," he said, "What are the specs?" The salesman told him. "Hmmmm," said Mr. Miller, "35 watts will drive most any speaker system." The salesman nodded: "Thirty-five clean, useable watts." "It sounds like 60." "That's right; distortion is almost unmeasurable." "And," said Mr. Miller, "20 to 20,000 cycles is more than anyone can hear." "Unless your name is Lassie." "How about that 0.85 uv. sensitivity for 20 db. of quieting? The RF35 actually meets broadcast-monitor standards." "That's Bogen. All that performance," said the salesman, "for only \$234.95." Mr. Miller computed rapidly. "Wrap it up," he said decisively. "And add," his voice trembled, "the new Bogen B62 stereo turntable. The \$69.95 model with variable speed control and automatic cueing." The audiophile/ accountant wore a smile all the way home.



For complete details on the remarkable RF35 and the new illustrated Bogen catalog write Bogen, Dept. B-2, Paramus, New Jersey.

BOGEN (IS) LEAR SIEGLER, INC. COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION BARAMUS, NEW JERSEY 33 years of leadership in audio technology

CIRCLE NO. 7 ON READER SERVICE CARD



## should ask a <u>lot</u> of questions about <u>any</u> automatic turntable that asks <u>you</u> to spend \$99.50

### here's one:

**9** Can you vary each speed over a 6% range, letting you adjust the pitch of any record? (Or must you get along without such a unique feature?)

## ... and here are 20 more:

#### when using the single play spindle...

Can you start automatically - with the press of a switch - or, if you prefer, cue the record manually at any position while it's either motionless or rotating?

(Or must you always: 1. press one switch to start the record rotating, 2. position the tonearm by eye over the record, 3. press another switch to lower the tonearm?)

Can you interrupt play at any time, with the tonearm Z returning to its resting post and the motor shutting off ... again, automatically?

(Or must you instead: 1. press one switch to raise the tonearm, 2. place the tonearm by hand on its resting post, and 3. press another switch to turn off the motor?)

**3** Can you change turntable speed at any time during cycling and play?

(Or must you first shut the entire machine off?)

#### when using the changer spindle...

If there are records on the spindle, can you interrupt play at any time, return the tonearm to its resting post, and shut the entire machine off . . . automatically? (Or must you either wait for the last record to drop ... or remove all the records from the spindle?)

Can you start automatically with a record on the plat-J ter, but none on the spindle?

(Or must you first place another record on the spindle?)

Can you change turntable speed and record size selector at any time during cycling and play? (Or must you first shut the entire machine off?)

' Will 61/2" clearance above the mounting board be enough to insert and remove the changer spindle? (Or must you have up to 9"?)

#### in any mode of play...

Does it offer you all four standard speeds?

**0** (Or must you discard your collector-item 78's, and do without the special material available on 16's?)

Can you use cartridges weighing as little as 2 grams with no effect on tonearm mass?

(Or must the tonearm head have a minimum of 6 grams?)

Does the tonearm itself weigh just 20 grams? (Or up to almost 50% more?)

Has the tonearm been proven to track flawlessly as Z low as 1/2 gram?

(Or is no such claim made?)

13 When applying stylus force, do you enjoy the precision of continuous dial adjust from 0 grams up, plus the convenience of a direct reading numerical scale? (Or just markers and click stop positions?)

FEBRUARY 1965

CIRCLE NO. 43 ON READER SERVICE CARD

Is tonearm bearing friction so minimal (less than 14 0.1 gram) that anti-skating compensation is effective at less than 1 gram tracking force?

(Or is it actually high enough to render anti-skating compensation virtually ineffective at such light forces?)

15 Does the counterverse both rapid and fine adjust? Does the counterweight offer the convenience of

(Or fine adjust only?)

16 Will the motor maintain speed constancy (within 0.1%) even during prolonged line voltage variations from 95 to 135 volts?

(Or will the motor speed actually vary if such line voltage variations last long enough to overcome the flywheel action of the platter?)

17 Will 12<sup>3</sup>/4" x 11<sup>1</sup>/2" do nicely for installation? (Or must you provide for at least 70% more area?)

10 Can you lift the tonearm from the restrain it at any and place it on its resting post... or restrain it at any Can you lift the tonearm from the record during play time during cycling without concern for possible malfunction or actual damage . . . thanks to its foolproof slipclutch?)

(Or are you better advised not to attempt either, because of mechanical linkage between tonearm and cycling mechanism?)

#### and as for superior performance...

9 Has it been tested and acclaimed by every audio publication as living up to every last claim?

Has it earned such acceptance by experienced 20 audiophiles that they have actually traded in their professional-type manual turntables for it?

Has quality control been so consistent that it has achieved the astonishing reliability record of 99% or more perfect, right out of the carton?

Obviously, if you've been considering anything but the DUAL 1009 Auto/Professional Turntable, you haven't been asking the right questions, or getting the complete answers. Write for our informative literature ... or just ask any audio dealer. (And if you'd like to spend just \$69.50 and still get Dual quality, ask him about the new DUAL 1010 Auto/Standard Turntable.)



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## until:

You lift it. It's the lightest portable stereo tape system in the world. Under 25 lbs.

You check for tubes. It has none. It's solid state (all transistors...27 of them).

You hear it. It has 2 unique two-way speaker systems for cleaner stereo sound reproduction. (4 speakers.)

You check its dependability. It's guaranteed for 1 full year.†



And its price is less than you'd expect to pay. \$349.95\*.

Oki has a fine choice of other solid state tape recorders, starting at \$129.95\*. See and hear them now at your Oki dealer.

\*manufacturer's suggested list price tone year parts, 6 months labor

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City		State	Zip	



**Magnetic Cartridge for Console** Q. I want to install a good-quality of the crystal cartridge in place of the crystal cartridge in my console phonograph. I looked up the specifications of the console's original low-quality crystal cartridge, and it is rated at 0.25 volt output per channel. The amplifier inputs use 4.7-megohm resistors. What changes do I have to make in the input circuits to make them work properly with a magnetic phono cartridge?

WILLIAM PARKE Englewood, New Jersey

A magnetic cartridge has about A. 1/100 the output voltage of a crystal cartridge. Therefore, in order to use a magnetic cartridge with your console phonograph, you would have to add additional gain stages to its amplifier. Several companies sell preamplifiers specifically designed for just that purpose. However, it does not seem to me that the changeover to a magnetic cartridge would be worthwhile since you could, at far less expense, replace your present cartridge with one of the excellent late-model ceramic stereo cartridges (such as the Sonotone Velocitone Mark IV reviewed in HiFi/Stereo Review in July 1964. A separate preamplifier is not required, and your amplifier's 4.7-megohm input resistors will match the cartridge.

Hum—Electrostatic and Magnetic Q. In technical discussions I often see references to electromagnetic and electrostatic hum pickup. When making a hi-fi installation, are there any special techniques for avoiding these? IIM O'KEEFE

Elmira, New York

Electromagnetic hum is usually A. caused by the direct radiation of the magnetic field surrounding a transformer or motor into the circuit of an amplifier. High-gain circuits, and circuits that have inductances in them (such as tape heads or magnetic phono cartridges), are particularly sensitive to clectromagnetic hum. In general, the best cure is to move the source of the electromagnetic hum away from the sensitive circuit or component. Although almost all modern turntables either have an extremely small hum field surrounding the motor or one that does not intersect the path the cartridge must travel in crossing the record, an occasional turntable-cartridge combination will have a high hum level.

But if you are having hum trouble,

first make sure that the hum is not outing to electrostatic pickup, Turn on the turntable motor and observe whether the hum level varies as you move the tone arm across the record and whether the hum ceases when the turntable motor is switched off. Both of these symptoms indicate electromagnetic hum problems, This type of hum can sometimes be minimized by installing a ferrous shield between the motor and the tone arm. Use a piece of a flattened tin can, and locate it in such a way as to divert the hum field from the motor away from the cartridge. The location and shape of the shield will probably be quite critical. A bend of one inch in one direction or another may make the difference between an excessive and an acceptable hum level. Once a good location is found, you can mount or clamp the shield under any convenient bolt on the turntable chassis.

As for electrostatic hum pickup, which may originate anywhere in the system, this is usually a problem of grounding and shielding. Trial and error, plus consultation with the manufacturer of your tone arm and turntable, should enable you to effect a cure.

#### **Tone-Control Setting**

Q. I recently purchased a 25-wattper-channel integrated stereo amplifier that had been a demonstration model. In the store it seemed to work perfectly and sounded excellent with the tone controls in the flat setting. However, when I set it up at home I found that the amplifier sounded best with the treble controls at about the two o'clock position. I took it back to the store where I bought it, and they checked it out and said it was in perfect condition. What could be causing my difficulty?

ROBERT SHICKLEY Black River Falls, Wisc.

A. There is no reason to assume that the necessity for boosting the treble on your amplifier indicates that your amplifier is in some way at fault. Your speakers may not have as bright a treble response as the speakers that your amplifier was originally demonstrated on. Or it may be that your listening room, because of drapes and upholstered furniture, tends to soak up the highs to a greater degree than did the showroom.

In any case, you should be aware that the "flat" tone-control position is not sacrosanct. If your system sounds better with the tone controls set somewhat off the flat position, don't be afraid to leave (Continued on page 18)





## CULPRIT

## VILLAIN

**Tubed components are doomed.** It is now common knowledge among hi-fi engineers that tubes and output transformers play a major role in creating distortion.

Why transistor components are better. Transistor units produce better frequency response (cleaner, more "transparent" sound) because they don't use output transformers. Transistors are the best switching devices known to man, give better response to sounds of very short duration. Speakers are coupled directly to the output transistors, giving you crisp, solid bass. Tubed receivers require realignment at least every other year. Transistors simply do not age ... and they run cool.

Why invest in obsolescence? As you approach the extremely important purchase of your next stereo system, bear in mind that the very finest tubed equipment will soon be hopelessly obsolete. Harman-Kardon, possessing the industry's longest, most extensive experience in solid-state audio design, is and will remain many years ahead of the field.

The industry's only all-transistor line. While an occasional solidstate component has appeared in other lines, only Harman-Kardon now offers the fabulous wide-open sound quality of complete transistorization throughout its <u>entire line</u> . . . only Harman-Kardon has advanced to the point of going completely out of the tubed-equipment business. Not even a nuvistor tube remains to mar the 100% solidstate sound of every Harman-Kardon instrument.

Now, transistor economy. The new Stratophonic all-transistor FM stereo receivers (shown below), priced down with the most popular tubed units, give you Sound Unbound without the old price penalty of transistor equipment. Now, with the Stratophonics, there is literally an all-transistor receiver for every home and every budget. When you hear these magnificent instruments, you will never again settle for the distortion of tubed equipment.

## Harman-Kardon Stratophonic FM Stereo Receivers ... a complete all-transistor line, priced from \$279 to \$469



MODEL SR300, 36 watts IHFM music power. The best news yet for music lovers on a strict budget. A delightful sound at <u>any</u> price, an unbeatable value at just \$279.\*



MODEL SR600, 50 watts IHFM music power. All the front-panel convenience controls of the SR900, and most of its fantastic performance at every power level with minimum distortion. Price \$389.\*



MODEL SR900, 75 watts IHFM music power. Hailed by <u>Audio</u> (October 1964, before the SR600 and SR300 came out) as "the only component-quality all-transistor receiver we know of." Price \$469.\*

\*Prices slightly higher in the West. Enclosures optional.



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CIRCLE NO. 54 ON READER SERVICE CARD

FEBRUARY 1965

## You don't see much for your money

## You hear it!



That's progress.

Time was when a good hi-fi system had to be big. But, thanks to transistor electronics, modern components are smaller, and so are systems. Which is a good thing, since most people don't have the room anyway.

The Benjamin Stereo 200 is a perfect example.

This full-powered, component-engineered stereo phonograph measures only 18 inches widex 16 inches deep. It combines the famous Miracord 10 automanual turntable and a 36-watt, solidstate stereo amplifier in a walnut cabinet no larger than would be required for the Miracord alone. You simply add the speakers, and it's ready to perform.

It is equipped with a diamond-stylus magnetic cartridge, and plays mono and stereo records manually or automatically. The Stereo 200 can also be connected to play from a tuner or tape recorder. The cabinet is fitted with a convenient plexiglass cover.

Price is \$229.50. Speakers are extra. Benjamin 208's are recommended for optimum performance, \$49.50 each.

Ask to hear the Stereo 200 at your hi-fi music dealer soon. It's so delightfully compact, you'll wonder where the big sound comes from. Benjamin Electronic Sound Corp. 80 Swalm SL, Westbury, N.Y. the controls set for boost or cut as required. However, if you cannot get a natural-sounding frequency balance with any tone-control setting, then investigate the speaker system and/or other components to determine whether something may not be defective.

#### **Muddy Bass**

Although I am using two 15-inch • coaxial speakers (installed in 4cubic-foot cabinets) in my stereo system, I am dissatisfied with its bass response. A friend suggested that I construct a sort of center-channel superwoofer to improve the bass. I installed two 12-inch woofers in a single 6-cubic-foot cabinet and connected each woofer in parallel with one of the 15-inch speakers. The woofer cabinet is centered between the two main cabinets. Now I am getting more bass, but it has a muddy quality that is quite unpleasant. Do you have any suggestions as to what I might do to clean up the sound?

> ARNOLD BERG New York City, N.Y.

A. From your description, I suspect that the bass in your revised system doesn't go any lower in frequency than it did before. What is happening is that the bass is now simply overbalancing the treble. An overloud bass will almost always lend an apparent muddiness to the sound. For example, many a socalled full-range speaker that sounds muddy because of an inadequate upper mid-range/treble will appear to have its bass cleaned up simply through the addition of a tweeter. Of course, the tweeter in such a case has merely restored the bass-treble balance.

Your original problem-inadequate bass from your main speakers-is probably traceable to the small enclosures they are installed in. A 15-inch speaker must have a minimum of six cubic feet of air behind it (unless its free-air resonance is about 20 cps or lower) in order to reproduce the low bass frequencies. The six-cubic-foot center cabinet is also a little small to house two 12-inch woofers unless they also have a love free-air resonance. Although it may pain you to do so, you should start all over again, mounting each of your 15-inch speakers in a six-cubic-foot, or preferably larger, cabinet. In an adequately large cabinet, your 15-inch speakers should have a satisfactory bass performance, both in quantity and quality.

• The Institute of High Fidelity has published a second edition of its informative 64-page Introduction to  $Hi-Fi \in Stereo$ . Written for the nontechnical music listener, the booklet is available for 25c from the Institute of High Fidelity, 516 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10036.

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## "By all means listen to this \$95 speaker... This is not 'just another box."

HiFi/Stereo Review



#### THE ADC 303A BRENTWOOD

"After the lab measurements had been made, and I had a chance to analyze the data, I began to appreciate how unusual this speaker system really is."

So writes Julian D. Hirsch of Hirsch-Houck Laboratories, in his "Technical Talk" column in *HiFi / Stereo Review*.

The measurements that evoked his enthusiastic comments revealed surprising qualities in a speaker so compact as the new ADC 303A. Here is how Julian Hirsch describes it:

"For one thing, my tests confirmed the manufacturer's claimed frequency response of 35 to 20,000 cps  $\pm 3$  db measured in an average listening room."

"... the Brentwood has a true, effective response down to at least 33 cps, with lower distortion than I have measured on many larger and more costly speaker systems, under similar conditions." "The system's resonance is 48 cps, and ADC states that it delivers true bass response to at least 38 cps. This it certainly does, with ease. The Model 303A is a very successful application of the acoustic-suspension principle, achieved without excessive loss of efficiency." What Mr. Hirsch found in his laboratory was impressive; what he heard in his listen-

ing room was equally so. This is the way he sums it up: "As for sound, the ADC 303A is very live and open. It has presence, but without the

and open. It has presence, but without the peaked unnatural response usually associated with that term."

"... this speaker brings the music right into your listening room ... as contrasted to some in which the sound never seems to get out of the speaker enclosure."

The ADC 303A was planned to produce optimum performance in your home, as well as Mr. Hirsch's listening room.

#### Prices slightly higher West of Mississippi.



2

CIRCLE NO. 5 ON READER SERVICE CARD





Beat the heat that wrecks the set by installing a Rotron Whisper Fan Kit. Breathing 60 cubic feet of cool air over, under and around every heat-generating component, the Whisper Fan improves performance by minimizing drift due to temperature change within the enclosure. Requires only 7 watts, just pennies a week to operate. Measuring only  $4^{11}6''$  square and  $1\frac{1}{2}''$ deep, it can be set in a corner or mounted on the rear panel in minutes. Comes complete with mounting hardware, plug and cord for electrical connections and installation instructions.



CIRCLE NO. 36 ON READER SERVICE CARD



• Acoustic Research is now shipping the AR-4 speaker system with hanger strips that can be attached to the cabinet. This makes it possible to hang the speaker on a plaster or wood wall with ordinary picture hooks rated for a 30-pound load. Owners of AR-4's who did not receive these hanger strips will be sent a set free if they write to the company giving the serial numbers of their speakers.

• **CM Laboratories** announces two new transistor stereo components: the CC-1 control center and the 351) 70watt (rms) power amplifier. The control



center has pushbutton mode selection and stepped bass and treble tone controls for each channel. Frequency response is 2 to 200 kc  $\pm 0$ , -3 db, at its rated 2volt output. Total harmonic distortion is less than 0.1 per cent, and hum and noise are below 80 db at the high-level inputs, measured at rated output. The power amplifier will deliver 35 watts (rms) per channel into 4-, 8-, or 16-ohm loads, with less than 0.5 per cent harmonic distortion between 20 and 20,000 cps. Intermodulation distortion is below 0.5 per cent at any power up to 35 watts, and hum and noise are 70 db below rated output. Damping factor is greater than 500 over the entire audible range. The amplifier



is electronically protected against short and open circuits in the speaker leads. Price of the Model CC-1 control center is \$315; the Model 35D is \$285.

#### circle 182 on reader service card

• Focal Press has released a six-volume *Encyclopedia of High Fidelity* that includes authoritative guides to acoustics, amplifiers, discs, tapes, radio, and loudspeakers. Over 1,500 pages of practical data cover the entire field of sound recording and reproduction. Each volume is written by a British expert at a level suitable for the technician or the serious amateur. The encyclopedia covers both theory and practice; there are hundreds of diagrams and illustrations, short indexes heading each chapter, and glossaries of terms. The individual volumes are: Acoustics (G. W. Mackenzie), Amplifiers (H. Lewis York), Radio Reception (H. Henderson), Disc Recording and Reproduction (P. J. Guy), Tape Recording and Reproduction (A. A. Mc-Williams), and Loudspeakers (E. J. Jordan). The books are available singly for \$9.50 each or \$49 for the boxed set.

circle 183 on reader service card

• James B. Lansing's Model SG520 Graphic Controller is a transistor stereo control center designed for operation with JBL's Energizer/Transducer or any good stereo power amplifier. Among the novel features of the unit are professionaltype straight-line controls (rather than rotary) for the bass, treble, balance, and volume functions. The straight-line controls permit instant visual recognition of control settings, plus easy, simultaneous adjustment of several controls. There are



also eight illuminated pushbuttons for selector switches. A special test button on the Graphic Controller permits positive and easy adjustment of system balance. Secondary controls requiring infrequent adjustment are concealed behind a hinged section of the front panel. These include scratch and rumble filters, tape-monitor switching, phono gain and balance controls, auxiliary input and output jacks, microphone jacks, and outputlevel controls. Rated output of the unit is 3 volts, with harmonic distortion of under 0.15 per cent from 20 to 20,000 cps. Frequency response is within 0.25 db over the same range. Noise at high-level inputs is 90 db below rated output, Dimensions are 155% x 61/2 x 113/4 inches. Price: \$450.

#### circle 184 on reader service card

• H. H. Scott has introduced the LK-72B, an 80-watt stereo amplifier kit that includes special equalization positions for phonograph and tape deck, separate bass and treble controls for each channel, a powered center-channel output (for extension or center-channel speakers), and a subsonic filter. Accurate assembly of the kit is insured by the full-color in-

(Continued on page 22)



## **New Scott Solid-State Amplifier Passes Rugged Torture Tests**

Now you can own a powerful 80 watt solid state amplifier constructed to standards unique in the high fidelity industry. The new Scott 260 uses rugged pre-tested heavyduty components, including massive heat sinks, heavy printed circuit boards and new silicon output transistors. Critical electrolytics are hand selected and have operating capabilities far exceeding circuit requirements.

To insure the thoroughness of its quality control procedures, H. H. Scott called in transistor specialists with many years experience in the design of critical military components. Rugged tests were devised to subject the amplifier to conditions far more severe than encountered in normal use. These "torture tests" include: Applying a "step-stress-test" to a selected sample of all components used, simulating hundreds of hours of normal operating life and showing up any components that might fail; applying a unique "surge and cycle" test, normally performed only on rugged military equipment, to simulate stresses the amplifier may be subjected to under the most severe home conditions; elaborate pre-test and checkout of all components, including transistors, to insure that components will not fail in service.

As a result of these extensive procedures, the 260 now combines the amazing virtues of transistors... their compactness, cool operating temperatures and fine sound ... with the ruggedness and reliability that the audiofan has come to expect of finest Scott vacuum tube components. Backed by Scott's unique 2-year guarantee, the 260 will give you countless hours of trouble-free fine listening. Less than \$260.

SPECIFICATIONS: Sine-wave power, 30 watts/channel; music power, 40 watts/channel (8 ohms); all-transistor design with direct-coupled silicon output stage. Harmonic distortion less than 0.8%. Frequency response 20 to 20,000 cps. Damping factor greater than 20; Load impedances: 4, 8 or 16 ohms; full tape facilities including tape monitor and direct tape head input. Operating features: Derived center channel output; rumble filter; scratch filter; Impedance selector switch. Matches all Scott tuners.



(1) Rugged silicon direct-coupled transistor output stage (2) Preamps on separate modular-type printed circuit boards (3) Stereo headset output (4) Master volume control (5) Separate bass and treble controls (6) Complete tape recorder input and output facilities (7) Massive power supply provides high power surges when music demands it (8) Handsome styling matches Scott Transistor Tuner model 312  

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The popular Rek-O-Kut R-34 turntable, already the best value in a single-play unit, is now even better ... and at no price increase! Constantly watching for changes that will improve quality and convenience in record playback systems, Rek-O-Kut has determined that the tonearm on the R-34 simply *must* have a plug-in shell to make cart-ridge mounting simpler. So the new S-440 tonearm now comes\_mounted\_on\_the\_R-34; now\_an\_even\_greater\_value... still \$89.95.



Specifications: Complete 2-speed turntable, tonearm, and solid walnut base. All with a 5-year Warranty, unheard of in the audio industry! Exclusive Rekothane belt reduces noise and rumble to minus 6 db lower than any other belt. Exclusive Instant Speed Selector changes from  $33\frac{1}{2}$  to 45 rpm with a mere flick of your finger. Specifications: Noise and rumble: -60 db below average recorded level (@ 7 cm/sec. @ 1000 cps). Flutter and wow: .08 0/0 RMS.

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struction book, prestripped wires, and premounted terminal boards and tube sockets. Power rating of the LK-72B is



40 watts (IHF) per channel. Power bandwidth is 20 to 20,000 cps  $\pm 1$  db; frequency response is 20 to 20,000 cps  $\pm 1$  db; and harmonic distortion is 0.8 per cent. Price: under \$150.

circle 185 on reader service card

• **Sonotone** has introduced the Sonomaster, a compact speaker system employing two speakers—a 6-inch linearsuspension, high-compliance woofer with a resonance of 50 cps and a 1½-inch high-frequency supertweeter—acoustically matched with a 5,000-cps L/C crossover network. The tweeter has excellent



high-frequency dispersion over a wide angle, and is equipped with a calibrated level control to permit adjusting the high frequencies to suit room acoustics. System impedance is 8 ohms, frequency response is 45 to 20,000 cps, and the speaker can handle 40 watts of average program material (80 watts peak). Ten watts is about the minimum amplifier power to be used with the system. The enclosure, of high-stress nonresonant panels of oiled walnut veneer, can be mounted either horizontally or vertically. The size of the system is  $7\frac{1}{4} \times 10\frac{1}{2} \times 14$  inches. Price: \$42.50.

circle 186 on reader service card

• University's Medallion Monitor is an oiled walnut bookshelf version of the Medallion X11 speaker system. The new



three-way system includes a 12-inch woofer, an 8-inch mid-range speaker, and a Sphericon supertweeter. Response of the system is from 20 to 40,000 cps. Price: \$129.

circle 187 on reader service card





Here's terrific news for kit builders! Now, the famous Scott LT-110 tuner kit . . . the same kit top rated by every audio expert . . . the same superbly engineered FM Stereo tuner built by thousands of hi fi enthusiasts . . . is now available in handsome new styling at a truly modest price.

Look at the outstanding features of this superb tuner. It includes a heavily silver-plated front end that is pre-wired and tested in Scott's engineering laboratories. The critical multiplex section is also completely pre-wired and tested with the most advanced multiplex equipment available. Among the LT-110-B's many pluses: Stereo Separation in excess of 30 db, Sonic Monitor Stereo indicator, 60 db signal-to-noise ratio, sensitive tuning meter.

Here's what the technical editor of Electronics Illustrated said about the LT-110: "If you have hesitated to go into stereo FM because of imagined complexities and highly technical skills and knowledge that might be required, fear no more. The LT-110 shows you how to enjoy stereo FM the easy way."



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CIRCLE NO. 100 ON READER SERVICE CARD



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#### THE STEREO SEAT

N THE early days of stereo, it was a commonly accepted half-truth that the listener had to sit at equal distances from the two speakers to hear the maximum stereo effect. Such a listening position is comparable to a center-aisle seat in the concert hall, and it puts you in the location with the most balanced right-and-left sound distribution. In a room of average size, the stereo speakers might be placed from eight to twelve feet apart, and you could then put your favorite chair across the room from the loudspeakers at a point somewhere close to an imaginary line drawn midway between them.

But you needn't be dogmatic about your stereo seating arrangement. Stereo permits the listener far greater freedom of movement than orthodox stereophiles will admit. In fact, the stereo effect can be appreciated almost anywhere in the room. If you are sitting off-center, your location might be compared with a box seat along the side of an auditorium-which is nothing to complain about. You may perceive less left-right directionality in such a location, but the essential fullness and spaciousness of stereo will still be retained.

To prove to yourself that the stereo effect is not strictly localized, just walk across the room in front of the speakers while a record is playing. It's like dancing across a ballroom in front of the bandstand: although the sound perspective changes at various points, depending on which instruments you are closest to, these are quite natural changes and the stereo effect is not lost.

Spreading stereo sound evenly over a wide area requires a wide angle of treble dispersion from your speakers. Loudspeakers differ considerably in their ability to fan out the high frequencies. The poorer ones project the treble in a narrow beam, as from a flashlight, leaving, at the sides of the beam, large areas of aural "shadow" in which the sound is dull. In general, broad-angle dispersion of highs provides wider latitude in the choice of listening location.

If the décor of your living room dictates that the speakers must be very widely separated (say, more than ten or twelve feet apart), you may run into a condition graphically described as "hole in the middle"-a center zone between the two speakers in which there is noticeably less volume. You will still be aware of left-right directionality, but there will be imperfect continuity of sound between the two speakers. This "hole in the middle" can be filled by adding a third speaker. This speaker, which is placed mid-way between the two main speakers, is usually hooked up to reproduce a blend of the left and right channels. It represents, as it were, the middle of the orchestra. Many amplifiers provide a special set of output terminals for connecting such a center speaker. If excessive separation of speakers is a problem in your particular setup, your audio dealer may lend you an extra speaker so you can determine by trial whether a center speaker will provide the sound improvement you need.

In this connection, it is important to be aware of the difference between a "powered" center-channel output and a preamplifier's center-channel output. Amplifiers with a powered output will drive a speaker directly with an internally derived A+B (or mono) signal; a preamplifier centerchannel output requires a separate power amplifier.



If, in 1631, you went to rent a horse from Thomas Hobson at Cambridge, England, you took the horse that stood next to the door. And no other. Period. Hence, Hobson's Choice means No Choice.

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Since then, Shure has developed several models of their Stereo Dynetic cartridges-each designed for optimum performance in specific kinds of systems, each designed for a specific kind of porte-monnaie.

We trust this brief recitation of the significant features covering the various members of the Shure cartridge family will help guide you to the best choice for you.

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THE VANIADOL	TIS FUNCTION, TIS FEATORES	15 TOUR DEST SELECTION
V-15	The ultimate! 15° tracking and Bi-Radial Ellip- tical stylus reduces Tracing (pinch effect), IM and Harmonic Distortion to unprecedented lows. Scratch-proof. Extraordinary quality con- trol throughout. Literally handmade and in- dividually tested. In a class by itself for repro- ducing music from mono as well as stereo discs.	If your tone arm tracks at $1/2$ grams or less (either with manual or automatic turntable)— and if you want the very best, regardless of price, this is without question your cartridge. It is designed for the purist the perfection- ist whose entire system must be composed of the finest equipment in every category. Shure's finest cartridge. \$62.50.
M55E	Designed to give professional performance! Elliptical diamond stylus and new 15° vertical tracking angle provide freedom from distor- tion. Low Mass. Scratch-proof. Similar to V-15, except that it is made under standard quality control conditions.	If you seek outstanding performance and your tonearm will track at forces of <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> to 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> grams, the M55E will satisfy—beautifully. Will actually improve the sound from your high fidelity system! (Unless you're using the V-15, Shure's finest cartridge.) A special value at \$35.50.
M44	A premium quality cartridge at a modest price. 15° tracking angle conforms to the 15° RIAA and EIA proposed standard cutting angle re- cently adopted by most recording companies. 1M and Harmonic distortion are remarkably low, cross-talk between channels is ne- gated in critical low and mid-frequency ranges.	If you track between $\frac{3}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ grams, the M44-5 with .0005" stylus represents a best-buy investment. If you track between $\frac{1}{2}$ and 3 grams, the M44-7 is for you particularly if you have a great number of older records. Both have "scratch-proof" retractile stylus. Either model under \$25.00.
M7/N21D	A top-rated cartridge featuring the highly compliant N21D tubular stylus. Noted for its sweet, "singing" quality throughout the audi- ble spectrum and especially its singular re- creation of clean mid-range sounds (where most of the music really "happens".) Budget- priced, too.	For 2 to 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> gram tracking. Especially fine if your present set-up sounds "muddy." At less than \$20.00, it is truly an outstanding buy. (Also, if you own regular M7D, you can up- grade it for higher compliance and lighter tracking by installing an N21D stylus.)
м99	A unique Stereo-Dynetic cartridge head shell assembly for Garrard and Miracord automatic turntable owners. The cartridge "iloats" on counterbalancing springs makes the stylus scratch-proof, ends tone arm "bounce."	If floor vibration is a problem. Saves your records. Models for Garrard Laboratory Type "A", AT-6, AT-60 and Model 50 automatic turntables and Miracord Model 10 or 10H turntables. Under \$25.00 including head shell, .0007" diamond stylus.
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• FREQUENCY-RESPONSE CURVES: Probably the most concise, yet complete, way to describe the frequency response of a piece of equipment is a graphical representation—the widely used frequency-response curve. On this curve, the horizontal axis represents frequency, and usually covers the range from 20 to 20,000 cps. The vertical axis is proportional to the amplitude, or level, of the output signal (with a constant-voltage input signal) from the equipment under test.

If such a curve had an exact correspondence to the sound of an audio component, the task of the equipment reviewer would be greatly simplified. Unfortunately, however, although response curves may give valuable clues to someone skilled in their interpretation, the layman usually is able to derive very little helpful information.

Let us consider a tape recorder that has the frequencyresponse curve shown at A in the graph below. Assum-

ing that the recorder's distortion and noise are acceptably low, what does the shape of the curve tell us about the sound produced? Note that the response (at  $71/_2$  ips) extends to 13,000 cps and then drops sharply. Under certain conditions, the slight shimmer that is heard on close-up recordings of strings,

brass instruments, cymbals, and so forth might be dulled by the loss of these frequencies, but one might not be aware of any lack without direct comparison with the original program.

The drooping high-frequency response above 5,000 cps at  $3\frac{3}{4}$  ips is typical of many tape recorders. The sound is dulled, with noticeable reduction of sparkle and live-



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ness. Stereo definition suffers also. However, the balance between lows and highs is maintained, and the sound is not unpleasant—but neither is it high fidelity. It is not uncommon for a recorder's low-frequency response to slope below 100 cps, as it does in Curve A. But this does not necessarily mean that the recorder will sound thin, because, in general, there is surprisingly little music below 50 cps (where the recorder's response is 3 db down).

Curve B is the playback-response curve of another tape recorder. The high frequencies are emphasized by about 10 db relative to the lower and middle frequencies, which results in a shrill, unpleasant sound quality. If the upward slope were on the low-frequency end, the sound would be heavy and muddy. In general, a pronounced broad peak in response at one end of the frequency spectrum tends to diminish the apparent loudness of the other end. In most cases, the difference is less extreme than in the ex-

**REVIEWED THIS MONTH** Leak Sandwich Speaker System Sony Sterecorder 600

ample given, but even a 3- or 4-db rise or fall in response is usually audible.

The response curves of loudspeakers are usually quite irregular, many of them having relatively sharp peaks or holes that affect narrow bands of frequencies. As is true of other components, the over-

all quality of a loudspeaker depends on many factors besides its frequency response, but the response curve can indicate probable areas of weakness in the speaker's performance.

Curve C plots the frequency response of a small, inexpensive speaker. The high-frequency response extends to about 10,000 cps, but the lows are sharply attenuated



below 200 cps. This results in a distinctly bright sound. With a 10,000-cps upper limit, good balance requires a low-end response to at least 60 or 70 cps. The rising response between 1,000 and 4,000 cps gives the speaker a strong presence projection. In moderate amounts, this is not unpleasant, and many people apparently prefer this kind of sound. The extra peak between 1,000 and 1,500 cps, however, gives this speaker a harsh, rough quality. Curve D illustrates the performance of another low-price speaker that has a useful response from 100 to 5,000 cps. The peak at 150 cps, which is not uncommon in speakers, gives an illusion of bass response (but adds a somewhat boomy, chesty quality to male voices) and the 1,500-cps peak provides presence. Over-all, this speaker adds a distinct coloration to music. It is not flagrantly bad, but I found it tiring for prolonged listening.

Another small speaker, whose response is represented by Curve E, sounds well-balanced and musical because of its smooth response in the important 100- to 2,000-cps range. The depressed upper-middle range (2,000 to 7,000 cps) prevents it from sounding too shrill, although the 10,000-cps peak contributes some brightness.

Finally, the speaker response shown in Curve F has a greatly exaggerated response in the 7,000-cps region, which causes shrillness. The speaker also has a hollow, resonant quality because of the elevated response in the 300-cps area.

To sum up, any undue emphasis on high or low frequencies in any portion of a sound system will cause the sound to be either bright or heavy. A definite peak between 80 and 200 cps will result in a boomy or hollow quality, and a peak above 5,000 cps may cause shrillness and accentuated background hiss. A mid-range peak adds presence, or projection of sound, but may prove irritating. A mid-range depression, on the other hand, gives a closed-in quality. In general, irregularities of 2 or 3 db may not be noticed, but deviations of 7 or 8 db can produce a very unnatural sound.

#### LEAK SANDWICH SPEAKER SYSTEM



• ONE OF the acknowledged weaknesses of loudspeakers is the speaker cone's tendency to "break up" at certain frequencies. The cone of an ideal speaker would act as a piston, with all portions moving in unison. To the degree that various portions of the cone vibrate out of phase with each other, the result is irregular frequency response, poor transient response and—possibly—the generation of spurious output frequencies. Breakup can be minimized by stiffening the cone structure and damping it acoustically to suppress undesired modes of resonance. The Leak Sandwich speaker system represents a highly successful application of these techniques.

The cones of the speakers used in the Sandwich system are constructed of molded rigid polystyrene foam, with a layer of aluminum bonded to both surfaces—thus the "Sandwich" name. This laminated structure has low mass, yet it is extremely rigid.

In other respects, the speakers used in the Leak system are conventionally constructed, with the heavy magnet structures required for good efficiency and control of cone motion. The woofer's frame is a rugged casting, and its



Tone-burst response at 220 cps (left) and at 6,000 cps (light).

highly compliant cone suspension permits large linear excursions. High frequencies are handled by a  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch cone tweeter. The crossover frequency is 900 cps, and the tweeter is in a separate compartment, completely isolated from the woofer. No level control is provided for the tweeter, since it is Leak's contention that a speaker system should be designed for flat response, and that any modification to suit room characteristics or personal taste should be accomplished with the amplifier's tone controls. The enclosure is fully sealed, heavily damped, 15 inches wide by 12 inches deep by 26 inches high, and is finished in oiled walnut.

My measured frequency-response curve for the Leak Sandwich speaker, averaged from seven different microphone positions, was exceptionally flat and free of peaks or holes. It was within  $\pm 3.5$  db from 35 to 15,000 cps, including any room-resonance effects that may have influenced the low-end response. At frequencies above 400 cps, where the room has little influence on the speaker's response, the largest peak or dip on the curve was approximately 1.5 db. This is exceptionally good performance, and makes the Leak one of the smoothest speaker systems I have ever tested.

With 10 watts of driving power, the harmonic distortion in the output of the speaker was about 2 or 3 per cent down to 50 cps, rising gradually to 10 per cent at 25 cps. Since this speaker is fairly efficient, a 10-watt input produces a very high sound level. This indicates that under actual playing conditions the Sandwich speaker has negligible bass distortion.

The success of the sandwich cone construction, and the obvious care taken in other aspects of the design of this speaker system, is further illustrated by its remarkable transient response. The tone-burst photo taken at 6,000 cps is typical of the speaker's performance throughout its range. The burst starts and ends cleanly, without delay, overhang, or spurious output. The output visible between bursts is combined background noise and residual output *(Continued on page 34)* 

HIFI/STEREO REVIEW

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from the tone-burst generator, and is not inherent in the speaker. Most woofers show appreciably poorer tone-burst response than tweeters, but at 220 cps the Leak woofer is nearly as good as its tweeter at higher frequencies. All in all, the speaker's measured performance is outstanding.

It would be surprising if a speaker that tested so well did not sound equally good, and the Sandwich speaker lived up to the promise of its measurements. It had a spacious character, with a strong sense of immediacy, and no boxiness or roughness whatever. I found that it was a trifle too bright for close-up listening, but this was

SONY STERECORDER 600



• THE SONY STERECORDER 600 is a portable four-track stereo tape recorder. It accommodates up to 7-inch reels, and is designed for use with external playback power amplifiers and speakers. Attractively packaged in a rugged, portable case, it is also easily adaptable to fixed installation. The machine can be operated either vertically or horizontally, and the transport shuts off automatically when the tape has run through. An "instant-stop" control halts the tape rapidly at either of the two playing speeds ( $71/_2$  and  $33/_4$  ips) without disengaging the record mode.

All operating controls are duplicated for the two channels. To record in stereo, two red buttons must be pressed while placing the tape in motion. They release automatically when the tape is stopped (but not when "instant stop" is used), thus preventing accidental tape erasure. Red pilot lights indicate when either channel is in the record mode. Twin illuminated VU meters monitor incoming and outgoing signal levels in both the record and play modes. Since there are separate level controls and inputs for microphones and a high-level source (such as a tuner), the input signals can be mixed when recording. And because of its duplication of control functions for the two channels, the Sony 600 can be used conveniently for sound-on-sound and other special effects.

A right- and left-channel playback control sets the level of the line and monitor outputs. The latter is a frontpanel 600-ohm stereo-headphone jack, and the 600-ohm line outputs and high-level inputs are concealed behind a hinged panel. The two microphone jacks are on the front panel.

Because the Sony 600 is a three-head machine with separate record and playback electronics, it is possible to monitor off the tape while recording. Rocker-type switches channel either the input signal or the off-the-tape signal to the monitor and line outputs and the VU meters. Two easily tamed with the amplifier's tone control. In general, it had the ease, transparency, and balance that are essential characteristics of a fine speaker system. I particularly appreciated the combination of outstanding transient response with effortless, clean, lower bass, which could be clearly heard (and felt) whenever it was present in the program. In its price class, the Leak Sandwich system must rank among the top performers. Anyone shopping for a speaker should audition the Leak and compare it critically with its peers. Price of the system is \$199.

For more information, circle 188 on reader service card

RIAA-equalized preamplifier stages are built in for dubbing directly from a magnetic phono cartridge if desired. The 600 is supplied with two Sony F-87 low-impedance dynamic cardioid-pattern microphones. These are of surprisingly good quality, and are distinctly superior to most microphones supplied with tape recorders. The recording amplifiers have considerable gain and a very low noise level, so that good-quality recordings can be made at maximum gain settings when necessary.

The playback response of the Sony 600 (average for both channels), measured with the Ampex 31321-04 test tape, was within  $2\frac{1}{2}$  db from 50 to 15,000 cps. The overall record-playback response at the  $7\frac{1}{2}$ -ips tape speed was within  $\pm 3$  db from 28 to 16,000 cps. At  $3\frac{3}{4}$  ips, the response was about  $\pm 3$  db from 40 to 9.500 cps. Wow and flutter at  $7\frac{1}{2}$  ips were quite low--0.02 and 0.06 per cent, respectively. The signal-to-noise ratio was a good





The tape transport worked flawlessly. The fast-forward and rewind speeds were rather slow, however-it took about 4 minutes to handle 1,200 feet of tape. When I compared the sound quality of the playback with that of the original program (using the Sony's monitor playback head), I found that there was virtually no difference between the original and played-back material except for a barely perceptible increase in hiss. To my surprise, program material recorded at 33/4 ips was also almost indistinguishable from the original. In fact, I would say that the Sony 600 sounded better at 33/4 ips than a lot of home machines sound at 71/2 ips. Over-all, the machine's performance and operating features are close enough to professional performance standards to make it suitable for use by the most discriminating amateur recordist. The Sony 600, complete with two microphones, is priced under \$450.

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## THE SHRINKING VIOLA



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#### By GEORGE JELLINEK

"S and helpful philosopher, always ready to come to the aid of others, but reluctant to call attention to itself . . ." -that, according to French musicologist Albert Lavignac, is the shy and retiring instrument known as the viola. Afflicted on the one hand with a low range that lacks the melancholy and sonorous guality of the cello, and on the other hand with a high register that cannot match the lightness and brilliance of the violin, the viola has suffered for its modesty. And even though there is a unique mellow beauty in the viola's mid-range, its tone usually blends so unobtrusively with its companions that it almost completely surrenders its identity.

Although the viola made its appearance before the violin (in the sixteenth century, as the successor to the flat-backed viola di braccio, a tenor viol), it has always been subordinated to its smaller and more glamorous sister. Unjust as this arrangement is-for the viola can produce all of the effects the violin can-it is as unchanging as the similar relationship that exists between the mezzos and the sopranos of the operatic stage. And furthermore, aside from being accorded an honored and indispensable role in chamber music, the viola has received little help from composers in overcoming its retiring disposition.

This neglect is particularly noticeable in the musical form specifically designed to display instrumental virtuosity—the concerto. Although the eighteenth century produced several successful viola concertos by Handel, Telemann, and Stamitz (and the wonderful Sinfonia Concertante in E-flat by Mozart), composers of the Romantic era ignored the viola as an instrument for virtuoso display. This was most emphatically demonstrated by a group of late-nineteenth-century composers—Tchaikovsky, Bruch, Lalo, Saint-Saëns, and Dvořák—who enriched both violin and cello literature without, apparently, considering the instrument in between. (Dvořák, as it happens, was an accomplished violist.) In our century, the instrument has fared much better, but the viola concertos of William Walton (1929), Béla Bartók (1945), and Walter Piston (1958) are yet to be established in the concert repertoire.

Needless to say, this state of affairs is a source of constant frustration to violists. Emanuel Vardi, a prominent member of their fraternity, has this to say on the subject:

The main trouble is that no real standard of viola playing exists for the composers' benefit. Unless the composer is a violist himself, as Hindemith was, he simply does not know the capabilities of the instrument. The lack of Romantic concertos is, of course, a blow from which the viola will never recover, for these pieces could have established the instrument on the concert platform. But, in a way, the indifference of the nineteenthcentury composers was understandablethere were no viola virtuosos to inspire them. Brahms had his Joachim, Lalo had his Sarasate, and Tchaikovsky his Auer. There were also great violinist-composers like Wieniawski, Vieuxtemps, and Kreisler, but the viola, unfortunately, never had such champions."

What can be done to make not only composers but also concert managers who exert a dominant influence on our musical life—aware of the viola's potential? "Something must happen that will startle people into listening to it," is Vardi's answer.

That something may be contained in Vardi's new recording (Epic BSC 149, two 12-inch discs, \$11.96, SC 6049 \$9.96) of Paganini's Twenty-Four Caprices for Solo Violin, for the first time heard in its entirety on the viola. What better group (Continued on page 42) Ever think about flying to Rome, Salzburg, Edinburgh and attending such great events as the Caracalla Opera, Salzburg Festival, Shakespeare Drama...

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of works can be found to prove that the viola is a virtuoso instrument? The Paganini Caprices comprise every technical difficulty known to the fiddler. They are so demanding, in fact, that very few violinists have ever tackled all twenty-four. To stress technique alone, however, would do injustice to the music, for the Caprices, in their imaginative combination of violinistic essence and musical thought, also constitute Paganini's best music. According to Vardi, they deserve the same seriousness and dedication with which musicians approach the unaccompanied string works of Johann Sebastian Bach.

For this recording Vardi used the standard Ricordi violin edition. This means that everything written for the violin's E string is played on the viola's highest (A) string, and so on down the line, sounding always a fifth below the corresponding violin position. No attempts were made to simplify the writing or to modify the required tempos. The very size of the instrument, of course, imposed additional difficulties. The widespaced intervals-octaves or tenths, for example-are troublesome enough on the violin, but become downright staggering when they are translated into the viola's dimensions.

To play passages in the highest reaches, Vardi had to have his viola's fingerboard extended an eighth of an inch beyond its normal length. To reach these notes, the violist's left hand must leave the body of the instrument and attack unsupported a deadly intonation hazard. "Let's face it," summed up the intrepid Mr. Vardi, "I had my hands full. Some of Paganini's effects are unplayable—on the violin as well as the viola."

The performance is a remarkable tour de force. The ear quickly becomes adjusted to the difference in timbres, and learns to accept the viola's sound as natural. Actually-as for example in the Amoroso section of Caprice No. 21there are times when the viola's deeper tone imparts added eloquence to the music. Runs and other fast passagework, of course, emerge on a violin with sharper articulation, but Vardi has succeeded in obtaining violin-like definition even in his instrument's most resonant-and therefore most cumbersome-register. Some slips are unavoidable-a few trills in the high regions, the octaves in Caprice No. 17-but otherwise all hurdles, including some treacherous octave trills, rapid staccatos, and double stops, are masterfully taken. And, most astounding of all, Vardi's intonation is equal (if not superior) to that of any violinist competitor on records. His is a performance Paganini himself would have admired.

This brings up a question: Why did Paganini not cultivate the viola? Actually, for a brief period in the final years of his life the viola *was* Paganini's main concern. In the spring of 1833 he purchased

a beautiful Stradivarius viola\* from an English dealer. His letters to a lifelong friend, Luigi Guglielmo Germi, are full of hopeful presentiments of an important new artistic phase involving not only his newly acquired Stradivarius, but also an instrument he called "contra viola," one of extraordinary size that only Paganini, who had abnormally long fingers, could master. He wrote two Trios Concertantes for viola, cello, and guitar in this period, and there is a notice of the performance of one of these in London (May 1833), with Mendelssohn at the piano, playing the guitar part, and Paganini and Robert Lindley on the strings.

Paganini also wanted to write a virtuoso piece for viola and orchestra, but his poor health prevented the undertaking. So he went to the composer he admired above all contemporaries—Hector Berlioz.

"Some weeks after the triumphant concert," wrote Berlioz in his memoirs, "Pa-



ganini came to see me. 'I have a wonderful viola,' he said, 'an admirable Stradivarius, and I should greatly like to play it in public. But I have no music *ad hoc*. Would you write me a solo? I have no confidence in anyone but you for such a work....'"

Berlioz began work immediately, but his vision of the concerto did not coincide with Paganini's. With more sadness than anger, the Italian lost interest in the work after a good look at the first movement. When *Harold in Italy* was introduced on November 23, 1834, the solo viola was played by Christian Urhan, a classmate of Berlioz at the Conservatoire.

Having thus failed with Berlioz, Paganini himself tried his hand at writing the kind of virtuoso piece he had in mind. His Grand Sonata for Viola and Orchestra (1834), however, was never performed or published. Some day, if the manuscript is finally brought to light, it may be hailed as the long-missing link that could have paved the way to a series of Romantic viola concertos. Where other composers were content with merely accepting the viola, Paganini made an attempt to upgrade its status. This pioneering recording of the Caprices can be considered a tribute to his efforts.

\*This instrument is now used by the Paganini Quartet.

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HEN Jean Sibelius celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday twenty-five years ago, orchestras and conductors in many parts of the world outdid each other in recognizing the anniversary musically. Here in the United States, the Sibelius symphonies used to form the backbone of the seasons of Koussevitzky in Boston, Barbirolli in New York, Ormandy in Philadelphia, Rodzinski in Cleveland, Stock in Chicago, and Monteux in San Francisco. How all that has changed in the intervening quarter of a century! The Sibelius rage of the 1930's and 1940's has now dwindled almost to the vanishing point. Sibelius, at one time lionized, is now dismissed in some circles as a figure of little importance in twentiethcentury musical creation, a minor composer of strictly limited interest whose music was already out of fashion at the time it was being written.

This latter point of view is, in my opinion, pure nonsense. Even today, nearly ten years after the composer's death, there is still much of his work that this country does not know: a whole body of music for chorus, a vast song output, many compositions for solo piano. And although there is little doubt that the most significant Sibelius is the composer who speaks to us in the seven symphonies, the Sibelius of these other works too is a musician of rare attainment whose place in musical history will be secure long after the names of his detractors have faded into oblivion. Hopefully, this year of the centennial of Sibelius' birth will stimulate a rehabilitation: he has as much to say to audiences of today as he had to those a generation ago.

For Sibelius, the urge to compose was a deep inner compulsion, one unaffected by external circumstances. The creation of the Fifth Symphony, a work of heroic affirmation, is a perfect example-Sibelius began it during the darkest days of World War One. Four years passed before he was satisfied with the score. A first version was performed in Helsinki on December 8, 1915, at a gala concert celebrating Sibelius' fiftieth birthday. About a year later Sibelius took up the work again and rewrote it in a more concentrated form. This revision was performed in Helsinki in December of 1916, the composer conducting. The following summer Sibelius was thinking of a new symphony, his first important work of the war period other than the Fifth. At the same time he contemplated a "new and final revision" of the Fifth, but it was not until the spring of 1918 that he was able to



A noble and passionate performance of Sibelius' Fifth Symphony, by Sir John Barbirolli and the Hallé Orchestra, is on Vanguard's low-price Everyman label. The fine Alexander Gibson-London Symphony disc, now withdrawn by RCA Victor, is worth searching for.

return to his scores with renewed energy. The Sixth and Seventh Symphonies were sketched, and a complete revision of the Fifth was begun. How drastic the final revision was Sibelius tells in a letter of May 20, 1918: "The Fifth Symphony in a new form, practically composed anew, I work at daily. Movement 1 entirely new, Movement 2 reminiscent of the old, Movement 3 reminiscent of the end of the first movement of the old. Movement 4 the old motifs, but stronger in revision. The whole, if I may say so, a vital climax to the end. Triumphal."

John N. Burk, in the Boston Symphony Orchestra concert bulletin, wrote most perceptively of the Fifth Symphony of Sibelius: "To a world steeped in lavish colorings, tending toward swollen orchestrations, lush chromatizations, Sibelius gave a symphony elementary in theme, moderate, almost traditional in form, spare in instrumentation. The themes at first hearing are so simple as to be quite featurcless; the succession of movements makes no break with the past. However, any stigma of retrogression or academic severity is at once swept aside by the music itself. It goes without saying that Sibelius set himself exactly those means which the matter in hand required, and using them with consummate effectiveness created a sound structure of force, variety, and grandeur which no richer approach could have bettered."

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L HE classic recording of Sibelius' Fifth Symphony was long the one made in the late 1930's by Serge Koussevitzky with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. About a dozen years ago, this same performance was made available on a long-playing disc in the RCA Victor Collector's Series (LCT 1151), but it, too, has long been out of circulation. To his performance of the Fifth, as to his performances of all the Sibelius symphonies, Koussevitzky brought an intuitive perception and understanding. The brooding, mystical quality of much of the music struck a sympathetic chord in Koussevitzky's own makeup-as did the pages of triumphant heroism-and the Koussevitzky readings of the Sibelius symphonies will never be forgotten by any who were fortunate enough to hear them. It is significant that the decline in the popularity of the music of Sibelius with modern audiences dates from the early 1950's, when Koussevitzky was no longer alive.

There are currently half a dozen recordings of Sibelius' Fifth Symphony in the Schwann catalog. I was surprised to discover that two respected recordings of the score, of far more recent vintage than the Koussevitzky, have, like it, been withdrawn: a performance by Sir Malcolm Sargent and the BBC Symphony Orchestra, once available in mono and stereo on the Capitol label, and another by Alexander Gibson and the London Symphony Orchestra (RCA Victor LSC/LM 2405). Indeed, the Gibson-London Symphony recording was greeted with the most extravagant praise in these pages by David Hall at the time of its release. It is a performance of great strength and vitality, extremely well played and beautifully recorded; it is well worth looking for in shops that specialize in deleted records.

Three of the currently available performances date from the early days of long-playing records, and are not particularly distinguished. These are the recordings by Herbert von Karajan (Angel 35002), Eugene Ormandy (Columbia ML 5045), and Erick Tuxen (Richmond 19036). The remaining three are available in both stereo and mono: Sir John Barbirolli and the Hallé Orchestra (Vanguard SRV 137 SD, SRV 137); a newer recording by Karajan and the Philharmonia Orchestra (Angel S 35922); and Theodore Bloomfield and the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra (Everest SDBR 3068, LPBR 6068). The Bloomfield performance is a disaster, both musically and sonically. The Karajan reading is an example of that conductor's tendency to destroy the line. the phrase, and the very character of a piece of music by overcalculation.

The Barbirolli performance, on the other hand, is quite simply the finest recorded performance of Sibelius' Fifth Symphony since the fabled Koussevitzky recording. Here is a conductor, who, like Koussevitzky, responds intuitively to the Sibelius aesthetic. Barbirolli's is a noble reading, full of the passion and personal dedication of a conductor who may well be the one to spark a Sibelius revival in 1965. I fervently hope so, for Barbirolli's Sibelius is Sibelius in the Grand Manner—and nothing less will do!

REPRINTS of a review of the complete "Basic Repertoire" are available without charge. Circle number 176 on reader service card.

## A stunning new recording by the Boston Symphony under Leinsdorf

Here is an important new recording of two major ballet suites: Rimsky-Korsakoff's Le Coq d'Or and Stravinsky's Firebird. In this new album the Boston Symphony under Leinsdorf devotes itself for the first time to the Russian repertoire with brilliant results. Their performances have been recorded in <u>Dynagroove</u> sound that yields glittering, shimmering, luscious music. Hear this RCA Victor Red Seal album soon.









The AR-4-\$51 to \$57, depending on finish

Excerpt from a column by Robert Marsh, music editor of the Chicago Sun-Times. A reprint of the complete AR-4 review is available on request.

The AR-4 is a best buy in any comparative shopping survey. It is going to attract a lot of interest in the low-price bracket, but, more than this, it is going to raise a big fuss in the next bracket up, competing with its own big brothers the AR-2 and the AR-2a.

Development work on the AR-4 has made possible an improvement in the AR-2 and AR-2a speakers as well. The AR-2a has a new mid-range unit of improved smoothness and dispersion, and has had its name changed to AR-2a<sup>x</sup>. The AR-2, with the same new unit installed as tweeter, has become the AR-2<sup>x</sup>.

These new models are entirely compatible in stereo with the original speakers. The grille cloths are new, but the older grilles are still available. The AR-2 and AR-2a speakers are also still available for those who want exact matching, or the owner of either of these speakers can convert to the corresponding new model for \$15 and about half an hour of his time. Conversion kits are available at your AR dealer or direct from Acoustic Research.

The AR-2a<sup>x</sup> is \$109 to \$128, depending on finish, and the AR-2<sup>x</sup> is \$89 to \$102. These prices are the same as for the original models. AR's five-year speaker guarantee (covering all costs including freight) applies, of course.

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Here a given violin is a Stradivarius, an Amati, or a Guarnerius? In most cases they don't, really. They arrive at their conclusions the way art appraisers arrive at the attribution of a painting to a particular painter—by a study of style, structure, workmanship, idiosyncracies, decoration, and so on. When the experts agree, the validity of an attribution is assumed to be established. But they don't always agree.

More recently, scientific aids such as the analysis of wood, varnish, and paper (of labels) have been employed to authenticate old instruments, as they have also been employed to authenticate old paintings. But the results are rarely completely certain, as was demonstrated a few years ago in a trial before the grand jury of Bern-Mittelland, Switzerland.

Climaxing what had come to be known as the "violin war," the trial lasted for five weeks and drew upon the testimony of some of the world's most famous dealers in old violins and other stringed instruments. It also exposed to the public eye the methods and accepted practices of those whose professional opinions are taken as final, or at least authoritative, in the appraisal of the value of instruments commanding prices of thousands of dollars.



There can have been few owners of expensive old instruments who, before the trial was over—insofar as they were aware of it at the time—did not review the pedigrees of their instruments and the circumstances of their acquisition. For the trial revealed with startling clarity the fallibility of both the comparative and the scientific appraisal methods, and left not one of the experts without a bruise either on his conscience or his reputation.

In a sixty-page indictment, Henry Werro, a Bernese dealer in old stringed instruments, a former president of the Swiss Association of Master Violin Makers and at the time of the trial a member of the International Association of Violin Makers, was charged with fraudulent appraisal or forging the labels in the sale of nineteen violins, three bows, and one cello. The most spectacular item in the bill of indictment involved the sale—or sales —of the cello. Werro had sold this instrument as an original J. F. Pressenda (the outstanding Italian master of the nineteenth century) for \$4,000. The purchaser, despite Werro's certificate of authenticity, began to doubt that it was genuine, and appealed to the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Zurich, which had established a special Committee of Experts for the Examination of Stringed Instruments. It was the opinion of this body that the cello, while certainly a fine instrument, was worth hardly more than \$1,250.

Under threat of denunciation, Werro, in an "act of good faith," repurchased the instrument for \$3,250. Police investigation subsequently revealed that Werro had previously sold the instrument as a Pacharel for \$750 to a professor in Basel. He later bought it from another owner for \$1,250, apparently having decided that it was a better instrument than he had originally thought it to be. He denied any frand, insisting that he had unwittingly shortchanged himself on the first sale.

Another item, important because it became a point of issue between the great expert Albert Phillipps Hill, of London, and the court's own committee of experts, involved the fate of a violin purchased in Zurich by a Bernese violinist for \$1,500. The purchaser was dissatisfied with the instrument and took it to Werro, who identified it as a Cappa and accepted it in even exchange for a Balestrieri. This in itself was strange, for Werro had said that nothing could be done with the Cappa, that it was only good enough to be displayed in a show window. Subsequently, however, he convinced himself that it was not a Cappa at all, but was, in fact, a genuine Andreas Guarnerius. He removed the label "Ifredus Cappa Fecit Salutia Anno 1694," replaced it with a facsimile of the Guarnerius label, and sold the violin for \$5,500.

Complaints arising from these and other deals had been referred in 1954 to the Scientific Service of the Zurich City Police, headed by Dr. Frei-Sulzer. It was this that gave to the trial of Henry Werro implications far more ponderable than the mere question of his guilt or innocence, for Dr. Frei-Sulzer and his staff applied to their investigation the most modern scientific procedures. Instead of accepting the verdict of experts, based on comparisons of instruments, they exposed the instruments to chemical, microscopic, and infrared analysis.

The trial got off to a bad start, in February of 1958, when the defense challenged the qualifications and objectivity of Dr. Frei-Sulzer. Thereupon, the court recessed and appointed a five-member committee of experts, which included Dr. Frei-Sulzer. During the five-month interval preceding the re-opening of the trial, Mr. Werro's attorneys, through a "third party," presented to the committee an unidentified violin for identification and appraisal. The committee judged the instrument to be a Gagliano, dating from about 1800. However, the committee declined to submit a formal affidavit unless the "third party" would state that he was not acting for Werro. This assurance the "third party" declined to give —understandably, as it turned out, for the defense identified the instrument as being one made in Markneukirchen in Saxony in 1927 by a "violin maker still living." This point of origin was significant. Henry Werro, a Swiss, had learned his trade in Markneukirchen, which after Mittenwald was the most celebrated center of German violin making.

Nor had Werro entirely severed relations with Markneukirchen after settling in Bern. When the court got around to discussing the mysteries of labels and their value in contributing to the identification of an instrument, it was brought out that Werro had, until recently, looked to Markneukirchen for a continuing supply of "authentic" facsimiles. These were needed from time to time, he had explained to his suppliers, to correct errors, and to rectify situations wherein unscrupulous dealers had replaced original labels with more prestigious ones. In such cases, according to Werro, it was the duty of a conscientious dealer to replace the fraudulent label with a replica of the original.

A former employee offered two examples of Werro's way with labels. He had, it was testified, sold for \$18,750 a Stradivarius along with a certificate identifying it as an original from the year 1703, complete with original label. Subsequent investigation disclosed that beneath the proud pronouncement "Antonius Stradivarius Cremonensis Faciebat Anno 1703" there was another label of another maker. Chemical analysis showed both labels to be of far less ancient origin and to have been chemically treated to give the appearance of age. The label of another violin, a Ruggieri dating from 1697, was found to be made of a type of paper not produced before the nine-teenth century.

It should be noted here that labels carried little weight with the court. Labels have been risky authenticators ever since Stradivarius died in 1737 and his sons stuck Stradivarius labels on all of the ninety-odd instruments lying around the shop. The court tended to the view that anyone who was ignorant enough to be influenced by a label had no business buying an expensive fiddle. It developed in the course of the trial, however, that even the experts do not discount the label as at least one possible element in identification—although it is apparently not considered necessary to call attention to a known false label when authenticating an instrument.

But more disconcerting for the sophisticated buyer and for the defense—than the labels were certain examples of uncritical cooperation among the violin dealers. The investigators concerned themselves at some length



with a J. B. Guadagnini sold by Werro for \$4,250. The new owner's misgivings about its authenticity were supported by the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Zurich and by a Zurich violin maker. Werro bought the instrument back, but complained of his Zurich colleague's disloyal behavior. Then, in an effort to rehabilitate both himself and the fiddle, he appealed to a violin dealer named Hamma in Zurich, from whom he had purchased the instrument before the war. He asked Hamma for a new affidavit to replace the original, which allegedly had been lost. He supplied Hamma with photos, measurements, and descriptions. Hamma promptly obliged with

a certification that repeated the details supplied by Werro. When Hamma testified during the investigation, he insisted that he had inspected the violin five weeks before receiving Werro's photos. Examination of his passport, however, made this appear to be improbable, because at the times when, according to his passport, he had been in Switzerland, the violin had been in hock with the Bern Savings and Loan Association.

A Werro affidavit for a Stradivarius that he had sold for \$25,000 contained such exuberances as "splendid example," "noble type," and "the most beautiful imaginable." Other judgments were less lyrical. These noted that the back was in poor condition, with at least twenty patched-up cracks. According to witnesses, these blemishes had not escaped Werro's attention, either, when the violin had first been offered to him from London. He had described it then as "a ruin," but he bought it when the price was right. Later, according to another witness, he said that he was almost ashamed of the profit he had made on it. Hill, the London "violin pope," had testified in his own affidavit that the instrument's back was "seriously broken," which was "truly unfortunate."

Hill, from whom Werro had bought the violin in 1942 for about \$4,500, had another look at the instrument when he appeared as the defense's star witness on the third day of the trial. He described it as "a very beautiful specimen" dating from 1708, as stated on the label, but with damage to the back. He thought it worth a good deal more than he had gotten for it, largely owing to Werro's job of restoration, and estimated that about \$23,000 would be a reasonable price on the British market. The court's committee of experts, not questioning the attribution but noting other defects, thought \$18,000 to \$19,000 a more realistic estimate. This instrument was of no further interest to the court, and was not especially embarrassing to the defense, aside from the difference of opinion about the price, and a remark by Hill to the effect that it was considered, in the trade, neither necessary nor customary to call a buyer's attention to an instrument's defects.

More pertinent to the prosecution was Hill's attitude toward the Cappa that Werro had promoted to a Guarnerius and sold as such with an affidavit from Hill. Under oath Hill said he could not remember ever having seen the instrument, but that at first glance he would expect to find a Guarnerius label on it. He would require more time, he said, to make a serious appraisal. The next day, to the defense's horror, he stated that it was beyond doubt a Cappa, with the distinguishing characteristics of this maker. Cappa and Guarnerius, he added, were contemporaries from the school of Amati, and their instrument, however, was a Cappa. It played no further role in the trial, as the court's committee of experts was of the same opinion.

There was no similar unanimity about a violin sold by



Werro as a Carlo Bergonzi for \$20,000, also with an affidavit by Hill. The court's committee of experts held this instrument to be a forgery, contending that the lacquer had been aged by chemical means, that the arching and the treatment of the rims gave no evidence of Bergonzi's mastery, that the *f*-holes had been corrected with putty, and that the back was but superficially finished. The violin was, in the committee's opinion, worth no more than \$1,000. Hill dismissed this as ''ludicrous,'' and insisted that he would be happy to give \$11,000 for it at any time.

Concerning a violin sold by Werro as "from the school



of Grancino," Hill and the committee could agree only that it was no such thing. Hill thought it a Calcanius, while to the committee it appeared to be the product of a German workshop and worth no more than \$250. Werro had sold it for \$875.

The court heard, in the course of the trial, a good deal of solemn discourse about the comparative and scientific methods of appraisal, and could only conclude that one was unreliable and the other insufficient, or at least capable of producing little but negative evidence. Comparative criteria were used exclusively by the defense, while the court's committee of experts, which included three comparative critics, drew also upon the findings of Dr. Frei-Sulzer and the staff of the Scientific Service of the Zurich Police.

Some idea of what the court was up against in determining Henry Werro's guilt or innocence can be appreciated by the example of the Pacharel cello that was represented by Werro to be a Pressenda. The committee of experts was of the unanimous opinion that the attribution was false. Its written report contained precise comparisons of the characteristics of Pressenda and Pacharel instruments, and estimated the value of the cello sold by Werro for \$4,000 at no more than \$1,000. But when Werro was permitted to introduce an allegedly genuine Pacharel as evidence to contradict the committee's findings, all five experts had to admit that they had never before seen a Pacharel cello, and had based their judgments on his violins and violas.

The climax came, however, when the committee's three comparative critics were questioned about the bases of their comparative judgments. Two of them based their affirmative verdicts on the authenticity of certain instruments on affidavits provided by Hill, and one even admitted that he had been guided by an instrument he had seen in-of all places-the workshop of Henry Werro. As a reporter covering the trial put it, "for the accused and the defense lawyers these were lovelier sounds than ever emerged from a Stradivarius," for the same experts had repeatedly challenged Hill's affidavits, and Henry Werro was the defendant. Yet the experts were now attesting to the authenticity of instruments on the basis of judgments by Hill and Werro. To whom could the judge and jury look for proof if its own experts depended upon the judgment of those whose judgment and integrity they were questioning?

Under these circumstances it was not surprising that Werro was acquitted on twenty of the twenty-three charges of fraud. Only in the case of the Cappa violin, which Werro had sold as a Guarnerius, and the Pacharel cello, elevated by Werro to a Pressenda, did the court feel that the evidence was sufficiently conclusive to warrant a verdict of guilty.

But it was, on the whole, an inconclusive trial, and can have offered little comfort to those who like to believe that expensive violins can be identified beyond any doubt. That dealers should function as judge, jurors, and attorney for the defense is obviously not an ideal situation, but throughout the history of stringed instruments they have known more about them than anybody else. And they still do.

Henry Pleasants will probably be remembered by most readers as the author of the controversial The Agony of Modern Music, Mr. Pleasants has recently retired from the Foreign Service, and plans to devote his full energies to writing about music.

# ROSENTHAL

"LAST OF THE PIANISTIC TITANS"

Almost incredibly, the great Moriz Rosenthal, who was still giving concerts in the 1940's, studied with Franz Liszt in the 1880's. Here, in a previously unpublished interview, Rosenthal talks about his days with Liszt and about his views on music.

#### By LOUIS BIANCOLLI

WHEN Moriz Rosenthal died in September of 1946, a tradition of heroic playing and heroic living died with him. This powerful little man with abnormally long arms and the muscles of a wrestler could swim the Hellespont one day and hold an audience spellbound with his playing the next.

Most of my generation heard him only in the last phase of his career. I heard my own first Rosenthal recital when the pianist was already seventy-nine years old. Those who had known him earlier had memories of inspiring performances and no less inspiring talk. Few men are destined to epitomize an art, a style, a way of living. Rosenthal was one of those few. In his prime he may have had one or two peers as a pianist and musical intellect, but no superiors.

The grand style was the keynote of his whole career. In technique he had reached a point where there were no more worlds to conquer. He possessed an incredibly retentive memory, whether of music, literature, or of life, and it was said that if Moriz Rosenthal forgot anything, he had not known it in the first place.

When I last heard Rosenthal play in Town Hall in 1941, a forgotten era seemed to materialize from the mists of time. Sometimes I wondered if his fingers were touching the keys at all. It was like music heard from inside oneself. As Rosenthal's fingers slipped softly through Chopin's harmonies, a veiled mood settled over the audience. To older listeners he was an old friend, almost the sole survivor of a glorious epoch in music. To younger listeners he was a legend, a myth magically brought to momentary actuality. For all he evoked an atmosphere of greatness in a vanished realm of art. The power and the brilliance were now put away, and the titan who had once whipped up bravura cyclones settled down to weaving intimate reveries. His heart and mind were in a buried long-ago, and the audience glimpsed past glory as in a crystal. At times, the music sounded like a far-off incantation, in murmurs and whispers, as if the pianist were pausing, in a twilight hush, over the memories that haunted every phrase.

Before I went to meet Rosenthal in 1936, I looked up his old reviews. I was particularly interested in the critical reaction to his American debut in old Steinway Hall late in 1888. The New York critics, I found, had been duly impressed. One of them called him "a giant of ability." Others referred to him as "a hero" and "the perfect pianist." After these, I wasn't surprised to find one other critic stating that in appraising the twenty-six-year-old "demi-god" it was best to abandon "measured language."

Superlatives pursued Rosenthal throughout his life. One phrase that clung to him for years was "the little giant of the keyboard." Johann Strauss once called him "the greatest of pianistic geniuses." Anton Rubinstein once remarked to Josef Hofmann after a Rosenthal recital, "I never imagined before what ten fingers could do." The Spanish composer Albeñiz, who inscribed his "Alhambra" Piano Suite to Rosenthal, spoke of him as "the greatest of all great pianists." Karl Goldmark added that he "had no equal and no superior among pianists dead or alive." Said Hans von Bülow: "Moriz Rosenthal is the Jupiter of Octaves, the Pope of Scales, and the President of Staccato and Legato!"

With such testimonials already on record, it was only fitting that when Moriz Rosenthal was presented with a gold plaque at a memorial tea in 1938, the inscription should read: "To the Greatest of the Lisztians and the Last of the Pianistic Titans."

Rosenthal's first piano teacher had been Karl Mikuli, a celebrated pupil of Chopin. His last "instructor" was Franz Liszt. Thus he carried on two of the noblest lineages in keyboard technique. Between them he had studied with Rafael Joseffy. At one time or another in his long life, Rosenthal was the friend of Johann Strauss, Brahms, Saint-Saëns, Massenet, Albeñiz, Busoni, and von Bülow. He drew plaudits from such royal personages as Queen Elizabeth of Rumania, Emperor Franz Josef, who made him court pianist in 1912, and Czar Alexander II. As a Pole, he insisted on and was permitted the rare prerogative of addressing the czar only as "Herr."

By 1938, when he celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his American debut, Rosenthal had given 3,500 concerts and recitals. In his repertoire were something like 600 separate pieces, yet because of his phenomenal memory, he never traveled with scores. Even at the end, his physical vitality and strength were prodigious. For years he used to challenge all comers to jiu-jitsu tussles, and he once took lessons in boxing from the British champion Ned Donnelly. Once he swam Lake Como to pay a surprise visit to Anton Rubinstein, who thereafter called him "the second Leander."

Rosenthal is credited with more musical witticisms than any other musician in history. After one pianist's rendering of Chopin's "Minute" Waltz, he remarked: "It was the most enjoyable fifteen minutes I have ever spent." When Artur Schnabel described a colleague as "dumb but noble," Rosenthal whispered into a neighbor's ear, "You must believe only half of what Schnabel says." An eminent musician's request for a line to inscribe on an admirer's fan drew the prompt suggestion, "Oh, just put down your repertoire."

#### T

L HEN there is the story of Rosenthal's first Paderewski recital. His only comment was, "Fine, fine, but he's no Paderewski!" He used to chide a colleague about the tempos he used in Liszt's Sixth Hungarian Rhapsody. One day when the pianist in question explained that he had been too busy to visit Rosenthal, the retort was: "Nonsense, anyone who plays the Liszt Rhapsody the way you do must have plenty of time to spare!" Once he described the memoirs of a noted pianist who told at great length of the injuries to his fingers as "The Biography of My Fourth Finger."

I have heard several versions of Karl Goldmark's famous story, which runs something like this: Rosenthal and the Austrian composer were walking along the street in Vienna one day. Goldmark directed the walk toward a particular district, then toward a particular street, and finally toward a particular house. Finally Goldmark stopped and pointed to the house. "That's where I was born, Moriz. Some day in the distant future there will be a plaque over the entrance. I wonder what it will say?" Rosenthal reflected a moment and said, "House for rent."

Shortly before his seventy-sixth birthday, Rosenthal said that his ideals in art were "spontaneity" and the ability "to feel music." When he was asked to enlarge on this, he said, "If you have to seek and think out the composer's meaning, it is a sign that you lack wings and need crutches." Admittedly the passage of a half century since his debut at Steinway Hall had affected his style of playing. "Fifty years ago," he observed, "I was very much on the heroic side—climax and fantasy. Today I feel the lyrical episodes quite as strongly as the heroic ones. This is the progress I have made in my own way. I believe I now come closer to the idea of the composer, not so much through toil as through spiritual and intellectual development."

At seventy-six he stoutly denied the rumor that he planned to retire and become a philosopher. "It requires a lifetime of study to become a philosopher," he said. "Moses was past eighty before he made his debut as a philosopher. I intend to go right on with my recitals so long as there are audiences to turn out and listen to me. . . . I am far from being an old man."

When I first met Rosenthal I made a very careful record of every word he said, taking it all down in shorthand, all except those things he asked me never to print. His first words to me were: "Suppose we divide what we have to say into two parts—those things which you may use as you wish and those things which we shall keep to ourselves."

He then sank back in his chair and was ready to talk. He was a short, heavy-set man, with brown-gray hair, a large head suck deep in his rounded shoulders, and small, deep-set eyes.

"I understand it is just sixty years since you became a pupil of Franz Liszt?" I began.

"I would like to clear up a little thing," he replied. "People ask me who my teachers were. I tell them Mikuli, Joseffy, and Liszt. That is all very true."

He lifted himself a little from the depths of his chair and leaned forward. He was slow and emphatic in what he said next: "But please note this. I have learned all that I know about piano playing from the music of Frederic Chopin."

"Do you mind explaining?" I asked.

"When you have the right enthusiasm for a piece of music by Chopin," he said, "and you get it into your fingers and into your heart and nail it down firmly in your mind, then you have learned more than any teacher can impart to you."

Moriz Rosenthal in the 1890's, soon after his American debut.



"I hope you don't mind my harping on Liszt," I said. "No one ever talks or writes about you without mentioning his name. He must have played some part in your early development."

"Liszt was great," he answered. "There is no question about that. He could stir you up—in German we say *auregen*. Besides, he would interrupt you at any moment with a remark like this: 'Now look at this kind of bass, it is the first time that Chopin uses it.'

"Liszt would explain it all on an historical basis. He always showed what was going on in the music. His judgments about people were radically different from those commonly held."

"Can you be specific?"

"For example, he did not place certain composers as high as others did. He was not at all excited about Brahms' music. Neither was he about Rubinstein's. He cared very little for Mendelssohn. But he tried to mete out justice, and was always fair and dignified in his judgments."

"What was his objection to Brahms?"

"He did not think that Brahms had much freshness of invention."

"Did that apply to Brahms' piano music too?"

"Yes. He thought it was elaborate and artificial. He told me once he missed a certain excitement in the music of Brahms. He used the Latin word *saluber*—healthy, *gesund*—to describe it."

"Do you remember exactly how he put it?"

In later years. Rosenthal substituted lyricism for brilliance.

"He said, 'It does not make you ill, it does not make you excited, it does not give you a fever.' To Liszt it was music of bourgeois contentment."

"Do you feel the same way about Brahms?" I asked.

"Let me answer you this way: As a whole, I believe Brahms was not creative for piano technic. Take Chopin by comparison. His style is much more modern than Brahms', and it goes so far that at many concerts you find Brahms first on the program and then Chopin.

"Brahms does not work anymore. For the piano, it is an anticlimax, Brahms after Chopin. His symphonies are interesting—melodically and harmonically—but not regarding instrumentation. He does not compare with Wagner, Berlioz, or Liszt."

"What did Liszt say to you about the piano music of Robert Schumann, let us say, as compared to that of Chopin?"

"I asked him one day if Schumann made the same impression on him that Chopin did. Do you know what his reply was? 'Schumann has broader shoulders, but Chopin is taller.' One day he described the music of Schumann as *Leipzigische.*"

"I'm afraid that doesn't say very much to me," I confessed. "Just what did Liszt mean?"

"He meant it was music worthy of the city of Leipzig. I remember Liszt saying on another occasion that Schumann began as a genius of the first rank and ended as a talent." (Continued overleaf)

Atlantic crossings were frequent for concertizer Rosenthal.





"Did Liszt make a practice of speaking in epigrams?"

"Actually he did not, but I must plead guilty to having expressed myself in that fashion once to Liszt. We were discussing the 'aristocratic art' of Chopin. Let me put what I said in German:

"'Im Reiche der Kunst und der Ideen ist derjenigen der grösste Aristokrat der gar keine Ahnen hat.'—'In the realm of art and ideas he is the greatest artistocrat who has no ancestors.' "

"Did Liszt make any comment?"

"Just one word: 'Bravissimo!' "

"Do you happen to know whether Liszt put Chopin above Beethoven as a composer for piano?" I asked.

"In his heart he did," Rosenthal answered. "But he never admitted it. You know, there is a secret history of Liszt which only I know. It has partly to do with Chopin, and this much I will tell you—you see, there were two Liszts, the Liszt who as a young man had conquered the whole world and was at the height of his fame, and the other Liszt, the one fighting desperately for his existence. That surprises you, eh?"

"I had always assumed Liszt was a supreme egotist who never had any doubt about his being a genius, not even as a young man," I said.

"That is a very serious mistake. If you recall, Liszt himself tells how he heard Paganini and determined to rise to the same level of virtuosity."

"That, I believe, is the accepted story."

"Well, that was not quite true," Rosenthal went on. "What really happened was that Liszt had heard Chopin play. The effect was almost tragic. He was crushed by the overwhelming grandeur of the man. What do you think he did? He retired to study six hours a day for four years."

"You mean to study the piano?"

"Not so much the piano. During those years Liszt read Homer, Dante, Shakespeare, and the Bible over and over again. Mind you, he did not do all this to reach Paganini. He was trying to develop his individuality so he could reach Chopin."

"But why did he have to make up that story about rising to the level of Paganini?"

"Because Liszt hated to admit that this incitement came from a pianist. It was more practical to give Paganini the credit for the revolution."

"Was it really such a revolution?"

"Before he knew Chopin, Liszt was far from great. Chopin himself spoke of both Liszt and Thalberg as 'zeros' compared with Kalkbrenner. After those four years of study even Chopin recognized Liszt as a genius."

"I never would have suspected that a Franz Liszt could be affected to that extent by a Frederic Chopin."

"Would it surprise you to learn that Chopin also exerted a revolutionary influence on Richard Wagner?"

"I know that Liszt influenced Wagner, but just how did Chopin?"

"Wagner once confessed. 'I am a much greater musician since I know Liszt and since he plays for me."

"That seems to bear me out."

"Just a moment. What do you suppose Wagner meant by that statement? Now, there is a prelude of Chopin's in C-sharp Minor—not one of the twenty-four. This prelude is full of new harmonic devices and modulations. These same harmonic devices and modulations were later used by Wagner extensively. Well, Liszt played this prelude to Wagner over and over again, and thus put Wagner still more in his debt."

"Do you mind my asking you if deep down in your own heart you place Chopin above Beethoven as a composer for the piano?"

"I shall answer that with an evasion. Together, Chopin and Beethoven are the highest summits in piano music. To me the difference is this—Chopin died at thirty-nine and Beethoven at fifty-seven. Chopin never knew how great he really was, and he had by no means said all he had to say."

I asked Rosenthal if he had ever performed any stunts on the piano in the presence of Liszt.

"Once," he answered. "I played my own original arrangement of Chopin's Waltz in D-flat, with the two themes running together."

"What was Liszt's comment?"

"'Voilà Chopin avec sauce piquante à la Rosenthal.'"

Someone had told me that Moriz Rosenthal had very little patience with modern music, so I had, up to this point, purposely confined my questions to the nineteenth century. But, with some trepidation, I nevertheless brought up the subject toward the end of our talk.

"I once watched two chess players," Rosenthal said, quite amiably. "They played in a very funny way. The kings, queens, bishops, knights, and towers all did what they weren't supposed to do. They did succeed, however, in mystifying the audience. I told them it was all very interesting, but I didn't think it was chess-playing. I have the same feeling when I hear new music."

When Rosenthal died, I wrote that the last, lingering glow of the Liszt school had long been dimming, and now the horizon had closed over a great sunset. I was not quite right, for it is wiser to think of Rosenthal as his own school. Rosenthal had a great deal before he went to Liszt, and he added incalculably to it after he left Liszt, but he was the kind of artist who could grow only from within himself.

Louis Biancolli has been writing about music and musicians for almost forty years. Among the best-known of his many books are The Mozart Handbook. The Opera Reader, Great Conversations, and The Concert Companion. The present article is adapted from a book in progress, titled The Anvil Chorus.



#### INSTALLATION OF THE MONTH

# A TAILOR-MADE HI-FI SYSTEM

H<sup>I-FI FAN</sup> Charles G. Jacoby runs a men's clothing store in Helena, Montana, and, along with sartorial suggestions, he also dispenses audio advice. His customers are often his friends, and they enjoy chatting about the latest in hi-fi. In the construction of his own compact installation (shown above) Mr. Jacoby combined his dual hobbies of hi-fi and wood-working.

From top to bottom, Mr. Jacoby's equipment consists of a pair of McIntosh MC30 power amplifiers (one from a previous monophonic system, the second purchased when he converted to stereo) semi-hidden—and wellventilated—behind an open grille. Below the power amplifiers are a Marantz Model 7 stereo preamplifier and a Fisher Series 80 AM tuner (the Helena area has no FM stations, so Mr. Jacoby needs no FM tuner). The records and tapes that are the sources of Mr. Jacoby's good-music fare are played on a Weathers K-834 record player and an Ampex Model 936 tape recorder.

A pair of KLH Seven speaker systems (one of which is seen above) round out the system. Not visible are a Fisher 30-watt mono amplifier, which is used to drive a number of extension speakers in other rooms, and a Rotron Whisper Fan installed behind the upper grille, and mounted so there is a constant flow of cooling air past all the components.

Aside from three rooms that have speakers permanently installed, several others are also wired with jacks so that extension speakers can be plugged in at any time. For Mr. and Mrs. Jacoby and their three children, music is a family affair.

# STRAVINSKY reviews THREE RITES OF SPRING

		Berlin Philharmoniker Conductor: H. von Karajan Deutsche Grammophon Gesellschaft
The second secon	Introduction	A ritardando replaces my accelerando in measures five and six and there is almost no difference between the <i>tempo primo</i> and the <i>tempo</i> secondo. The clarinet triplet, five before 13, is too slow. As a whole, the performance is too smooth and too well blended; phrases overlap when they should contrast, and the music is too sustained.
	Dance of the Youths and Maidens	Section 26: the oboes should play <i>statecato</i> . 28-30: this is too smooth. 31: the horn and contra-bassoon should be louder; syncopated notes must he accented, with a slight lift of silence before: this is a general rule in my music. 34: the smooth articulation makes this very heavy plodding.
S-S-	Dance of Abduction	1 wonder if some sections were rebarred to facilitate the very fast tempo—a good tempo, 1 would add, except, of course, when it sounds rushed. Toward the end, the ¾ and % measures are equalized —wrongly. The eighth notes should be constant.
	Spring Rounds	The bass clarinets and their string doublings are too weak at the beginning. Before 54 the trumpets are too strong and badly out of balance. The tempo at 54, a metronomic 160, is slower in this performance than the metronomic 132 for the Dance of Abduction.
	Games of the Rival Towns	The tempo falters in the first few measures, but the lack of <i>staccato</i> articulation is almost as disturbing. Thereafter the eighth-notes are properly crisp. The horns are overbalanced at 66 and <i>passim</i> .

In the following pages, HIFI/STEREO REVIEW is privileged to publish a unique critical document that promises to be of historic importance. In a pithy, measureby-measure discussion of three recent recordings of his most celebrated work, Igor Stravinsky compares the performances of Herbert von Karajan conducting the Berlin Philharmonic, Pierre Boulez conducting the National Orchestra of the French Radio, and Robert Craft conducting the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra.

In the above drawing, the late Jean Cocteau records his impression of his friend Stravinsky rehearsing The Rite of Spring for its Parisian world premiere, a "riotous" occasion that took place on the evening of May 29, 1913.

Orchestre National de la R.T.F. Conductor : P. Boulez Internationale Guilde du Disque	Moscow State Symphony Orchestra Conductor: P. Kpaфt Amalgamated Unions Gramophone Studio
The bassoon sound is "beautiful" but a little too saxophone-like and vibrato-shiny; this once difficult solo has evidently become a "duck's back." The <i>diminuendo</i> two before 8 is ably done, but 1 would prefer a more <i>staccato</i> oboc at 9, and a <i>ditto</i> trumpet one measure before 11. The tempo at the return of the bassoon solo is too fast.	An unpropitious beginning, with desultory clarinet entrances and a lethargic <i>tempo primo</i> . The " <i>piu mosso</i> " tempo is good, however; the violin trill before 7 is clearer than in the other recordings, and so are the clarinet triplet before 13 and the oboe articulation at 9. The orchestral balance of this recorded concert is no match for the others, but this is somewhat offset by the excitement of a live, un- edited performance.
And this is much too fast; and surprisingly ragged, also, at 15, at two before 20, and again at two before 21 where the strings appear to be in some doubt about the accent. The pitch of the tubas before 22 is unclear, and the tempo from 23 to 28 is unsteady. The <i>cre-</i> <i>scendo</i> in the trumpet melody before 29 is unnecessary and un- enhancing. More accentuation and more presence from the horn and contrabassoon at 31 would be desirable, however, and the same can be said for the German recording. The tempo runs away from itself at 33.	This is the best tempo of the three performances, and by far the steadiest from 31 to 37. The tuba octave before 22 is the best of the three, too, and so is the horn solo at 25.
This is slower than the German recording, and it even loses speed before 44. The $\frac{24}{4}$ measure 9 before 48 is slightly too long, but the quarter-notes in all of the $\frac{24}{4}$ measures here should be played as eighths.	This is generally clearer than the others, but the horn is too remote at 44.
The <i>ritardando</i> before 49 is a mistake—or misunderstanding. I would prefer more space between the quarter-notes of the violas three after 50 but, in any case, the muddy <i>sostenuto</i> is definitely wrong at 53. The downbeat at 55 is not cleanly together, and the <i>ritardando</i> before 57 is another solecism.	This is wrong in the other way—too <i>much</i> separation in the violas. At 53, the quarter-notes are exactly as they should be.
The 3½ measures are not sustained long enough, and at 61 the orchestra is ragged. At 65 and <i>passim</i> the horns are too weak, the bass-drum and tubas too strong.	At 57 the first tuba drags, and at two before 59 the dynamics are uncertain. The section from 61 to 62 is too "lyrical," oddly enough, but I have never heard the trombone trills (before 64) as clearly. The tubas are soggy at 66, but their sound is good.

(Continued overleaf)



Orchestre National de la R.T.F. Conductor : P. Boulez Internationale Guilde du Disque	Moscow State Symphony Orchestra Conductor: Ρ. Κραφτ Amalgamated Unions Gramophone Studio
The oboes are too close to the microphone at 68, but the rhythmic polyphony and the orchestral balances are admirably clear at 70-71.	The polyphony at 70 is very clear.
This is too fast. If there were an Olympic Games for racing con- ductors,	The tempo is correct but the string chord does not balance; I would write it differently now, with <i>szforzandi</i> ,
The bass clarinet is too much "on mike" at 75, while the basses and tubas at 78 are too weak. A slightly faster tempo than the 168 I specify would not be amiss for this dance.	This is the best tempo of the three recordings, and the <i>Hauptstimme</i> at 75 is where it should be, which is in the violas. The string parts are clearer than in the other two performances because they are better articulated.
This is fast. The second trumpet, four measures after 84, is really too discreet. The first cellist swoops before 91 as though he were in sympathy with Saint-Saëns.	This is the best string balance in the section beginning at 84, and the best balance between the two trumpets, but at 85 the cellos make a very tatterdemalion entrance.
The <i>ritardandu</i> at the end of section 96 contradicts the strong pulsa- tion of the quarter-rest with which section 97 begins. At 99 the horn balance is poor. The <i>fermata</i> just before 101 is not well measured and—this is important—the <i>accelerandu</i> at 102 must lead into the second measure of 103, not overshoot it and be forced to slow down there!	The tempo at 97 is slightly hurried. At 100, a premature sally by the first cello only proves how unknown this music still is in Moscow where, in fact, this recording preserves the second performance in fifty years. The <i>accelerando</i> , 102-104, is correct and should become a model.
The German performance is steadier, and there is a disaster here one measure before 118, when the offbeats become onbeats.	The tempo is good.
The tempo is very good and so is the articulation	Because the E in the basses is never distinct. I amended the part for this recording, making a triplet of the three bass notes, F-sharp, E, D-sharp. There is an unwarranted loss of speed here, however, that I do not like.
but <i>this</i> is too fast, and the on-beat half of the <i>ostinato</i> is too loud, especially the first horn and first violins. At 132 the trumpets start vaguely, and they are slow to screw up confidence—were they not certain of being in the right place?—but I do like this passage played <i>legato</i> , even though it is marked with slurs.	The tempo is good for the beginning but too fast and therefore too <i>light</i> at 157 and 159 where it dissipates the tension just as much as the German <i>beariness</i> . The <i>accelerando</i> gets underway too soon at 165, incidentally. The tempo drags again three before 190, and the orchestra is not always immaculately together (at two before 154, for instance).
I seem to hear gratuitous percussion noises at 131. At 132, the trumpet articulation is good, though later, at 134, the trumpets and trombones are too loud for the horns. At the end of the dance the balance between the bass trumpet and the flute in G is the best I have ever heard.	The tympanist miscounts $ca$ , 148 and finishes this section ahead, but a mistake of this sort is only another indication of how unfamiliar and difficult the music still is to a Soviet orchestra. The tempo is good and the music has more adrenal excitement than in the other recordings.
First, the recording. The <i>Rite</i> with its very wide dynamic range suffers from <i>mezza-forte</i> emasculation, which is why a live perform- ance is a revelation to anyone who has known the work only from recordings. Second, the performance. It is excellent but not quite as good as I had hoped. My standards are high this time, of course, for one would suppose this music to be Monsieur Boulez's <i>entrée</i> . Apart from small sloppinesses—surprising but of no importance— there are some bad <i>tempi</i> and some unnecessary and inappropriate alterations, such as the above-cited <i>ritardandos</i> . The articulation is good, and a good antidote to the German performance.	As the record of a concert (including applause and one or two nasal and pharyngeal expurgations) it can hardly stand comparison to the other two recordings, but whereas the French orchestra turns Le Sacre into a French piece, and the German orchestra into a German piece, the Russians make it sound Russian, which is just right (1 have no space to explain what 1 understand by each of the three nationalizations). And if it is still difficult music for the Russian or- chestra, it must have sounded like the battle cry of the sans-culottes to the very conservative Russian audience—compare this to America, where it has become a conductor's showpiece for one-rehearsal con- certs in Hollywood Bowl.

# FOUR CENTURIES OF STRING MUSIC

RECOMMENDED RECORDINGS OF THE FASCINATING VARIETY OF MUSIC WRITTEN FOR STRINGS OVER THE PAST FOUR HUNDRED YEARS

#### By JAMES GOODFRIEND

MORE great music has been written for strings than for any other group of instruments, and one could quickly come up with a list of a dozen superb new stereophonic recordings of string music. But such a selection would be overbalanced in favor of certain kinds of works—the Romantic concertos, the works of Bach, the sonatas of Beethoven, and a glut of the Italian Baroque. A more instructive choice of recorded string music would introduce the reader to the enormous variety

of sounds that have been created by bowed stringed instruments over the past four hundred years. One really shouldn't have to be told to buy the Beethoven and Brahms concertos, and the Bach sonatas. One should have them for reasons apart from the fact that they are string music.

With a few necessary exceptions, the following selection from four centuries of string music concentrates on solo instruments rather than massed strings or string

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chamber groups. Its two primary areas are, naturally, the concerto and the sonata. As far as performing styles are concerned, no attempt has been made to give a balanced view of the enormous variety to be heard in string playing today; the records selected are simply the ones the writer finds most satisfying.

Any good music dictionary will tell you that there are two great families of bowed stringed instruments: the violin family, consisting of the violin itself, the viola, the cello, the double bass, and a few odd members of which more will be said later; and the viol family, consisting of the sopranino, treble, alto, tenor, bass, and double bass viols. The viols are by far the earlier of the two families, and dominated the field until the seventeenth century. They coexisted with the violins for a century or so, and finally disappeared utterly, only to find their way back to light in the current revival of old music. Viols usually have six strings as opposed to the violin's four, and, like the guitar and mandolin, they have frets. The different number of strings doesn't cause an important difference in sound quality between the violin and the viol, but the frets do. They insure that every note produced by a viol has essentially the same tone quality, whether the string is fingered or not. By contrast, tones produced by a violin vary-the sound from an unfingered violin string has a great deal more resonance and power than that from a stopped string. (This often forces violinists to play certain passages in a complicated way to avoid the unintended accent of an open string.) Another result of the viol's frets is that vibrato is all but impossible on the instrument. Viols are held downward (never under the chin), and the bow is held with the palm of the hand facing outward. This has two effects on the sound: sharp attacks are exceptionally difficult, and therefore rarely used, and the volume of sound is severely limited.

The great years of viol music produced not solo pieces nor concerto-like compositions, but ensemble music consort music, as it was then called. A "consort of viols" was made up of three to six viols of different ranges, and the sound of such a consort—clear, silvery, slightly nasal in tone—playing a slow, stately piece is one of the most impressive in music. Such a performance exists on records in Bach Guild's "Instrumental Music of the Year 1600." Not all of the music in this collection is for viols alone; a good deal of it is for what was called a "broken consort," a phrase that indicates that the performing group contains instruments of more than one family. A number of pieces here employ a broken consort of viols and violins, and it is fascinating to hear the slight but distinct differences between the two, much like the differences between the eighteenth-century piano and harpsichord. The differences are slight because the technique of the violin was, at that time, fairly primitive. Essentially, violins played viol music. When the different potentialities of the newer instrument were discovered, the whole direction of string music changed, and the viols fought a losing battle for survival.

BIBER: "Rosary" Sonatas: Nos. 6. 9. and 10. Ulrich Grehling (violin), Johannes Koch (viol da gamba). Rudolf Ewerbart (positive organ), Walter Gerwig (lute). HARMONIA MUNDI HM 25145 \$5.98 (mono only).

In the seventeenth century, the greatest makers of violins were Italians, and the first great school of violin music, both in composition and performance, was Italian. There was, however, a kind of Austrian-German-Bohemian movement--not a school, exactly, but a small group of players and composers with their own ideas about music. There was also a great violin maker in Austria, Jacob Stainer by name. Stainer's violins did not produce the volume of tone typical of the Cremona instruments, but they were still good enough for Veracini, one of the great eighteenth-century virtuosos, to have preferred them to all other violins. Another user of Stainer instruments was the violinist-composer Heinrich Franz Biber, Biber, born and raised in Bohemia and later resident in Salzburg, had the reputation of being the greatest "German" violinist of his time, as well as a much-honored composer. His music was not only very different from the Italian style of his time; it is in many ways different from almost any other music both before and since. He was among the first, and certainly the most ambitious, to employ the technique of scordatura, the tuning of the strings to pitches other than the standard ones. This may sound trivial, but it isn't. By this means, certain combinations of notes, previously impossible, become easily playable. But more important, changing the tension of a string also changes its tonal color, and the violin sonatas of Biber display a rainbow of colors. Biber did not consider the violin to be an instrument restricted to a single melodic line. Contrapuntal ideas abound in his work, foreshadowing and in some respects equalling the violin works of Bach a century later. Add to this assortment of technical devices a brilliant and mystical imagination, and you begin to have some idea of the music.

The best-known works of Biber are the "Rosary" Sonatas, written as a symbolic interpretation of the fifteen Mysteries in the life of the Virgin Mary, and capped with a sixteenth sonata, a passacaglia for solo violin, associated with the Guardian Angel. An entire world is contained in this music. Of the two recordings of the complete set, the Vox (SVBX 552, VBX 52) with violinist Susanne Lautenbacher is the more successful, its

<sup>&</sup>quot;Instrumental Music of the Year 1600." Compositions of Etienne du Tertre, Eustache du Caurroy, Anthony Holborne, Thomas Morley, Thomas Tomkins, John Cooper (Giovanni Coperario), Elway Bevin, Johann Sommer, Isaac Posch, Samuel Scheidt, Giovanni Gabrieli, Gioseffo Guami, and Tiburtio Massaino. Concentus Musicus Ensemble. BACH GUILD BG 626 \$4.98 (mono only).



primary drawback being a certain sameness of dynamics and approach. The best playing of this music currently available, though, is to be found on the 10-inch imported record listed above, which contains three of the sonatas. The single sonata recorded by Bach Guild (BGS 70652, BG 652) is also well performed, and if anyone comes across a copy of the discontinued Concert Hall CHS 1174, I suggest he grab it. Among other treasures, it contains a stunning performance, by Max Rostal, of the unaccompanied passacaglia from the "Rosary" set.

VIVALDI: Concerto for Violoncello, in C Minor, P. 434; Concerto for Two Violins, in A Major, P. 222; Concerto for Viola d'Amore and Lute, in D Minor, P. 266; Concerto for Flautino, in C Major, P. 79. Emil Seiler Chamber Orchestra, Wolfgang Hofmann cond. DEUTSCHE GRAMMOPHON ARCHIVE ARC 73218 \$5.98, ARC 3218 \$5.98.

Although the Italian style of the seventeenth century produced very interesting composers, its culmination in the next century produced some great ones. Vivaldi was, if not the greatest of them, certainly the most versatile, and his concertos contain virtually all the technical and stylistic devices of the period, as well as most of the different instruments. A fairly recent DGG Archive release is particularly valuable, quite aside from its topflight performances and recording, because it selects some of the lesserknown concertos which nicely demonstrate a variety of Baroque devices. The cello concerto is fairly straightforward, but the violin concerto is not. It is a concerto for solo violin (and orchestra) together with another solo violin to be placed some distance away, and to act as a musical echo of the first. This is a typical Baroque device, and it is a very effective and beautiful one.

Something must be said about the viola d'amore, which

is also represented here by a concerto. This lovely and unusual instrument, which apparently came into being around the end of the seventeenth century, has something of both the viol and the violin families about it. It has six or seven bowed strings, but no frets, and is played tucked under the chin in the manner of a viola. It requires a long left arm. It also has a second set of strings which lie close to the belly of the instrument, and which are not bowed but are tuned to vibrate sympathetically with the main strings. Its tone, therefore, has a kind of shimmering aura about it, particularly when it plays harmonics, and it can sound, at times, very harp-like. The few Vivaldi concertos are the staples of its repertoire.

Vivaldi's string writing is quite the other side of the coin from Biber's. It is rarely contrapuntal within a single instrument part, and when it alters tonal colors, it does so on a broader scale, muting an instrument for an entire movement, or changing soloists in midstream. The rhythm is strong and bouncy, the harmony basically simple. Introversion is rare, and mystical ideas almost out of the question, but virtuosity of an extroverted sort is a big factor in the concertos, and Vivaldi delighted in imitations of natural sounds. Though it may seem like heresy to say so (and it is no reflection on the greatness of the music), there is little in the sonatas of Bach that cannot be found in either Biber or Vivaldi. They were the discoverers, he the synthesizer.

#### MOZART: Concertos Nos. 3 and 4 for Violin and Orchestra. Szymon Goldberg (violin); Philharmonia Orchestra, Walter Susskind cond. DECCA DL 9609 \$4.98 (mono only).

Musicians and music historians differentiate the classic period from the Baroque through a multitude of more or less technical devices. But what concerns us here is the most obvious fact of all: the sound of the music is different. It was composed by men who thought very differently about music, and who had very different ends in view. Technical ability is pretty well taken for granted in classic concertos, and control and elegance are probably the key words. No composer could be more elegant than Mozart, and his seven violin concertos, all composed before he was twenty-two, are generally models of elegance. The concertos have been considered fair game for almost every violinist with a big reputation, and while almost all of them sense that the music is not to be played in the same manner as one would play Brahms, Tchaikovsky, or Paganini, it is remarkable how few have managed to master the walking-on-eggs style involved here. One who has is Szymon Goldberg, whose old but still-listed recording of Concertos Nos. 3 and 4 has yet to be matched. The orchestral playing, moreover, is first-rate, and the recording quite listenable. I hesitate to recommend a second choice among the concertos, but a related piece, the Sinfonia Concertante, K. 364, has recently been issued in a stunning interpretation by Rafael Druian, Abraham Skernick, George Szell, and the Cleveland Orchestra.

HAYDN: Trios for Baryton: Nos. 44. in D: 45. in D: 60, in A: 70. in G. Johannes Koch (baryton), Ulrich Koch (viola), Reinhold Buhl (cello). HARMONIA MUNDI 30622 \$6.98.

The classic string repertoire contains one of those little blind alleys that occur frequently in music history and often provide some unexpectedly delightful music (for example, Mozart's pieces for the glass harmonica, or Schubert's sonata for the arpeggione). The blind alley in question here is an instrument called the baryton, a member of the viol group, and rather interestingly known as the only male member of that family. This description results not only from the tone of the baryton, which is richer and coarser than that of most viols, but from the fact that the scroll of the instrument (the end with the tuning pegs) is commonly surmounted by a carved man's head-other viols invariably use a female head. The baryton is roughly of cello size, and like the viola d'amore, it has extra resonating strings. Unlike the viola d'amore, though, the resonating strings are strung for part of the distance along the back of the instrument, and can therefore be plucked by the thumb. Haydn, at the command of his patron Prince Esterhazy, wrote a series of trios for this instrument, the playing of which served the prince as a kind of musical Miltown. These trios make up almost the entire baryton literature. Until recently, these pieces, when heard at all, were usually edited down for cello (Piatigorsky plays a rather scrambled version put together from three different works). Lately, a few recordings have been made with the original instrument, and probably the finest of these features Johannes Koch. One's first impression on hearing the record is that four instruments are playing rather than three, although whether the fourth, which seems to wander in and out, is a harp, a lute, a guitar, or what, seems to be indeterminable. In fact, it is those extra strings of the baryton.

PAGANINI: The 24 Caprices, Opus 1. Ruggiero Ricci (violin). LONDON CS 6163 \$5.98. CM 9244 \$4.98.

When an individual like Paganini comes into the world, the course of music history is changed. Paganini studied the possibilities of the violin as no one before him had studied them, and the sounds he produced from the instrument had never before been heard. It was not merely that he played faster, better, or more accurately than any one else, but that he discovered a whole new way of playing, the foundation of modern technique. Paganini, in fact, was so jealous of his discoveries that he refused to permit the publication of the majority of his compositions while he was alive. He probably needn't have worried. Even knowing the tricks, it is doubtful that any other violinist could have matched him at his own game.

The twenty-four caprices that make up Opus 1 were published by Paganini in 1820, and they still constitute a formidable challenge for any violinist. Ruggiero Ricci undeniably has a magnificent technique, but even he does not get through this music unscathed, though he gives it a terrific try. You will not play this music as often as the Beethoven A Minor Quartet (at least I hope not), but for those moments when you want to be astonished, the record is there.

TCHAIKOVSKY: Variations on a Rococo Theme for Cello and Orchestra, Opus 33. SCHUMANN: Concerto for Cello and Orchestra, in A Minor, Opus 129. Pierre Fournier (cello), Philharmonia Orchestra, Sir Malcolm Sargent cond. ANGEL S 35397 \$5.98, 35397 \$4.98.

When Felix Mendelssohn coined the title "Songs without Words," he was expressing one of the dominant conceits of the Romantic era: instruments should sing. It was not really a new idea—it had been said of Tartini in the eighteenth century that he sang on his violin rather than played on it—but the notion had never before





The illustrations on these pages are from Filippo Bonanni's 1723 "Gabinetto Armonico" —"The Showcase of Musical Instruments" and were engraved by Arnold van Westerhout. The complete set of 152 plates from "The Showcase of Musical Instruments" is now available in a Dover paperback book. reached such dominance. The ability to write a melody had long been considered secondary to what a composer was able to do with one when he had it. Now, however, it became a primary consideration.

Tchaikovsky's Rococo Variations for Cello and Orchestra are a mistake, and perhaps one of the most fortunate mistakes in music. Like Dvořák, who thought he was writing an American symphony when he was really writing a Bohemian one, Tchaikovsky believed he was composing a set of classic variations in the manner of his beloved and totally misunderstood Mozart. What came out, of course, was just what Tchaikovsky was best at: a flood of Romantic melody, and one unencumbered, moreover, by the bombast and cuteness that invariably accompanied his more intentionally nineteenth-century essays. One of the greatest singing pieces ever written for cello, the Rococo Variations have failed to reach the summit of popularity only because of their name.

Of the performances currently in the catalog, that by Pierre Fournier takes first place, if for no other reason than that it has fewer technical slips than the others. It has positive virtues, too, though—a beautiful sound, well-chosen tempos, fine orchestral support—and it sings.

GRIEG: Sonata No. 3, in C Minor, Opus 45. SCHUBERT: Sonata No. 5, in A. Opus 162 ("Duo"). Fritz Kreisler (violin). Sergei Rachmaninoff (piano). RCA VICTOR LVT 1009 \$4.98 (mono only). Also available in two-disc set LM 6099 \$9.96.

Together with virtuosity and lyricism, the Romantic era ushered in a new way of looking at the soloist. Virtuosos were heroes to their admirers, yes, but they were also heroes in the music, and this viewpoint is the foundation stone of the Romantic concerto. The concept of the soloist as a hero is not to be found in the Mozart concertos, nor in the Beethoven violin concerto, and certainly not in Vivaldi. But whereas the soloist in a Mozart concerto is playing the violin, the soloist in the Bruch concerto is contending with destiny. The instrument becomes a person, and at times he is even given a name—Harold, for instance, or Don Quixote. Furthermore, the viewpoint is not restricted to concertos. Edvard Grieg's Violin and Piano Sonata No. 3 demonstrates it perfectly.

Many violinists play this music well. Fritz Kreisler played it superlatively, and had the assistance of a talented pianist, Rachmaninoff by name, to make sure he got the point across. The record is certainly one of the high points of recorded music, and the Schubert work on the reverse side is no small bonus.

DEBUSSY: Sonata No. 1 for Cello and Piano: Sonata No. 2 for Flute, Viola, and Harp: Sonata No. 3 for Violin and Piano: Syrinx for flute solo. Henri Honegger (cello). Maurice Raskin (violin). Colette Lequien (viola), Noël Lee (piano), Christian Lardé (flute), Marie-Claire Jamet (harp). VALOIS MB 938 \$6.75, MB 438 \$5.95 (available from import record shops).

Claude Debussy never wrote an impressionist work for a string soloist. His three late sonatas, for violin and piano,

cello and piano, and flute, viola, and harp, constitute a complete revaluation on his part of what music was all about. They also explore the problem of what the instruments are all about, not so much in the technical sense, but in their personality characteristics. Although each of the sonatas is circumscribed by a kind of neoclassic austerity, the character of the writing for the violin is remarkably distinct from that for the cello, and each of these from the viola. The latter is particularly interesting because the viola, to a great extent, had been the unwanted child of music—an instrument always present but rarely considered. Debussy originally intended his trio sonata to be for flute, *oboe*, and harp, and it is an indication of the expressive affinity he saw between the two instruments that he chose the viola to take its place.

There have been many fine individual recordings of the sonatas (Rostropovich and Britten gave a particularly great account of the cello sonata), but only rarely have they been grouped together on the same record. The old Westminster recording of the three was first-rate, but it has been outdone in a magnificent new stereo recording from France, on the Valois label.

#### BERG: Concerto for Violin and Orchestra, BARTÓK: Sonata for Solo Violin. André Gertler (violin), Philharmonia Orchestra, Paul Kletzki cond. ANGEL 35091 \$4.98 (mono only).

When André Gertler's recording of the Berg Violin Concerto was first released about ten years ago, one critic was heard to say (he didn't write it): "He plays it as if it were the greatest music ever written." Another nonwriting critic answered: "Maybe it is." For some reason it was a long time before I heard the record myself, but having finally done so, I must agree with both parties. The concerto. although written in the twelve-tone idiom, is hardly a demonstration of strict writing in that technique—it is interesting how few of the really important twelve-tone pieces are. It may well be the greatest concerto of our century, and it is certainly among the greatest elegiac pieces in all music. (It was written in memory of Manon Gropius, the daughter of Alma Mahler by her second marriage, and a friend of the composer.)

While the technique of the violin is basically a diatonic one, twelve-tone technique avoids anything diatonic. The Berg concerto, then, is in many ways music written *against* the violin, and it is for this reason that many bigname violinists do not play the work. Most of the recordings are by violinists with second-rank names (and this does *not* mean second-rank violinists), all of whom give more than capable performances, most particularly Louis Krasner, who commissioned the work. Gertler's performance, though, has something special about it, a kind of halo around the whole thing (I am not referring to the flutter at the start of the record) that lifts it into the rarified area of great interpretation. And Gertler does something similar with the Bartók sonata on the reverse side. A great record!



# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON STEREO FM

AN EXPERT REPLIES TO SOME OF THE MOST COMMON QUERIES CONCERNING BROADCAST STEREO

#### **By HARRY KOLBE**

New technical developments bring new problems, and stereo FM has given rise to more questions than most. Following are some of the frequently asked questions about stereo FM—and the answers.



Q

## Can I use the master TV antenna in my apartment bouse for stereo FM?

Probably not. Most master antenna systems are designed to reject FM frequencies so as to avoid

interference with TV reception. And while some of the newer systems do pass FM signals, the master antennas may not be oriented properly in the direction of the FM transmitters—their locations are not always the same as those of the TV stations. Also, most master TV systems have 72-ohm impedances: if your tuner has only a 300ohm input, you will need a transformer to match the 72ohm antenna system to the 300-ohm input.

Can 1 mount an FM antenna and a TV antenna on the same mast?
 Yes, but to prevent interaction, one should be set at least seven feet above the other. Also, keep your lead-in wires on opposite sides of the mast. And remember, if you use a rotator, that you may not be able to aim for optimum TV and FM reception at the same time.

Should I get a stereo adapter for my mono tuner. or should I trade it in for a new stereo tuner? That depends on your present tuner. If it has a bandwidth of at least 1 megacycle, and more than adequate sensitivity for your area, you can probably adapt it for stereo. Check with the manufacturer of your tuner to find out if he makes a suitable adapter, or can recommend one.

The presence on the tuner of a "multiplex output" jack signifies little, since many tuners with inadequate bandwidth and sensitivity for stereo have such jacks. If you do decide to adapt your tuner to stereo, it will probably have to be realigned, and its multiplex output circuit may need minor modifications if it is to function properly. In addition, the adapter itself should be carefully adjusted to give optimum results with your present tuner.

Q I know that some tuners automatically switch to stereo when receiving a stereo broadcast. But why do these same tuners also have a mono-stereo selector switch?

A stereo signal may be strong enough to cause the tuner to switch automatically to stereo, and yet be too weak to be free of noise and interference. Such a signal will usually sound tolerably clean in mono, so the manual switch permits you to override the automatic circuits and to listen on mono.

When I record in stereo from my tuner, a highpitched tone is recorded along with the program. This tone is not audible while the program is going on, but it is on the tape. What causes this?

Your tuner's audio output probably contains a 19or 38-kc tone that originates in its stereo section. This tone is interacting with your tape recorder's bias oscillator to produce the tone. Most of today's goodquality stereo tuners incorporate filters and other circuit modifications to reduce the amount of 19- and 38-kc tone reaching the output. In addition, the bias oscillators of today's better tape recorders operate at 80 kc or higher, which further reduces the possibility of this problem's occurring.

Write to the manufacturers of your tuner and recorder and ask if the circuits of your units can be modified to reduce the interfering tone. It may also be possible to reduce this problem through careful realignment of the tuner's stereo section. If the tone occurs on mono as well as on stereo programs, this means that your tuner's internal 38-kc oscillator is operating regardless of the program mode; a hi-fi serviceman can install a switch to turn this oscillator off during mono reception.

Why does my stereo tuner pick up interfering voices and music on some stations?

The stations that give you this problem are broadcasting background music or other special services on the pre-stereo SCA subcarrier frequencies of 32.5 and 41 kc. These are close enough to the 38-kc stereo subcarrier frequency for your tuner's multiplex circuits to reproduce them. Switching your tuner or preamplifier to mono should eliminate the interference.

W by does my stereo indicator flicker when I am not tuned to a stereo program?

There are several possible causes of flicker: interstation noise, very high frequencies in the mono program material, or 38-kc components in the SCA background-music carrier (if the station is broadcasting SCA on the older 32.5- or 41-kc subchannel frequencies). If the light glows steadily on mono, the broadcasting station may have neglected to turn off its 19-kc oscillator when switching to mono. Also, misalignment, severe multipath distortion, or tuner instability can yield high-frequency distortion products that trigger the indicator light—or else it may simply be that the indicator circuit itself is out of order.

#### Q How often should my tuner be aligned—and can I do it myself?

A monophonic tuner should have its alignment checked at least every two years, a stereo tuner at least every year and a half. A transistor tuner will probably need alignment much less often than a tube unit, particularly if the tube tuner is installed in a poorly ventilated cabinet. In general, realignment is indicated when a tuner does not pick up as many noise-free stations as it did when new.

As for aligning the tuner yourself, you can't—unless you have one of the new kits that permit you to make the alignment without test instruments. But if no homealignment procedures are given in your tuner's instruction book, only a qualified, well-equipped hi-fi service station should be allowed to make the adjustment. Check with the manufacturer to see which shops in your area are recommended.

# W hat is the best stereo tuning indicator: meter or magic eye, field-strength or center-channel?

The best is probably the oscilloscope-type indicator available as an accessory (MI-3) for the McIntosh units and built into the Marantz tuner. It indicates tuning accuracy, signal strength, and the amount of multipath interference. Field-strength tuning indicators --whether of the magic-eye or the meter type—can also be useful for aiming your antenna. In general, though, the "best" indicator depends on the specific circuits used in the tuner, and it can be assumed that the manufacturer has chosen the best type for his unit. In any case, check the unit that you purchase to make sure its "best" tuning point actually is the point of minimum distortion. My old tuner bas AFC [Automatic Frequency Control], but most of the new stereo tuners do not have this feature. W by?

Although AFC makes tuning somewhat easier, its main function in earlier designs was to keep the tuner from drifting off the station. Through the use of improved circuits and components, drift has largely been eliminated, and a number of manufacturers feel that AFC is now a needless complication—as well as a possible source of distortion.

My bouse is fairly near the street, and my stereo tuner picks up ignition noise from cars passing by. How can I eliminate this problem? Ignition noise, because of its pulse-like character, is particularly difficult to suppress. But first of all, the tuner's alignment should be checked, since a poorly aligned tuner will not suppress ignition noise effectively. If your antenna is mounted on the street side of the building, it would probably be worthwhile to move it to the other side. Shielded 300-ohm wire will minimize ignitionnoise pickup. The better the tuner, the less sensitive it will be to ignition noise.



#### W'by are stereo programs broadcast with a weaker signal than mono programs?

The amount of power radiated by a station's antenna is the same for stereo or mono. Stereo,

### SOME QUESTIONS OF TERMINOLOGY

#### W bat is IHF sensitivity?

The IHF sensitivity rating is a standard means of specifying a tuner's ability to pick up weak or distant stations. Technically, it is the amount of input signal a tuner requires to achieve an audio output with a signal-to-noise ratio of 30 db. Sensitivity, incidentally, has long been the most overstressed tuner specification. Minor differences in sensitivity specifications (of one microvolt or less) will make little or no practical performance difference, and should be disregarded when selecting a tuner. As a general rule, good-quality reception calls for a signal at the tuner's antenna terminals that is at least three times as great as the tuner's rated sensitivity for mono, and thirty times as great for stereo. Since, in most areas, signal voltages at the tuner's antenna input range between about 50 and 3,000 microvolts-or more-an IHF sensitivity of 25 microvolts or better will suffice for most mono programs, while good stereo reception in difficult areas would call for a tuner with a sensitivity of 4 microvolts or better.

#### W bat is selectivity?

Selectivity is a measure of the tuner's ability to separate stations that are close together on the dial. The FCC tries to allocate station frequencies so that stations covering the same geographical area will be on alternate—not adjacent—channels. A figure of 50 db or more for adjacentchannel rejection is good, and anything below 40 db is considered poor.

#### What is multiplex?

Multiplex is a method of broadcasting in which two or more programs are transmitted simultaneously on the same frequency and from the same FM transmitter. This technique forms the basis of stereo broadcasting, as it makes it possible for one station to send out both the left and the right channel of a stereo program.

#### W hat is capture ratio?

Capture ratio refers to a tuner's ability to sort out two stations on the same frequency, and to suppress the weaker station. A capture ratio of 8 db means that the tuner will clearly receive the stronger of two stations whose signal strengths differ by 8 db. The lower the numerical figure, the better the tuner's capture ratio.

#### W bat is crossmodulation?

Crossmodulation occurs when an excessively strong broadcast signal overloads the input circuits of a tuner. The overloading broadcast shows up as a spurious signal at several spots on the dial, and is sometimes from a TV station, especially Channel 6 or 7. Crossmodulation rejection is, in effect, a measure of the tuner's ability to accept a wide range of signal strengths without difficulty; the rejection figure should be 70 db or more.

#### W bat is multipath?

Multipath distortion occurs when reflected signals (from buildings, hills, etc.) arrive at the antenna just after the main signal. On TV the distortion shows up as ghosts in the picture, and on stereo broadcasts it results in fuzzy sound and decreased stereo separation. Since multipath signals usually arrive from a different direction than the main signal, a directional antenna, which is insensitive to signals from the sides and rear, will considerably reduce the problem.

#### What is AM suppression?

AM suppression (or rejection) refers to the tuner's ability to suppress noise caused by atmospheric conditions and by electrical machines. A tuner with an AM rejection figure of 40 db or more is relatively insensitive to noise.

#### What is an SCA-filter switch?

A number of FM stations have been given a Subsidiary Channel Authorization (SCA) by the FCC. This is a license to broadcast, by means of a multiplex technique, background music and other special material on a subchannel of their regular FM broadcasts. When a station broadcasts SCA and stereo simultaneously, the SCA signal is in a frequency band just above that occupied by the stereo subchannel. An SCA filter on the tuner keeps this signal from interfering with stereo reception. however, effectively reduces the signal-to-noise ratio of the broadcast signal, and this, in turn, appears as a reduction in the tuner's sensitivity. The signal-to-noise ratio of a stereo signal received by a mono tuner will therefore be about 4 db less than that of a regular mono broadcast; the signal-to-noise ratio of a stereo signal picked up by a stereo tuner will be 20 db less than that of a mono broadcast. This comes about because the stereo difference signal (L-R) is much weaker than the stereo sum signal (L+R), and also because the difference signal is broadcast at a higher frequency. Both of these factors make stereo broadcasts more sensitive to noise and interference. Since the difference signal plays no part in mono reception, a mono signal is always quieter.

# Q, Where should I set my stereo tuner's output-level controls for best results?

The best signal-to-noise ratio is usually achieved by setting the tuner's output-level or volume controls to the highest position that does not cause overload distortion in your preamplifier. However, if noise is not a problem, you may prefer to use the setting that will provide closest volume-matching when switching from phono to tuner.

# W by don't my tuner's dial calibrations agree with the stations' broadcast frequencies?

If the error is constant across the dial, it may be a mechanical problem that can be corrected by moving the pointer on the dial cord or by adjusting the dial assembly of a rotary dial. (Check with the manufacturer of your unit for more specific advice on how to adjust your tuner's dial.) It is more likely, however, that the tuner's local oscillator needs alignment. If the dial calibration is accurate at some points and not at others, the trouble may be caused by poor design of the tuning section or improper calibration of the dial scale; this can be corrected only by the factory or an authorized service station—if it can be cured at all.

What is meant by "antenna gain." and bow important is it? Does it have anything to do with the antenna's directionality?

Antenna gain is a measure of an antenna's efficiency in picking up broadcast signals. In fringe areas, or with tuners whose sensitivity is inadequate, a high-gain antenna (10 db or more) is very helpful, but in most areas high antenna gain is not particularly important. Most directional antennas use several elements in order to achieve directionality, and this usually also increases the gain. The directionality of an antenna refers to its increased sensitivity to signals coming to it head-on. A high front-to-back ratio, which specifically indicates an antenna's ability to reject signals from the rear, is important from the standpoint of eliminating multipath distortion.

# Under what circumstances is the use of an antenna rotator necessary or advisable?

Directional antennas, which reduce multipath distortion, will pick up broadcasts only when they are aimed directly at the broadcast station's antenna. In the suburbs, all desired stations might be located in one city, and would therefore be within the range of a fixed, directional antenna. But if the antenna must face in different directions to pick up different stations, a rotator is a necessity.

In order to reduce auto-ignition interference, I replaced my 300-ohm flat antenna wire with a shielded type, but now I seem to be getting a substantially poorer signal. Where did I go wrong?

You probably failed to provide a proper impedance match. Almost all shielded antenna lead-in wire is designed for 72- or 75-ohm circuits, and the inputs of most FM tuners and the outputs of most antennas are 300-ohm. If your tuner does have a 75-ohm antenna input, connect the cable to that, or match the cable to the 300-ohm input with a matching transformer (these cost under \$2). If your antenna is designed for a 300-ohm line, a matching transformer will be needed at the antenna end of the cable as well.

Q I have just recently moved from the city to the suburbs. and although I am now at a greater distance from the transmitters, my stereo reception has improved. W'by?

The reason is that you are still in the area of adequate signal strength, but now you are free of the electrical and multipath interference problems that plague reception in the city.

Q I live near a very strong local FM station that blanks out several other stations on my tuner. Is there anything I can do about it?

You might try constructing a wave trap tuned to the offending station's wavelength, or have such a trap built for you by a local serviceman. The *Radio Amateur's Handbook* (available at radio parts dealers) has a helpful section on wave traps that is applicable to FM-band problems. If many of the stations you normally listen to are in the opposite direction from the offending station, a directional antenna may also improve reception.

Harry Kolbe, who is chief engineer of the Audio Workshop, a New York City high-fidelity service center, has done extensive evaluation and design work in stereo FM and other audio areas.

# HI FI/STEREO REVIEW'S SELECTION OF THE TOP RECORDINGS BESTOF THE MONTH



CLASSICAL

#### THE MOST EXCITING CARMEN EVER ON RECORDS Maria Callas and conductor Georges Prêtre star in an incontestably great performance

**T**<sup>F</sup> Maria Callas' *Carmen* meant years of planning for her record company, for Callas herself it is the realization of a lifetime of preparation. The *Habañera* was the first piece of operatic music she ever mastered, back in her grade-school years. Later, according to her father's recollections, she learned—and sang—virtually all of Carmen's music. committing it to memory with the help of phonograph records and Metropolitan



MARIA CALLAS Musical truth, dramatic understanding

Opera broadcasts. Bringing the character to the stage, however, remained an elusive goal during the first two decades of her career—headline-studded years that are already a matter of operatic legend and social history, and years that contained more than their share of artistic challenges. But here, finally, is Callas' *Carmen*, recorded by Angel in Paris under the baton of Georges Prêtre, and it is, in a word, sensational.

Only the most dedicated and



Georges Prêtre Brilliance, vitality, a sense of life

harmonious efforts by all concerned could have brought this performance about, and eyewitness reports from the recording sessions attest to the enthusiasm and rare rapport that reigned over the enterprise. The end result disproves the popular notion that ensemble perfection and a "star personality" are musically incompatible. If trouble is to be avoided, however, the star must be both a musician and an artist, and must accept the conductor's overriding authority. Such laudable abdication of prima donna prerogatives will have no effect, of course, if the conductor himself fails to measure up to the challenge, or if, like some of our current crop of baton virtuosos, he sees the score within a narrow symphonic conception to which the singers must be bent with a willful and unfeeling hand. There is



Prêtre and Callas discuss a point of interpretation.

no lack of operatic legends about unmusical singers and long-suffering conductors, and perhaps the time may be coming to remember the other side of the story. But for now, hats off to Maria Callas and to Georges Prêtre.

As always with Callas, the secret of success lies in musical truth—secure intonation, observance of note values and dynamic markings, artistic phrasing, and rhythmic exactitude. On this solid foundation she builds a character that is theatrically effective yet always believable one of natural emotions, an earthiness without any exaggeration, vulgarity, fake sensuality, or "look, Ma, I'm a gypsy" exhibitionism. The line between permissible abandon and overstatement is admittedly thin, but it is one that is eminently clear to an artist of Callas' intuition.

Her innate histrionic gifts would be of little avail, however, if Callas could not find the appropriate vocal expression for them. Fortunately, this role suits her range and technique to perfection. The occasionally precarious top register (above A) is hardly ever exposed, while her effective and superbly controlled mid-range and chest tones are shown to best advantage. And time and time again, she calls into play those peculiarly covered, semisuffocated tones in the mid-register which few singers since the Golden Age have attempted at all, tones some observers have found bewildering and objectionable, but which have for me a fascinating expressive effect.

Only minute and quibbling reservations could be raised about this interpretation, and I, for one, am not inclined to raise them. Individual felicities, on the other hand, are legion: the amusingly coy handling of the final scene in Act I, particularly the mocking repeat of the *Habañera* for Zuniga's benefit; the finely detailed yet seemingly uninhibited Chanson Bohème; the fastidious legato in Carmen's castanet-accompanied singing before Don José; the disbelieving fury of her "*Il perd la tête, il court, et voilà son amour!*" that greets José's wish to return to camp. But the Card Scene tops them all—fatality in every utterance, and the phrases "*La mort! La mort! Encore! La mort!*" hurled forth in dark tones that haunt the memory.

Callas dominates the proceedings, but the other participants are consistently excellent. Nicolai Gedda's intense portrayal of Don José, guided by a secure musicality, is

Mercedes. Carmen, and Frasquita join conductor Prêtre and the engineers in an impromptu champagne scene.


always convincing. If his tone production is at times unsteady under emotional stress, and causes his achievement to compare unfavorably (in purely vocal terms) with Franco Corelli's in the recent RCA Victor set, Gedda nevertheless comes closer to the Bizet spirit. The same may be said of Andréa Guiot, whose Micaela cannot match, vocally, the exquisite purity and control of Mirella Freni (on RCA Victor), but hers is nonetheless an affecting and stylish creation. Robert Massard asserts a dashing, virile presence in Escamillo's scenes, and projects his text with meaning. There are no weaknesses in the supporting roles, either: Zuniga is excellent and, for once, Frasquita and Mercedes hold their own against Carmen in their joint scenes.

These individual excellences are blended by conductor Prêtre into an admirable whole that radiates a rightness of spirit and atmosphere that is not present in the competing RCA Victor performance. Prêtre does not have the flowing instrument Karajan commands in the Vienna Philharmonic, but what the Paris orchestra may lack in plushiness of sound and ultimate tonal refinement is compensated for by brilliance and vitality. There is a throbbing sense of life in Prêtre's reading, a constant animation obtained without eccentricities of any kind. With one exception-a rather breakneck pace for the quintet-his tempos are unerringly just, his manner incisive, his energy untiring. (Callas herself is reported to have said that "the real star of this performance is Prêtre"-a generous remark that, coming from a diva, must be almost unprecedented in operatic annals.) One instance of "individuality" in Prêtre's reading is worthy of comment because he is the only conductor who seems to adhere to the score at the point in question. Beecham (in the earlier Angel set), Karajan, and most conductors introduce a retard for the eleven orchestral measures concluding Act III; Prêtre, however, maintains the tempo of the Toreador Song as the voice of Escamillo trails off in the distance. Both approaches are effective in their own way, but it is refreshing to hear Bizet's a tempo marking observed. To sum up the relative merits of orchestral leadership: both Beecham and Karajan give us virtuoso performances, but Prêtre, more than they, conveys the essential spirit of the score. Since, apart from a few minor miscalculations in balance, his reading is brilliantly captured by Angel's engineers, the set must be hailed as the most convincing and most exciting Carmen ever recorded.

When will such a performance be heard on stage? It would seem logical that Callas should now concentrate on making Carmen the crowning achievement of her career, but one never knows. Hers is no conventional operatic career. Her incontestable glamor-no other diva of our time can match it—is certainly good for the box office. But, in the opinion of some, the circus aura that surrounds her infrequent appearances belongs less to the mainstream of opera than to a dangerously frivolous world of glitter

and ballyhoo. With admirable courage but debatable justification-her eagerly awaited Tosca at the Metropolitan† in March may or may not be decisive-she still seems to cling to certain great roles for which her present vocal estate is not suitable. Will this brilliant recorded Carmen signal the beginning of a new artistic phase, now that we have absolute evidence that her powers are still at their peak in the right repertoire?

Back in November, 1959, I concluded an article about Maria Callas in these pages with words that take on a special pertinence when read in today's context: "... Who knows, perhaps her long-heralded Carmen may point toward yet unexplored vistas in this remarkable career, to future Ebolis, Ortruds, Dalilas, Favoritas. Callas, the mezzo? One can never tell, and there seems to be only one thing one can safely predict about the future as far as Callas is concerned-dullness will not be part of it." George Jellinek

And *that* still goes!

S BIZET: Carmen. Maria Callas (soprano), Carmen; Nicolai Gedda (tenor), Don José; Andréa Guiot (soprano), Micaela; Robert Massard (baritone), Escamillo; Nadine Sautereau (soprano), Frasquita; Jane Berbié (mezzo-soprano), Mercedes; Jean-Paul Vauquelin (baritone), El Dancaïro; Jacques Pruvost (baritone), El Remendado; Claude Cales (baritone), Morales; Jacques Mars (bass), Zuniga. Choeurs René Duclos and Choeurs D'Enfants Jean Pesneaud; Orchestre du Théâtre National de L'Opéra (Paris), Georges Prêtre cond. ANGEL SCL 3650 three 12inch discs \$17.94, 3650 \$14.94.

#### A DEFINITIVE ST. JOHN PASSION

#### Conductor and soloists are superb in J. S. Bach's most dramatic choral work

EUTSCHE GRAMMOPHON ARCHIVE'S splendid new recording of J. S. Bach's St. John Passion is intended, one may assume, to supersede an earlier interpretation still in the Archive catalog, the excellent performance under conductor Günther Ramin (ARC 3045/6/7, mono only). The new version is clearly superior in many respects-not the least of which is its fine recorded sound. It is a tightly contained conception musically, paced to extract the last ounce of drama from this most dramatic of Bach's choral works. It is, in short, the kind of performance that makes one sit on the edge of

<sup>†</sup>The recent reconciliation between Callas and the Metropolitan's Rudolf Bing is said to have begun with the following exchange:

Bing: "Maria, you cannot realize how you hurt me when you left the Metropolitan.'

Callas: "But Mr. Bing, I don't recall leaving. I seem to remember being fired!"

Bing: "Really, Maria? Now that's funny, because I don't remember anything of the sort!"

one's chair. The mob scenes, in particular, are extraordinary, surging with tremendous excitement and tension, and the chorales and arias convey an overwhelming sense of inevitability.

Karl Richter's vital conducting could scarcely be improved upon, nor could the exquisite singing of Ernst Haefliger, who sang the role of the Evangelist in the older Archive recording also. The other soloists, if not entirely up to the standard set by Haefliger, are nonetheless of high quality. Hermann Prey, for all his fine vocalizing, seems to me slightly aloof-though always credible-as Jesus; and Kieth Engen, who sings the bass arias as well as the roles of Peter and Pilate, suffers a few momentary lapses of pitch. Both of the female soloists are quite satisfactory. The only other soloist is Hedwig Bilgram, who performs the keyboard continuo with great imagination on the organ (an extensive essay on the question of organ vs. harpsichord as a continuo instrument in this music is included with the album, but the question is still moot). The orchestra, a rather large one with some winds doubled on occasion, is heard with unusual clarity and plays beautifully; the choral singing is just as admirable.

Over-all, the reproduction is outstanding (although I did notice a momentary drop in right-channel volume near the beginning of the aria "*Eilt, ibr angefochtnen Seelen*" on Side Four). The album, complete with notes, texts, and translations, is the best stereo version of this work available. *Igor Kipnis* 

(9) (9) BACH: St. John Passion. Evelyn Lear (soprano); Hertha Töpper (contralto); Ernst Haefliger (tenor), Evangelist; Hermann Prey (baritone), Jesus; Kieth Engen (bass), Peter, Pilate, and bass arias; Hedwig Bilgram (organ continuo); Munich Bach Orchestra and Choir, Karl Richter cond. DEUTSCHE GRAMMOPHON ARCHIVE ARC 73228/29/ 30 three 12-inch discs \$17.91, ARC 3228/29/30\* \$17.91.

#### --JAZZ ----

#### A DISCIPLINED AND SELECTIVE COMPOSING TALENT

#### Lalo Schifrin's new album is a growth report on a gifted jazz musician

LALO SCHIFRIN popped up in American jazz about five years ago when Dizzy Gillespie hired him as pianist and arranger for his quintet. Previously, Schifrin had been trying to break out of a type-casting mold in New York. Because he is an Argentinian, he had been confined by the trite minds of the business largely to writing for such Latin bands as that of Xavier Cugat. In Argentina, however, he had never been considered anything but a jazz musician.



LALO SCHIFRIN Fiery temperament, skillful technique

Schifrin produced some memorable writing for Gillespie—a great many small-group arrangements and several for big band, including the *Gillespiana Suite*. All his writing displayed a skillful technique (he studied composition with Juan-Carlos Paz in Argentina and later at the Paris Conservatory) and a fiery temperament—it was powerful, exciting, and occasionally overwhelming. As time progressed, Schifrin's virtuosity came under more control. Two years ago, he left Gillespie's group to devote himself entirely to writing, and later moved from New York to California to work for films and television.

Verve has just released "New Fantasy," Schifrin's first big-band jazz album since the *Gillespiana Suite* came out on the Mercury label. In the new disc, he uses an instrumentation of four trumpets, five trombones, four French horns, tuba, saxophone doubling flute, and rhythm section. Notably powerful players are used, and all that brass could be staggering—but it isn't. For what the album chiefly demonstrates is that Schifrin's compositional talents have become more disciplined, more selective. He shifts dynamic shadings and voicings constantly, so you are never aware that this is almost an all-brass orchestra.

The music is drawn from classical and semi-classical sources, with the exception of Duke Ellington's *The Blues*. But the album is a far cry from what used to be called "swinging the classics." Jazz itself has evolved too far since those days, and Schifrin is much too gifted for that sort of thing. Instead, this is a recasting of familiar the-

matic material in new forms-like Rachmaninoff's borrowing a theme of Paganini to create music of his own. For example, Schifrin takes the principal melody of Copland's El Salón México, changes its character, and gives it a certain jaunty quality. The old rhumba Peanut Vendor is fragmented, its melody then restated in bits over a driving rhythm section. The lyrical melody from Villa-Lobos' Bachianas Brasileiras #5 is put into a quite appropriate bossa nova setting. The solo work in the album is excellent-lovely flute by Jerome Richardson, and J. J. Johnson playing trombone with a ripping raw quality that is in contrast to the cool detachment one usually hears from him. Schifrin's own playing, technically crisp and fierce in conception (his Latin origins really show in his playing), has evolved—like his writing—to a higher level of selectivity. The emphasis, however, is on ensemble playing, and it is brilliant throughout. Grady Tate's drumming is superb.

Schifrin is one of the most interesting writers to come up in and through jazz in the last ten years, and this beautifully recorded album is a fascinating report on his growth. Never has his conception been clearer than it is now. Gene Lees

● LALO SCHIFRIN: New Fantasy. Lalo Schifrin (arranger, conductor, piano); Ray Alonge, Bob Northern, Richard Berg, and Early Chapin (French horn); Jimmy Cleveland, Kai Winding, J. J. Johnson, and Urbie Green (trombone); Tony Studd (bass trombone); Marky Markowitz, Ernie Royal, Clark Terry, and Snooky Young (trumpet); Jerome Richardson (tenor saxophone and flute); Don Butterfield (tuba); Mundell Lowe (guitar); George Duvivier (bass); Grady Tate (drums). VERVE V 68601 \$4.98, V 8601 \$3.98.

#### SINGER LEE WILEY: "THE ONE AND ONLY"

Lovely and unsentimental songs are heard in a nostalgic reissue

LEE WILEY, for my taste, is our best female jazz vocalist after Billie Holiday. She hardly ever sings in public anymore, and all of her previous recordings. unfortunately, are now out of print. (The best of these, in case you should be fortunate enough to run across it, was "Night in Manhattan with Lee Wiley," Columbia CL 656.) A new release by RIC Records, however, "The One and Only Lee Wiley," brings her back to the catalog with a dozen of her best songs.

In the Thirties and Forties, when Miss Wiley was in her vocal prime, she evoked, as no one else ever did, the nostalgia of the Scott Fitzgerald era—elegant little clubs, late nights, and such New York landmarks as the fountain in front of the Plaza Hotel Miss Wiley did not have a particularly great range or technique, but achieved her effects through a kind of wistful understatement. And she sang wonderful songs—all the ones here are by Cole Porter and the Gershwins—to superb accompaniment.

On this record, remastered from recordings made for the Liberty Music Shops in 1939 and 1940, the musicians include Pee Wee Russell, Fats Waller, Joe Bushkin, Eddie Condon, George Wettling, and Max Kaminsky. On *Someone to Watch over Me*. Miss Wiley is accompanied only by Fats Waller at the organ.

Unless you have heard it, it is perhaps difficult to imagine an amalgam of the styles of Billie Holiday and Mabel Mercer, but that is how Miss Wiley sings. And when you hear her sing some of these songs—most especially the often neglected *Looking at You*—you may not ever want to hear anyone else try them. This disc documents the best of American popular music sung in the loveliest and most unsentimental way possible.

Joe Goldberg

⑤ ⑧ LEE WILEY: The One and Only Lee Wiley. Lee Wiley (vocals), Bunny Berigan and Max Kaminsky (trumpet), Pee Wee Russell (clarinet), Fats Waller and Joe Bushkin (piano), Fats Waller (organ), Sid Weiss and Artie Shaprio (bass), Bud Freeman (tenor saxophone), George Wettling (drums). Easy to Love; 'S Wonderful; W by Shouldn't 1?; Sam and Delilab; and eight others. RIC ST 2002\* \$5.98, M 2002 \$1.98.

LEE WILEY After Billie Holiday, the best



# Please read this message concerning the advertisement on the facing page...

If you are a regular reader of this magazine, you know that we have been running a consistent series of advertisements explaining the features of the Lab 80.

Furthermore, if you have had occasion to ask for a Lab 80 at your dealer, or perhaps have already ordered one, you know that this unit is in very short supply. There is a good possibility that your dealer has not yet been able to deliver, unless your order was placed many weeks ago.

We realize that this kind of situation makes for misunderstandings between consumers interested in Garrard equipment and ourselves; and between customers and their dealers. All of them ask "Why do you advertise the unit when you cannot fill my order?"

We are sincerely gratified that our products, and our advertising, are generally so well received. We want you to know that above all other considerations, we value your understanding and goodwill. These are, and must remain, the cornerstones of our reputation and continued success. Therefore, we feel constrained to detail the present situation concerning the Lab 80, and to explain why we not only continue to advertise it, but *must* and *should* increase this advertising.

Briefly, the matter is as follows:

1. The Lab 80 has been in production, and on the American market, since late September, when we began shipping demonstration units to dealers. However, Garrard products have been sold in the U.S. since 1937, and we have a very large number of dealers...so that you and they can appreciate that it has not been possible to ship all of them "first." It poses quite a problem in logistics to fill distribution channels with the large quantities required of this high quality product, which is not mass-produced in the ordinary sense ... all in just a few months.

2. We announced the Lab 80 in the October issues of the high fidelity publications. Since then, the interest in this model has been staggering.

Furthermore, many of the original orders placed by dealers have already been doubled again and again, despite the shortness of time.

3. Since the Lab 80 is the very symbol of our reputation as the manufacturer of the world's finest record playing equipment, we are extremely rigid in its production and quality control. Nothing is being allowed to interfere with its quality, so that production moves at a steady, but not a frantic, pace. In plain English, we are insuring that every Lab 80 we ship is simply perfect... and this has been a matter for the entire Garrard quality control organization to guarantee.

4. Let there be no mistake about it the Lab 80 is being produced, in very substantial quantities, and at an ever increasing rate. Nevertheless, despite our best efforts, we still cannot fill orders as promptly as we would wish, because we absolutely refuse to over-rush the numerous and essential processes involved merely in deference to the pressure for delivery.

5. We try to keep our distribution policies as fair as possible. Therefore, dealer orders are highly controlled and filled (perhaps we should say rationed) on a systematic and equitable basis. This explains why your dealer may have had to sound so vague in trying to tell you exactly when you would receive your Lab 80.

6. In view of this, we realize that our advertising policy probably requires some explanation. It is wellknown that our advertisements generally are not written as much to catch the eye as they are to inform the reader.

We believe that in the high fidelity component field, particularly, the reader must have a good interpretation of a product, in order to select wisely...and that it is the function of our advertising to provide that information, up to the point where the dealer should logically take over and clarify the product through a demonstration.

Furthermore, we regard it as our *responsibility* to inform those who

read the high fidelity publications concerning the existence of our new models and their various features. This is one important way in which we can serve those who are interested in the finer high fidelity components and who therefore *need* to know what is on the market, in order to visit a dealer intelligently, being informed in advance concerning the products they wish to see.

Since the Lab 80 is on the market, and we believe you would want to consider it if you were interested in making a purchase, we are sure you would want us not only to advertise ...but to explain it in the greatest possible detail. This we are doing in the present series of ads, and we must continue to do so increasingly as the season progresses. We want an informed public, for everyone's benefit.

Considering the above, and taking into account the difficult supply situation, we would appreciate your consideration of these alternatives, assuming that you may be in the market for a high fidelity system:

1. If you are interested in a Lab 80 (or have already ordered one) we assure you that it will be shipped as quickly as possible. However, there will definitely be a delay—and you will have to be unusually patient. If you are willing to wait, we say without reservation that you will have a superb record playing instrument.

2. If you cannot wait, do not order a Lab 80, since this merely creates pressure on yourself, the dealer and ourselves. In this case, we would strongly urge that you give careful consideration to one of the other three new Garrard models—most particularly the Type A70, a top-flight unit which has many performance features equal to those of the Lab 80.

I cannot conclude without thanking you for your patience and understanding of this trying situation, which has come about only because the Garrard Laboratories are making the effort to provide a genuinely unprecedented, totally excellent record playing unit.

Sincerely. Leonard Carduner President **British Industries Corp.** 

HIF1/STEREO REVIEW



THE LAB 80, a most advanced transcription turntable/tone arm combination...

(for single records)

is also <u>the</u> most advanced fully automatic record changing unit... (for up to eight records).

#### The reason is this revolutionary automatic spindle system

(entirely new, yet based upon proven Garrard principles)



#### In order to appreciate the sure, gentle operation of this automatic instrument, you must see it in action.

To begin play-press the automatic tab. At the end of the record, the arm activates an ultrasensitive, magnetic trip-and the next record drops quietly cushioned by air. To reject the record. touch the automatic tab again. To pause, press the manual tab. The arm will rise and remain suspended a safe 1/2 inch over the record. When you are ready to resume (exactly where you left off or at any other band), simply press the built-in cueing control, and the arm slowly descends. After the last record, the Lab 80 shuts itself off.

If an interest in music is the reason for your listening, the value of automatic play can hardly be overstated. The automatic shut-off feature alone can add an entire area of pleasure to your enjoyment. But the problem has been to provide this convenience without impairing the distortion-free performance demanded by modern music systems. Today, with a fine tone arm (as exemplified by the dynamically-balanced, low geometry arm of the Lab 80), the maximum variation in stylus pressure between one record and a stack is a negligible 0.2 grams (two-tenths of a gram).

Therefore, the question of whether or not it is preferable to play only single records on a turntable, has been obviated. However, the search for perfection among record handling methods continues. This is the key to the acceptability of any automatic as a true peer of the finest single play units. Now, the same principles which established Garrard as the preeminent name in automatics... proven through literally millions of playing hours...have been designed into the Lab 80 spindle, creating the safest, most positive device of its kind. The stack of records is securely supported on three widely extended arms. The arms retract and the next record is released, gently and positively. Then, during the entire performance of the record, the tone arm is absolutely free of the automatic mechanism.

The automatic spindle arrangement is only half of the story. The trip mechanism is the other half-and equally important-since it activates the entire automatic operation. At the end of the record, and not before, the tone arm must engage the trip...but with infinitesimal friction or drag. In the Lab 80, this problem is brilliantly solved. The trip assembly is mokled of Delrin®, the remarkable new Dupont "slippery" material. The tripping cycle works through magnetic repulsion, eliminating mechanical contact. These two principles, ingeniously combined for the first time in an automatic record playing device. are the answer of the Garrard engineers to the stringent requirements of ultra-sensitive cartridges, allowing you to use the cartridge of your choice. no matter how light the tracking specifications may be. All are compatible!





IMPORTANT READING: New 32 page Comparator Guide. For complimentary copy, write Garrard Drv., British Industries Corp., Dept. GB-15, Port Washington, N.Y. Canadian Inquiries to Chas. W. Pointon, Ltd., 66 Racine Road, Rexdale, Ontario. Tecritories other than U.S.A. and Canada to Garrard Engineering Limited, Swindon, Wilts, England.

# A monumental release heralding London's great classical program for 1965

#### ERNEST ANSERMET

Pélléas et Mélisande-complete recording with Maurane, Spoorenberg, London-L'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande Stereo OSA1379 Mono A4379

#### BIRGIT NILSSON - THOMAS SCHIPPERS

Macbeth-complete recording-Taddei, Prevedi, etc.-Santa Cecilia Orchestra Stereo OSA1380 Mono A4380

#### RENATA TEBALDI

New recital of arias from Don Carlo, Un Ballo in Maschera, Giovanna D'Arco, Turandot, La Rondine, La Gioconda, Cavalleria Rusticana, L'Arlesiana Stereo OS25912 Mono 5912

#### NICOLAI GHIAUROV

French and Russian Arias: Faust, Manon, Les Huguenots, La Jolie Fille de Perth, Carmen, A Life for the Tsar, The Demon, Iolanta, Prince Igor Stereo OS25911 Mono 5911

#### **REGINE CRESPIN**

Scenes from Der Rosenkavalier with Elisabeth Söderström and Hilde Gueden–Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Silvio Varviso Stereo OS25905 Mono 5905

#### MARILYN HORNE

Her first solo recital with arias from Semiramide, L'Italiana in Algeri, La Cenerentola, Le Prophète, Les Huguenots, La Ciemenza di Tito, La Figlia del Reggimento Stereo OS25910 Mono 5910

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#### LORIN MAAZEL

Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 6 in B Minor ("Pathétique")-The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra Stereo CS6409 Mono CM9409

#### VLADIMIR ASHKENAZY - MALCOLM FRAGER

Mozart: Sonata for Two Pianos in D Major (K.448); Schumann: Andante and Variations; Etude in the Form of a Canon Stereo CS6411 Mono CM9411

#### CLIFFORD CURZON

Schubert: Sonata in D (Op. 53); Impromptu in G Flat Major; Impromptu in A Flat Major Stereo CS6416 Mono CM9416

#### LORIN MAAZEL

R. Strauss: Don Juan; Tod und Verklärung–The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra Stereo CS6415 Mono CM9415

#### LUIGI ALVA

A program of popular Spanish and Latin American songs: Granada, Estrellita, Te Quiero, La Partida, Storgo OS25555 Stereo OS25866 Mono 5866

#### BRUNO PREVEDI

His first operatic recital—arias from Andrea Chénier, Fedora, Il Trovatore, La Forza del Destino, Cavalleria Rusticana, Tosca, Madama Butterfly, La Fanciulla del West, Turandot Stereo OS25875 Mono 5875

ISTVAN KERTESZ

Kodaly: Háry Janos Suite; Dances of Galánta; Two Arias from Háry János The London Symphony Orchestra

Stereo CS6417

#### Mono CM9417

Mono CM9420'

HERBERT VON KARAJAN

Tchaikovsky: The Nutcracker Suite; Grieg: Music from Peer Gynt The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra

Stereo CS6420



HIFI/STEREO REVIEW



Reviewed by WILLIAM FLANAGAN + DAVID HALL + GEORGE JELLINEK + IGOR KIPNIS

BACH: St. John Passion (see Best of Month, page 75)

S BARTÓK: Miraculous Mandarin Suite: Music for Strings, Percussion, and Celesta. London Symphony Orchestra, Georg Solti cond. LONDON CS 6399 \$5.98, CM 9399 \$4.98.

#### Performance: High-class Recording: Excellent

There is no lack of exemplary representations of Bartók's *Music for Strings, Percussion, and Celesta* on records these days. What with Karajan's superbly poised, mellowly classical version and Bernstein's feverishly intense one, not to speak of still different readings by Ansermet and Reiner, one might even guess that the field has been pretty well covered for the time being.

Yet here is Georg Solti and the London Symphony with a performance of the work that can hold its own with the best of them -and on its own rather special terms, too. For this performance is marked by a cleanlined delicacy, by a special searching out of contrapuntal relationships, by the stressing of the work's purely musical values as opposed to its dramatic and coloristic ones. These latter have, heaven knows, been stressed ad nauseam-particularly in the third movement of the piece, which in the wrong hands has been allowed to degenerate into just so much music for a horror movie. The orchestrational innovations in this work have by now become so much stock-in-trade for every Hollywood arranger that a performance like Solti's-one that concentrates so positively on the work's purely musical values—is a welcome breath of fresh air

Solti does no less well with the suite from the ballet *Miraculous Mandarin*. The piece is given a full-scale, vigorous workout —brimming with suspense and drama where it is wanted, and generously lyrical and songful when the moment is right.

The recording is altogether a distinguished one: London's sound is full-bodied, rich, and uncommonly sharp of detail. W' F.

(S) (BEETHOVEN: Trio No. 1, in E-flat, Op. 1, No. 1. HAYDN (arr. Piatigorsky-Dahl): Divertimento, in D Major, for Cello and Orchestra. RÓZSA: Double Con-

Explanation of symbols:

- S = stereophonic recording
- $\circledast$  = monophonic recording
- mano or sterea version not received for review

certo (1962): Theme and Variations, Jacob Lateiner (piano); Jascha Heifetz (violin); Gregor Piatigorsky (cello); chamber orchestra. RCA VICTOR LSC 2770 \$5.98, LM 2770\* \$4.98.

#### Performance: Brilliant and spirited Recording: Good enough

As one of a continuing series featuring the repertoire of the Heifetz-Piatigorsky chamber concerts being given in Los Angeles and New York, this latest release is singularly ingratiating through its variety of styles and media. The Beethoven Op. 1, No. 1 Trio is



JASCHA HEIFETZ AND GREGOR PIATIGORSKY Verve and brilliance in Beethoven Trio

played with enormous verve and brilliance by Heifetz and Piatigorsky in league with Lateiner, a first-rate Beethoven interpreter. One almost relives here the occasion in 1792 when, in the glittering Vienna salon of Prince Lichnowsky, the Op. 1 trios were played for the first time as the young Beethoven's formal introduction as composer to the musical *butte monde* of the day.

The Haydn "Divertimento" is an engaging and tasteful synthesis of movements from two of the composer's more than one hundred works for the long-obsolete cello-like instrument, the baryton (see DGG Archive ARC 3120) — Haydn's employer Prince Nicholas Esterházy was devoted to the instrument. The arrangements, originally for cello and piano, are by Piatigorsky—the opening adagio being from Baryton Trio No. 113, the Menuet from Trio No. 95, and the lively Allegro di molto also from Trio No. 113. California composer Ingolf Dahl did the expertly Haydnesque orchestration used here. Piatigorsky's solo work is supreme, and the chamber orchestra under its uncredited conductor backs him expertly.

Finally, Heifetz and Piatigorsky shine as soloists in the post-Kodály styling of the theme and variations from the Double Concerto by the Hungarian-born composer for the films, Miklós Rózsa. The music has no great substance, but it is thoroughly enjoyable on its own terms and, as might be expected, expertly crafted.

For three-quarters of an hour of music that falls very easily on the ear in elegant and spirited performances, this admirable disc will be hard to beat. D. II.

(©) ● BIBER: Eight Sonatas for Violin and Continuo (1681 collection). Sonya Monosoff (violin); Melville Smith (harpsichord); Janos Scholz (viola da gamba). CAMBRIDGE CRS 1812/3 two 12-inch discs \$5.98 each, CRM 812/3 \$4.98 each.

Performance: Excellent Recording: Very good

These two discs make the second collection of the amazing Heinrich Franz Biber's violin sonatas that Cambridge has issued in performances by Sonya Monosoff—the first set was the so-called "Biblical," "Rosary," or "Mystery" sonatas. This 1681 group makes less use than the programmatic sonatas of *scordatura*, the deliberate mistuning of the violin strings for coloristic effects—it occurs in only two of the eight present sonatas.

This music, it might be mentioned, is not the sort to be listened to several sides at a time, for there is a sameness of both form and harmonic progression to all these sonatas. They are, however, quite fascinating when heard individually: their unusually rhapsodic quality, their toccata-like sections. and the great virtuosity required of the violinist performer are factors in making them so, Once again, Miss Monosoff reveals that she is one of this country's foremost instrumentalists in the music of this period. Her admirable execution of these difficult scores is marked by great flair, fiery impetus, and stylistic acumen. The accompaniments too are extremely accomplished. The set should be of more than passing interest to both Baroque enthusiasts and string players. Cambridge has provided well-balanced if slightly unresonant sound, and should be commended for providing us this further insight into one of the neglected composers of the I. K. Baroque.

BIZET: Carmen (see Best of Month, page 73)

⑤ ⑧ BRAHMS: Piano Concerto No. 1, in D Minor. Op. 15. Van Cliburn (piano): Boston Symphony Orchestra, Erich Leinsdorf cond. RCA VICTOR LSC 2724 85.98, LM 2724\* \$4.98.

Performance: Massive Recording: Impressive

By making this disc, young Mr. Cliburn has placed himself in the running with such formidable stereo-recorded collaborations as Fleisher-Szell, Curzon-Szell, and Serkin-Ormandy—not to mention Rubinstein-Reiner on a mono disc. He stands up to his peers remarkably well, thanks in large measure to conductor Erich Leinsdorf's powerful support and an impressive recording job by the RCA Victor engineering staff.

The Cliburn-Leonsdorf reading leans toward the massive treatment given the work



#### For TSONG Psychic alchemy for Chopin mazurkas

by Curzon and Szell on London, as opposed to the more volatile interpretation that came out of the earlier Fleisher-Szell meeting for Epic in Cleveland, Yet, although the Curzon-Szell reading verges at times on the turgid and heavy-handed, Cliburn and Leinsdorf skirt such pitfalls most successfully. Cliburn is the young romantic in the best sense of the word throughout this performance, but I do wish that he had used a piano somewhat richer in tone to match the overwhelming sonority of Leinsdorf's Boston Symphony. The microphone perspective is of the middle-of-the-orchestra" type used for the Bostonians' impressive Brahms First Symphony disc some months ago, and it is just right for this fierce and massive concerto, It is too bad that Cliburn's piano was not miked to match, for it cannot be said that his fingers are lacking either in strength or in fleetness.

Despite this drawback, I would place this recorded performance with those of Fleisher-Szell and Curzon-Szell as one of the top three stereo choices. D. H.

⑤ ⑧ BRITTEN: A Ceremony of Carols: Rejoice in the Lamb: Festival Te Deam. The Robert Shaw Chorale, Robert Shaw cond. RCA VICTOR LSC 2759 \$5.98, LM 2759\* \$4.98.

Performance: Flawless Recording: Superb Stereo Quality: Excellent

121-0

Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Corele*, which goes all the way back to 1942, is one of the loveliest choral works of our century, and the simple fact of its perennial seasonal popularity spares it the unnecess, ry weight of any critical essay from me And if each existent record company cares to bring out a new recording of it each Christmus as exquisitely and flawlessly performed as this one, no complaints will be heard from this quarter.

Rejoice in the Lamb and the Festical Te Deum—they complete Side Two of the release—were brand-new Britten to me when I set this record spinning, and it they lack the special "star quality" of the Ceremony of Carols—if they sound, in other words, a little too consistently as one might expect them to—they are nonetheless full of beautiful things. They are surely an appropriate second side's worth for this particularly Christmasy release and, like so much of what Robert Shaw does these days, they are almost too well performed.

The recorded sound is exactly as it should be, the stereo treatment dandy.  $W^*, F$ .

CASTELNUOVO-TEDESCO: Concerto No. 2 for Violin and Orchestra (see WALTON)

#### RECORDING OF SPECIAL MERIT

(a) (b) (CHOPIN: Mazurkas: Op. 6, No. 3, in E Major: Op. 7, No. 2, in A Minor: Op. 17, No. 2, in E Minor, No. 4, in A Minor; Op. 24, No. 1, in G Minor, No. 2, in C Major, No. 4, in B-flat Minor: Op. 30, No. 1, in C Minor, No. 4, in B Minor: Op. 33, No. 4, in B Minor: Op. 41, No. 2, in E Minor: Op. 50, No. 3, in C-sbarp Minor; Op. 56, No. 3, in C Minor: Op 59, No. 1, in A Minor: Op. 67, No. 4, in A Minor: Op. 68, No. 2, in A Minor, No. 4, in F Minor: Op. Postb., in A Minor. Fou Ts'ong (piano), WESTMINSTER WST 17085 \$4.98, XWN 19085 \$4.98.

#### Performance: Superb Recording: Good Stereo Quality: Fine

I was not happy about Fou Ts'ong's treatment of Bach and Handel some months ago. But when it comes to Chopin, matters take a far better turn. Indeed. I can understand very well wny the 1955 Warsaw International Chopin Competition Prize was awarded to Fou Ts'ong on the basis of his performance of the Chopin mazurkas.

It is futile to attempt any explanation of the psychic alchemy by which a Peking-born Chinese pianist has evolved such masterly readings of the most purely Polish and per sonal of all Chopin's works. We can only accept such a gift with joy and a sense of fulfillment, as well as with the hope that this artist will one day commit the entire series of mazurkas to discs

(Continued on page 84)





ML 6041/MS 6641\*





COLUMBIA EMARCAS REG PRINTED IN U.S.A. Stered

Are you bored with the romantic? Too sophisticated to be stirred by the lyric sweep of Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2? Too jaded for the glittering pyrotechnics of his Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini?

Fortunately some people are not. For instance, Gary Graffman. Why? Because, as he says, "audiences love them." His spirited approach has transformed these musical warhorses into young stallions, in performances described by a critic as "blazing like a thousandfaceted chandelier."

Another enthusiast is Leonard Bernstein who conducts the New York Philharmonic in the exciting new Columbia Masterworks album of these two Rachmaninoff works, available for the first time on a single long-playing record. The combination of Bernstein, Graffman and Rachmaninoff is irresistible on Columbia Records.



ML 6034/MS 6634

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Throughout the entry con pieces on this disc, Fou Ts'ong achie es a miraculous blend of the folk-dance, salon, and lyrical aspects of these works, which range in scope from the simple dance of Op. 6, No. 3, through the plaintive melodiousness of Op. 17, No. 4, to the elaborate tonal poetics of Op, 50, No. 3. His use of rubato in the very popular Op. 33, No. 4 in B Minor stands as a prime example of poetic communication within the limits of flawless taste, and his handling of the trills in Op. 68, No. 4, the last of Chopin's completed works, makes of this tragic piece a quite shattering experience.

The recorded sound is excellent all the way-this is an outstanding disc. D. H.

CLARKE: Trumpet Tune, Z. S124 (see PURCELL)

HAYDN: Divertimento, in D Major (see **BEETHOVEN**)

S MENDELSSOHN: String Quartets: No. 2, in A Minor, Op. 13: No. 3, in D Major. Op. 44, No. 1. Juilliard String Quartet. EPIC BC 1287\* \$5.98, LC 3887 \$4.98

Performance: Taut and intense Recording: Good

The young, impetuous Mendelssohn speaks in the A Minor Ouartet, while in the D Major we hear the voice of maturity, poise, and polish. For me, the slow introduction to the former work, its lovely third-movement intermezzo and brilliant presto finale represent all that is best in Mendelssohn's chamber style-intensely lyrical song beautifully shaped in its phrasing, combined with a remarkable sense of forward flow, at times easy and relaxed and at others fleet as a swallow in flight, By comparison, the D Major Quartet, for all its more refined partwriting, seems a little bland.

A first stereo recording of these quartets is most welcome, especially in view of the relative neglect the Mendelssohn chamber repertoire suffers on discs. The Juilliard Quartet brings to them a full measure of stylistic know-how and polished virtuosity. matched by clean and solid recorded sound. D. II.

#### RECORDING OF SPECIAL MERIT

S PALESTRINA: Missa Sine Nomine: Missa Ecce Ego Joannes. Mary Thomas (soprano); Edgar Fleet (tenor); Jean Allister (contralto); Christopher Keyte (bass); Choir of the Carmelite Priory, London, John McCarthy cond. L'OISEAU-LYRE SOL 269 \$5.98, OL 269\* \$5.98.

Performance: Superb Recording: Excellent Stereo Quality: Fine

Both of these late-sixteenth-century Masses should make a profound impression on the listener to this disc, not just because of their compositional mastery, but because of the quality of the performances as well. This first-class English choral group, whose past recordings on L'Oiseau-Lyre have included Monteverdi. Anerio, and a selection of Gregorian Chant, sounds remarkably un-British in this repertoire: instead of the cool, white vocal production typical of most English choirs, this group produces a warm, (Continued on page 86)

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vibrant sound that is appropriately Italian. But, whereas most Italian choruses perform this kind of music with little if any attention to style and often with distinctly wobbly vocalism, the men and women of the Carmelite Priory are outstanding in their precision, clarity, and range of dynamics. The difficult task of re-creating Palestrina's homophonic blocks of sound, maintaining the polyphonic lines, and in addition doing full justice to the spirit of the liturgical rite for which these works were written is magnificently accomplished here. John McCarthy makes this music sound anything but dull and antiquated: the singing ranges from mystical and ethereal to intensely vital and dramatic, with a sense of pacing that is breathtaking. The four soloists, used here whenever the choral body is thinned down, are superb. The disc as a whole must be considered one of the best representations of Palestrina on records. The recording is ex-1. K. tremely satisfying.

RECORDING OF SPECIAL MERIT © PROKOFIEV: Violin Concertos: No. 1, in D Major: No. 2, in G Minor. Isaac Stern (violin); Philadelphia Orchestra, Eugene Ormandy cond. COLUMBIA MS 6635 55.98, ML 6035 \$4.98.

Performance: Tops Recording: Ditto

The Stern-Ormandy-Philadelphia combination in these two violin concertos is so ideal in so many respects, and is, at the same time, so complete a realization of what one might have expected from it, that the recording almost seems to preclude comment beyond the naming of its performers. If Ormandy tends to minimize the bite that Leinsdorf has put into his recent recording of the first concerto, he compensates by finding, in conjunction with Stern, something closer than does Leinsdorf to the blend of bitter and sweet that is the essence of Prokofiev's lyricism.

The Philadelphia Orchestra, by the way, manages for some reason to sound even more spectacular than usual on this recording. This disc is, even from the point of view of Columbia's sound, an exceptional one from beginning to end. W". F.

(◎) ● PURCELL: Sonata for Trumpet and Strings (Z. 850); Suite from The Virtuous Wife (Z. 611); Suite from The Gordian Knot Untied (Z. 597). Roger Delmotte (trumpet): Rhenish Chamber Orchestra of Cologne, Günter Kehr cond. Pieces for Harpsicbord: Air (Z. T675); A Ground in Gamut (Z. 645); Hornpipe (Z. T685): Scotch Tune (Z. 655): A Ground (Z. D222): Rigudoon (Z. 653). CLARKE: Trumpet Tune (Z. S124). Ruggero Gerlin (harpsichord). NONESUCH H 71027 \$2.50, H 1027\* \$2.50.

#### Performance: Very satisfactory Recording: Good

This interesting collection should provide an excellent introduction to the music of Purcell, including as it does the jaunty sonata for trumpet and strings (really a concerto), a short group of harpsichord works, and two groups of pieces written by the composer as incidental music to plays. These suites—they include all the music composed for these two dramas—are stylishly played by Kehr and his chamber orchestra, though

he tends to favor a rather too full-bodied string tone and too many graded shifts in dynamics. The sonata is very well done, and compares favorably to the finer performance on L'Oiseau-Lyre 60002, 50171, another excellent Purcell collection. The harpsichord selections are delightful little works, but Gerlin's style is a bit too deliberate at times and his registration occasionally too heavy. According to the recently published Zimmerman thematic catalog of the composer's music, incidentally, we learn that the familiar Trumpet Tune (Z. S124), like that other spurious favorite the "Purcell Trumper Voluntary" (Z. S125), is really by Jeremiah Clarke, and that the Ground (Z. D222) too is a doubtful work. Nonesuch's transfer from the original French recording is very good. But in the Virtuous Wife Suite the harpsichord continuo is almost inaudible, and



ISAAC STERN Ideally realized Prokofiev

the solo harpsichord pieces are recorded at too high a level in relation to the orchestral suite that comes before it. I. K.

RÓZSA: Double Concerto (1962): Theme and Variations (see BEETHOVEN)

#### RECORDING OF SPECIAL MERIT

D. SCARLATTI: Twenty Sonatas: D Major. L. 206; B Minor. L. 449; D Major, L. 213: C Major, L. 102: A Minor, L. 138; F Minor, L. 382; F Major, L. 20; D Minor. L. 422; G Minor, L. 49; D Minor, L. 423; D Major, L. 418; D Major, L. 14; D Major, L. 461; B-flat Major, L. 497; F Major. L. 228: F Minor, L. 187; G Major, L. 103: C Major, L. 255; D Major, L. 56; B-flat Major, L. 97. Wanda Landowska (harpsichord). ANGEL COLH 304 \$5,98.

Performance: Brilliant Recording: Good transfers

Among the records I chose for HIFI/STEREO REVIEW'S essential recordings of Baroque music in the April 1964 issue was a performance of twenty Scarlatti sonatas by Wanda Landowska in Angel's Great Recordings of the Century series (COLH 73). These were originally recorded in 1935. A second volume of twenty more sonatas was made by her in January 1939 and March 1940 in Paris and issued about ten years

later on 78's. Once again, the performances, now available in the same series on Angel, are fantastic. The Spanish-flavor pieces are given tremendous dignity and nobility, and the faster sonatas are breathtaking in their incredible virtuosity (Longo 461 near the beginning of the second side is the most spectacular example). The selection of sonatas here is an extremely good one, and the disc, like its predecessor, should be considered a must for any collector. The quality of sound on the originals was never outstanding, being variously afflicted with hum and wow, but Angel's transfer is particularly skillful in minimizing (though not obliterating) these faults. A curious reminder of the Second World War may be heard during some of the sonatas, notably the one beginning the first side: the microphones have picked up the sound of French antiaircraft guns from a distance. While the studio technicians scurried for cover during the raid, so the story is related, Landowska just kept on playing. With the standard of performance to be heard here, one can only be delighted that she did, I. K.

SCHUBERT: Mass No. 6, in E-flat (D. 950). Helen Boatwright (soprano); Betty Allen (mczzo-soprano); Alva Tripp (tenor); Leo Goeke (tenor); Chester Watson (bass); Musica Acterna Chorus and Orchestra, Frederic Waldman cond, DECCA DL 79422 \$5.98, DL 9422 \$4.98.

Performance: Lyrical Recording: Soft-focus Stereo Quality: Good enough

The last of Schubert's Masses, composed during the final months of his short life, is cut from the same cloth as the other wonderful masterpieces of that period—the last songs, the C Major String Quintet, the "Great" C Major Symphony, and the final three piano sonatas. There are noble song, moments of otherworldly grandeur, and episodes that bespeak dark personal tragedy with an eloquence equalled only in the unfinished Requiem by the just slightly longerlived Mozart.

Schubert's musical language here is a logical extension of that used by Haydn in his last great Masses. Whereas Beethoven in his *Missa Solemnis* expanded the idiom to superhuman proportions, Schubert remained the very human lyricist to the last—there are intimations of Bruckner in the "Christe" section of the Kyrie and again in the opening pages of the Sanctus. Besides its wealth of melodic beauty and harmonic warmth, the Schubert E-flat Mass abounds in lovely touches of orchestral scoring, most notably the solo wind and cello writing midway through the Gloria.

Two years ago, Capitol gave us a thrilling recorded performance of this music with Erich Leinsdorf conducting the St. Hedwig Choir and Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, and I must confess surprise at Decca's temerity in issuing this one so soon in the face of such formidable competition. Leinsdorf pitches his performance to an epic scale appropriate to a cathedral, but Waldman's Musica Aeterna forces seem intent on reproducing the type of performance that the Mass first had—in a Vienna suburban church a year after Schubert's death. The scale is essentially intimate, with emphasis on lyrical beauty rather than overpowering drama. So (Continued on page 88)

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too for the recorded sound—it is less brilliant and sharp of impact than what emerges from the Leinsdorf Capitol disc. Waldman's tempos, likewise, are on the leisurely side, so that the long moments of the Mass take about two minutes more than on Leinsdorf's disc. The solo vocal episodes in the Mass are relatively few in number, but it must be noted that Leinsdorf's soprano. Pilar Lorengar, manages the B-flat octave leaps in the "Dona nobis pacem" with considerably less effort than the usually very competent Helen Boatwright does on the Decca disc.

These considerations aside, one's choice between the Decca and Capitol versions comes down to a matter of taste, akin to choosing between the Toscanini and Bruno Walter readings of the "Great" C Major Symphony. It should be noted that the Decca album offers exceptional program notes. D. H.

RECORDING OF SPECIAL MERIT

SIBELIUS: Symphony No. 4. in A Minor, Op. 63: Tapiola—Tone Poem, Op. 112. Suisse Romande Orchestra, Ernest Ansermet cond. LONDON CS 6387 \$5.98, CM 9387\* \$4.98.

Performance: Searching Recording: Very good Stereo Quality: Excellent

(S) (®) SIBELIUS: Symphony No. 2, in D Major. Op. 43. Suisse Romande Orchestra, Ernest Ansermet cond. LONDON CS 6391 \$5.98. CM 9391\* \$4.98.

Performance: Reasonable Recording: Good Stereo Quality: Good

 ③ ③ SIBELHUS: Symphony No. 5, in Eflat. Op. 82: Pobjola's Daughter—Symphonic Fantasia. Op. 49. Hallé Orchestra, Sir John Barbirolli cond, VANGUARD SRV 137 SD\* \$2.98, SRV 137 \$1.98.

Performance: Rather loose-jointed Recording: Lacks impact

With the birth centennial of Jean Sibelius coming up next December, there seems to be no question but that the greater of the Finnish master's major works will find their way into the world's concert halls and onto records to an extent unmatched since the great Anglo-American Sibelius vogue of the 1930's. Most important, such a turn of events will offer today's younger generation of listeners the opportunity of thorough evaluation, and the middle generation may find itself reconsidering that point of view once expressed by Paul Rosenfeld: that Sibelius was "an overstuffed bard."

The discs under consideration here constitute something of a preview of things to come, and without any question the most important of them is the first stereo recording to be made available in this country of the boldest and most problematic of all the Sibelius symphonies—Number 4 in A Minor, and from the baton of a conductor ordinarily considered to be far outside the realm of accepted Sibelius interpretive tradition, Ernest Ansermet.

In East Coker, one of his Four Quartets, T. S. Eliot writes that "old men ought to be explorers," and perhaps this explains Ansermet's recorded excursions over the past few years into musical areas not usually associated with him. As one who has heard



ERNEST ANSERMET Revealing explorations of Sibelius

and studied almost every major attempt in modern times to master, in concert, broadcast, or recorded performance, the music of the Sibelius Fourth Symphony, I must say that I find Ansermet's reading both searching and revealing. It is plain from the opening bars that he is bent on communicating everything he can ferret out of the score-structurally and expressively. Among other things, he brings out very effectively the "inner logic" (as Sibelius himself put it) that binds together all four movements: in particular, the use of the augmented fourth interval and the recurrence in ever-changing guise of a long-short-long figure that plays as crucial a role as the three-shorts-and-a-long in Beethoven's Fifth.

The other great masterpiece in Sibelius' austere vein—his last completed major orchestral score. *Tapiola*—emerges to splendid effect here, indicating, perhaps, that the Swiss alps can whip up as fierce a blizzard as the Finnish forests and tundras. A major factor in the effectiveness of the Ansermet performances is London's recording, which is a marvel of impact, spaciousness, and linear transparency.

As for the very popular Second Symphony,

JUDITH RASKIN Waimth and tonal beauty for The Rake



it does not fare as well as Number 4 under Ansermet's hands, and this may be because its more conventional heroics are as foreign to his temperament as the heroics of Wagner. Thus the more atmospheric first two movements come off best, but things begin to come apart at the seams thereafter. Ormandy's is still the recording of this work to have for sheer gorgeousness of sound, and Monteux conveys perhaps a bit more of the music's ruggedness. Bargain hunters should not pass up the Richmond reissue of the 1953 Anthony Collins-London Symphony performance (mono only), a fine, full-blooded affair.

Sir John Barbirolli's 1959 reading of the expansive Fifth Symphony is a trifle loosejointed for my taste, and the sound is not very good. In general, Barbirolli has better success with the freely narrative Kalevalainspired Pobiola's Daughter. The first movement of the Fifth Symphony, in particular, needs a taut conductorial hand to achieve a proper sense of cohesion, both for its twomovements-in-one structure and for the complex texture of its coda. A taut approach is also needed in the latter half of the finale in order to keep the big tunes from getting completely out of hand to the detriment of the music's structure. By these standards, the deleted RCA Victor recording by Alexander Gibson and the London Symphony (LSC/LM 2405) remains the finest recorded performance. Let us hope that it will turn up as a reissue on RCA's low-price Victrola series. D.H.

#### RECORDING OF SPECIAL MERIT

● ● STRAVINSKY: *The Rake's Progress*. Don Garrard (bass), Trulove; Judith Raskin (soprano). Anne; Alexander Young (tenor), Tom Rakewell; John Reardon (baritone), Nick Shadow; Jean Manning (mezzo-soprano), Mother Goose; Regina Sarfaty (mezzo-soprano). Baba the Turk; Kevin Miller (tenor). Sellem; Peter Tracey (bass), Keeper. Colin Tilney (harpsichord); Sadlers W'ells Opera Chorus; Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Igor Stravinsky cond. Coll MIMA M3S 710 three 12-inch discs \$17.94, M3L 310 \$14.94.

Performance: Excellent Recording: Excellent Stereo Quality: Very effective

In spite of its discouraging beginning notably a near-debacle at the Metropolitan— *The Rake's Progress* has shown considerable staying power in its dozen or so years of existence. Its subtle qualities are out of place in a huge auditorium, but special productions before smaller and more responsive audiences augur well for the opera's future. That it will be ultimately ranked among the outstanding operas of our century, as some partisans confidently claim, is yet premature to say.

What emerges from this beautifully produced performance under the composer's direction leaves me with mixed feelings. I admire the W. H. Auden-Chester Kallman text for its literary quality—even allowing for its air of pretentiousness, it is several cuts above the usual libretto. It is good poetry, but not necessarily a good libretto, for it offers an unilluminated story, sketchy characterizations, and vague philosophies. Tom Rakewell, for all his Don Giovanni overtones, is a weakling and, what is worse, something of a dullard compared to the Mozart-Da Ponte figure; his ultimate fate elicits neither much interest nor much compassion. The opera's epilog states the moral clearly enough: "For idle hands and hearts and minds the devil finds a work to do," but the opera's perspective vacillates between its bizarre elements and its straightforward morality.

Stravinsky's music also is characterized by a certain ambivalence. Externally, the classic conventions are observed to an audacious degree: harpsichord-accompanied recitatives, arias, duets, ensembles follow one another in a clearly organized succession; even the ariacabaletta construction is revived in one ingeniously contrived instance. But ingenuity in itself is not sufficiently rewarding-the recitatives sound artificial in the extreme, and the arias suffer from Stravinsky's abhorrence of diatonic melody. Furthermore, music and words seem to pursue a collision course, and their frequent clashes invariably damage intelligibility or poetic meter, or both.

Neither text nor melody is, then, fundamentally important in Stravinsky's scheme of things. The essence of *The Rake's Progress* lies in the inventiveness of its musical ideas, in its vitality and driving rhythmic pulse, and in the pungency, color, and remarkable economy of its orchestration. It may not coincide with the generally recognized concept of opera, but it cannot fail to hold interest as a musical achievement.

In his vocal writing Stravinsky respects the limits of range. He does not ask for the impossible, only for a lot of hard work from his singers, offering them very little in return. Nevertheless, the cast serves him brilliantly here. Alexander Young, whose experience with the title role goes back many years, handles his difficult music with assurance and sensitivity. John Reardon, with some microphonic assist, imparts a commanding presence to the diabolic Shadow. And Judith Raskin endows the angular vocal line with the warmth and tonal beauty she is accustomed to lavishing on Mozart. The enunciation of all the principals deserves praise; if the ensembles are often unintelligible, the same is sometimes true of those in Wagner.

With Stravinsky at the helm, the orchestral performance can be taken as the last word on the subject. Thanks to Columbia's technical crew, the same may be said about the engineering. *G. J.* 

TCHAIKOVSKY: The Nutcracker, Op. 71: Overture; March; Journey through the Snow and Waltz of the Snowflakes; Divertissement—Chocolate, Coffee, Tea, Trepåk, Dance of the Mirlitons, The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe, Waltz of the Flowers; Pas de Deux; Variations and Coda; Final Waltz and Apotheosis. Phila delphia Orchestra, Eugene Ormandy cond. Columbia MS 6621 \$5.98, ML 6021 \$4.98.

Performance: Slick Recording: Fine Stereo Quality: Good

Issued singly from the three-disc set (M3S/ M3L 706) comprising highlights from each of the great Tchaikovsky ballets, this performance by Ormandy's Philadelphians offers about half the complete ballet score—which is to say all of the most celebrated dance episodes. From the standpoint of gorgeous sound and smooth playing, this disc surpasses all comparable competition. But if

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imagination and fire is wanted in greater measure, then one must turn to the Ansermet and Dorati versions. The fast tempo at which Ormandy takes the amusing Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe episode is only one of several points at which this recording falls short. I am happy to note, however, that Ormandy does include the delightful coda to the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy. normally omitted in the concert version of this piece. D. H.

S VERDI: Rigoletto. Robert Merrill (baritone). Rigoletto; Anna Moffo (soprano), Gilda; Alfredo Kraus (tenor), Duke of Mantua; Rosalind Elias (mezzosoprano), Maddalena; Ezio Flagello (bass), Sparafucile; David Ward (bass). Monterone; Piero de Palma (tenor), Borsa; Robert Kerns (baritone). Marullo: Mario Rinaudo (bass), Ceprano. RCA Italiana Opera Orchestra and Chorus. Georg Solti cond. RCA VICTOR LSC 7027 two 12-inch discs \$11.96, LM 7027\* \$9.96.

⑤ ⑧ VERDI: Rigoletto. Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau (baritone). Rigoletto; Renata Scotto (soprano). Gilda; Carlo Bergonzi (tenor). Duke of Mantua; Fiorenza Cossotto (mezzo-soprano), Maddalena; Ivo Vinco (bass), Sparafucile; Lorenzo Testi (baritone). Monterone; Piero de Palma (tenor). Borsa; Virgilio Carbonari (barftone). Marullo; Alfredo Giacomotti (bass), Ceprano. Orchestra and Chorus of La Scala Milan. Rafael Kubelik cond. DEUTSCHE GRAMMOPHON SLPM 138931/2/3 strz.94.





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#### Performance: Both flawed Recording: Both excellent

Both of these new versions of Verdi's *Rigoletto* are lavishly cast, brilliantly recorded, and elegantly packaged. But something akin to Monterone's curse must be haunting this opera. Although the catalog offers three outstanding versions of the problematic *Don Gior.unii*, the relatively undemanding *Rigoletto* still cludes ideal disc representation.

The over-all approach to these two new readings is radically different. Georg Solti tears into the music with blazing energy, and sustains an atmosphere of high tension throughout the entire performance. This is highly appropriate in the fiery and turbulent pages of the score, but elsewhere Solti's implacable reading overstates the musical case. Rafael Kubelik is no less responsive to the dramatic elements of the score, but he also responds to the lyrical moments with felicity. His treatment of the music is better proportioned, more relaxed, and more considerate of the singers. This means Kubelik has more respect for Verdi's total concept, for not even a modern view can regard Rigoletto as a "conductor's opera." In fact, all goes beautifully with Kubelik's reading until the last act, where his relaxation is carried a bit too far. By contrast, Solti manages to unleash a storm scene that recalls the famed Toscanini performance in its unrelenting fury. But the damage cannot be undone. The cast Solti has at his disposal would have given us a remarkable Rigoletto under a less willful conductor. So, even with the disappointing final act, I decidedly prefer Kubelik's to Solti's reading.

From the first notes uttered by the rascally, conniving jester in Act One, it is evident that Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau's Rigoletto for DGG is far above the ordinary run. This is, in fact, a portraval amazingly alive, very human, imposing in its emotional rangefrom high villainy to great tenderness-and replete with thoughtful and original interpretive nuances. But this is not a Verdian voice -one misses the richness, the sonority, the sense of tonal reserve, the characteristic Italian coloration, and the strain-free wealth of tone in the upper register. All of these are heard from Robert Merrill on the Victor set, topped off by an impeccable intonation that the German baritone, under extreme pressure, cannot sustain. For depth of characterization, Merrill does not match his German counterpart, but his is a perfectly respectable accomplishment within a narrower interpretive range. The natural richness and expressiveness of his voice act as tremendous compensating factors, and he holds to a minimum the melodramatic mannerisms of his current singing style. This Rigoletto ranks with Merrill's best work on records.

As between the two excellent Dukes, the palm goes to Carlo Bergonzi on DGG: his singing combines suavity with tonal warmth and unfailing musicianship. But his RCA counterpart, Alfredo Kraus, must not be judged unfairly. A graceful singer with a brilliant top register and an effortless style, he would undoubtedly give to the scenes of seduction an appropriately lyrical phrasing, were it not for the metronomic sameness of rhythm that Solti forces on him.

There is no real contest between the Gildas. Renata Scotto's competent but essentially uninteresting work is entirely over-(Continued on page 94)

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shadowed by Anna Moffo's sensitively drawn and delicately shaded portrayal, exquisite in its musical detail. The minor parts are excellently handled in both sets-the exceptionally fine Sparafucile of Ivo Vinco (DGG) and the Monterone of David Ward (RCA) rate special mention. Both orchestras are excellent. RCA Victor's chorus cannot always keep up with Solti's whiplike baton, and Kubelik, inexplicably, does not make the off-stage humming effects sound right in the storm scene of his lackluster final act.

Both recordings restore to the opera portions that are frequently slighted in staged performances. The RCA version is absolutely uncut, and DGG makes a very slight (but justifiable) cut in Act Two. Though RCA Victor offers a wider dynamic range and more immediacy, its accommodation of the opera on four sides results in frequent and sometimes annoying pre-echo. DGG's somewhat less spectacular sonics are flawlessly processed. G. I.

S NIVALDI: Concerto. in G Major, for Two Mandolins. Strings, and Organ; Concerto, in G Minor, for Flute, Bassoon, Strings, and Harpsichord ("La Notte"); Concerto, in A Major, for Strings and Harpsichord: Concerto, in G Minor, for Bassoon, Strings. and Harpsicbord: Concerto, in C Major, for Violin. Two Strings Choirs, and Two Harpsichords ("Per la SS. Assunzione di Maria Vergine"). Anton Ganoci and Ferdo Pavlinek (mandolins); Julius Baker (flute): Karl Hoffmann and Rudolf Klepač (bassoon); Jelka Stanic (violin); Herbert Tachezi and Daniel Thune

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(harpsichords); I Solisti di Zagreb, Antonio Janigro cond, VANGUARD BACH GUILD BGS 70665 \$5.95, BG 665 \$4.98.

Performance: Vigorous Recording: Topnotch Stereo Quality: Excellent

These "Concertos for Diverse Instruments," as Vanguard's album title calls them, present Vivaldi at his very best-the antiphonal C Major Concerto, the "La Notte" Concerto with its second-movement echoes of Autumn from the Four Seasons, and the effervescent double mandolin concerto. The playing of the Solisti di Zagreb is notable for its precision and dynamism, though one may feel that Antonio Janigro's approach to fast movements is a little too fast and vigorous. Stylistically, these performances are adequate but not the last word. Dotted rhythms, such as occur in the slow movement of the bassoon concerto or at the beginning of the C Major Concerto, should have been tightened, nor are all the ornaments treated correctly. Finally, the solo instrumental parts might have been embellished rather than being left bare. On the credit side are the excitement of the performances and the very imaginative harpsichord continuo, which is recorded perhaps a little too prominently for realistic balance. Vanguard's rather high-level recording is full-bodied, and the positioning of the solo instruments, especially the mandolins, is very effective in the stereo version. I. K.

WALTON: Concerto for Violin and Orchestra. Jascha Heifetz (violin); Philharmonia Orchestra, Sir William Walton cond. CASTELNUOVO-TEDESCO: Concerto No. 2 for Violin and Orchestra ("The Prophets"). Jascha Heifetz (violin); Los Angeles Philharmonic, Alfred Wallenstein cond. RCA VICTOR LM 2740 \$4.98.

#### Performance: Lustrous and impeccable Recording: Altogether satisfactory

Although William Walton's Violin Concerto probably seemed quite modern when Jascha Heifetz gave it its world premiere with Artur Rodzinski and the Cleveland Orchestra in 1939, it seems to us today to be graced by a remarkably ardent, even tender sort of romanticism. It would seem on the face of it that this composer's approach over the last twenty-five years is remarkably unchanged. But while an impeccable, shapely, sometimes rather chilly lyricism forms the stylistic basis for most of his more recent works, a return to the youthful Violin Concerto shows us that Walton's attitude toward his lyrical approach has changed. Listen, if you will, to Piatigorsky's stunning new recording for RCA Victor of the cello concerto of 1956. Already a craftsmanlike detachment hovers over the music. Its ambiance is essentially subjective and romantic, yet the composerwith all the expertise in the world-is simply going through the motions. His song is cloquent but his heart isn't in it.

But to revert to the violin concerto-a work I had not heard since my student days, when I admired it enormously-it holds its age very well indeed. The influence of Ravel lurks quietly in the background, and Walton's characteristically British penchant for exoticisms is in plain sight. Yet, despite the work's highly eclectic nature, the man's personality is constantly present-this large (Continued on page 96)

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concert piece may very well be the best he is ever to compose. Heifetz—for whom the work was written—plays it just about perfectly, and Walton's conducting is a good deal more varied and light-footed than it has been at other times in the recent past.

Although I am sure to be pronounced wrong by many readers. I find no merit in the Castelnuovo-Tedesco concerto save the skill that has gone into its manufacture. Anyone, anywhere—or for that matter no one, nowhere—could have written it to demonstrate a fact that we are all very well acquainted with by now, namely, that Jascha Heifetz can play the violin, both fast and slow, and in tune.

I have no complaint with the recorded sound in either work. W', F.

 WALTON: Cello Concerto.
 BLOCH: Schelomo, Gregor Piatigorsky (cello); Boston Symphony Orchestra,



NED ROREM

Charles Munch cond. RCA VICTOR LSC 2109 \$5.98, LM 2109 \$4.98.

#### Performance: Electrifying Recording: Fine

It would be all but impossible to deny that Piatigorsky's succulent, virtuoso performance of Bloch's *Schelomo* is the epitome of the great cellist's manner. His tone is all plush and gold, his phrases are long and flawlessly shaped, and his grasp of the work as a formal entity—no matter how tree the given moment—is certain and unassailable. Piatigorsky and Munch, furthermore, set each other off like caviar and champagne. It is most assuredly not the only way to do this work —nor the best way—but the collaboration here is triumphant.

I wish I could work up at least a small enthusiasm for Walton's cello concerto. But unlike the not dissimilar violin concerto that precedes it by just over fifteen years, it seems stale. It would, to be sure, be difficult to fault the work on paper, but then we all know that Sir William can compose impeccably. But that something extra—even a little of it—is missing in this piece. If the work fails, it seems unlikely that it could be due to the Messrs. Piatigorsky or Munch, who are here, as in *Schelomo*, at peak form. And RCA's recorded sound is splendid in every way. IV. F.

#### COLLECTIONS

HUGUES CUENOD: French and English Songs of the Sixteenth and Seventcenth Centuries: Certon: Psaume 150. Le Roy: Psaume 50. Créquillon: Quand me sourient. Attaignant: Tant que titra). Besard: En quelque lieu: La voila: Eenn yeux. Dowland: Flow my tears: I saw my lady weep. Bartlett: W'ben from my love: A pretty duck there was: W'bat thing is love? Pilkington: Rest, sweei nymphs. Morley: It was a lover. Hugues Cuenod (tenor): Hermann Leeb (lute). WESTMINSTER W 9620 \$4.98.

D HUGUES CUENOD: German Songs of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance: Isaak: Innsbruck ich muss dich lassen. Vogelweide: Palestinalied: Wie soll ich den gemynnen. Schlick: Mein Maid ich hab dich auserwelt: Maria zart. Sachs: Silberweise. Anon.; Entlawbet ist der Walde.



CHARLES WUORINEN

Senfl: Ewiger Gott. Folz: Kettenton. Albert: Mem schönes Leib: and nine others. Hugues Cuenod (tenor); Hermann Leeb (lute). WESTMENSTER W 9621 \$4.98.

Performance: Expert Recording: Smooth and warm

Hugues Cuenod's clear, cool tones are ideal for these fascinating collections of early music, now returned to circulation after some years in limbo (they were previously listed as Westminster 18848 and 18653). The German sequence ranges from Walther von der Vogelweide's (c. 1200) unaccompanied Minnelieder through Hans Sachs and Hans Folz, both immortalized in Wagner's Die Meistersinger, to Heinrich Albert (d. 1651). Its contents run the gamut from devotional hymns to Senfl's vulgar ditty (Die Weyber mit den Flöhen) about a plague of fleas that give the womenfolk a hard time. Sacred and secular elements alternate, too, in the French group, but in the English section the latter predominate.

Cuenod's self-effacing artistry and impeccable diction in all three languages compensate for a lack of sensuousness in his tones. For the most part, the music lies comfortably for him, and only seldom is he compelled to reach the limits of his range. There are two extended lute solos on the French-English disc—Robert de Visée's longish Suite in D and Dowland's *Fantasy*, the latter a knottily contrapuntal piece that Leeb, whose accompaniments are neat and tasteful, cannot quite manage to unravel.

Interested listeners will undoubtedly find much pleasure in this pair of discs, though others may find the programs exhausting for a single sitting. Both records are endowed with sound of warmth and clarity. *G. J.* 

#### RECORDING OF SPECIAL MERIT

Image: Contract Co



ULYSSES KAY

Maureen Forrester (contralto); Franz Holetschek (harpsichord); Vienna State Opera Orchestra and Vienna Academy Chamber Choir, Robert Zeller cond. WESTMINSTER WST 17074 \$4.98. XWN 19074 \$4.98.

Performance: Outstanding Recording: Excellent Stereo Quality: Well-defined

Unlike many of her contemporaries, Maureen Forrester has fully earned the right to her contralto billing. Her voice is pure velvet in all registers, and she needs no "gear-shifting" to descend to the lower half of her range. The artistry that fortunately complements these exceptional vocal gifts has long been evident in recitals and oratorio. The present disc is described as her "operatic bow," and it is immensely impressive.

The artist is perfectly attuned to her material here—everything is sung with the appropriate classic repose, a firm, full tone, purity of line, and unfailing musicality. Although Miss Forrester is in complete technical command of this challenging music, there is no evidence of showiness in her singing—even a piece of obvious bravura writing such as Mozart's "Non più di fiori" is handled with a self-effacing, effortless musicianship. But of course the artist's technical equipment, her security, and her accuracy in ornamentation and passagework are too formidable not to be noticed. My small reservations are extramusical: Miss Forrester's Italian enunciation could stand improvement—two words, in fact, are badly mispronounced.

The program is an appealing combination of the familiar and the unexpected. The Purcell excerpts belong to the latter category, even the often-heard "When I am laid in earth," for here it is immediately followed by the chorus "With drooping wings," as it is in the opera proper. This instance of conscientious musicality is one of the many distinctions of the disc's production. Robert Zeller's well-paced and nicely proportioned direction, the high quality of the orchestral playing, and the richness and clarity of both recorded versions complete the list of commendable factors. *G. J.* 

S FOUR CONTEMPORARY CHO-RAL WORKS: Rorem: Two Psalms and a

BROADCAST MUSIC INC.



WILLIAM FLANAGAN

Proterb (1962): Wuorinen: The Prayer of Jonah (1962): Kay: Choral Triptych (1962): Flanagan: Chapters from Ecclesiastes (1962). King's Chapel Choir; Cambridge Festival Strings, Daniel Pinkham cond. CAMBRIDGE CRS 1416 \$5.98, CR 416 \$4.98.

Performance: Conscientious Recording: Rather dry Stereo Quality: Satisfactory

All four of the American works on this disc were commissioned by Daniel Pinkham for Boston's King's Chapel Choir, of which he is director, under the terms of a Ford Foundation grant for choral directors, Like the Foundation's efforts some years ago to encourage composition and performance of new American operas, a 1962 program was undertaken to encourage the composition and performance of music for church and synagogue that would lie within the capabilities of a good amateur choir and within the means of congregations that could supply a few instruments for purposes of accompaniment. In Mr. Pinkham's instance, it was decided to stick to four-part choral writing with string quinter assisted by optional vocal soloists.

This reviewer heard these pieces in a March 1964 concert in New York under Mr. Pinkham's direction, and then as now

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Mahler: Symphony No. 9. A passionate and turbulent, yet subtle and nostalgic interpretation that evolves into a definitive statement of Mahler's symphonic method. Hailed by Berlin music critics as "...the finest Mahler heard in a decade." The Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Sir John Barbirolli. (SB-3652)

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Brahms: Sextet No. 1 in B Flat Major, Op. 18. A composition of varying moods -langorous, tumultuous, noble, intense -captured on this recording through the fertile collaboration of six distinguished artists. Menuhin, Masters, Aronowitz, Wallfisch, Gendrou, Simpson. (S-36234)

Beethoven: Sonata No. 5 in C minor, Op. 10 No. 1; Sonata No. 6 in F Major, Op. 10 No. 2; and Sonata No. 7 in D Major, Op. 10 No. 3. (COLH 53) Beethoven: Sonata No. 8 in C Minor, Op. 13 ("Pathétique"); Sonata No. 9 in E Major, Op. 14 No. 1 and Sonata No. 10 in G Major, Op. 14 No. 2. (COLH 54)

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Maggie Teyte – Volume II. Timeless performances by the English soprano whose name has become synonymous with the French Art Song. (A Great Recordings of the Century Album, in mono only.) (COLH 138)

**Bécaud: Opéra d'Aran.** The only recording of an opera with an Irish setting, composed by a Frenchman. The bleak islands of Aran provide the background for a conflict between illusion and reality, between love and loneliness. Acclaimed by Francis Poulenc as "...highly successful...marvelous," Carteri, Misciano, Gottlieb, Choeurs du Conservatoire, and the Orchestre de la Société des Concerts du Conservatoire conducted by Georges Prètre. (SCL-3637)

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-after going through the recorded performances several times-I find my reactions decidedly mixed. The Ned Rorem work is distinctive in its transparent part-writing and in its quiet intensity of expression. The precocious Charles Wuorinen, in his Prayer of Ionab, has written the most stylistically adventurous work on the disc-music that is highly dramatic in substance and original in execution. Ulysses Kay's Choral Triptych hews closest to what is now considered to be the traditional American style, and yet, as choral writing, it is the most effective in vocal layout (it was the only one of these four works to receive a warm audience response at the concert last March). Even so, the final fugal-textured Alleluia seems a bit strung out. Flanagan's piece from Ecclesiastes is for the most part a broody chromatic affair, written with great skill and sensitivity, and presaging stylistic development away from the Copland-like flavor of his earlier work.

The recorded performances reflect a great deal of care on Daniel Pinkham's part, but I wish the sonics had been more live. The combination of rather dry acoustics and the generally monochromatic coloration inherent in chamber-string accompaniment tends to lend an over-all gray hue to the musical proceedings as a whole. I noted this latter factor also at the concert in New York, and remarked to my companion that the project might have been more interesting if the composers had been allowed to use brass or woodwinds for accompaniment rather than string quintet. Herein, I feel, lies one reason for the unfortunately limited success of what has been a most worthy experiment-one that should be continued under conditions of greater scope and variety. D.H.

(S) (B) STRAVINSKY CONDUCTS BAL-LET MUSIC. Stravinsky: Jen de Cartes: Scènes de Ballet. Tchaikovsky: Bluebird Pas de Deux. Cleveland Orchestra, CBC Symphony, Columbia Symphony Orchestra, Igor Stravinsky cond. COLUMBIA MS 6649 \$5.98, ML 6049 \$4.98.

Performance: Authentic Recording: Good Stereo Quality: Satisfactory

The over-all title of this record—"Stravinsky Conducts Ballet Music"-could, considering the composer's compositional output for the dance, mean anything from Le Sucre du printemps to Apollon Musagite, or from Agon to the more than mildly fatuous Scines de Ballet heard on this disc. Perhaps, on second thought, I am too hard on the latter. I remember so well how, in my student days, the Stravinsky fan club greeted its every cadence with awe-struck reverence-including the Big Tune in the pas de deux, which would make Max Steiner in his Warner Brothers prime turn red with shame, Stravinsky, in his liner notes, bears out my judgment of it by saying that it "now sounds to me (pardon the pleonasm) like bad movie music.

Still, the piece has its moments, including a fairly good Apotheosis typical of the period. And we must never, of course, forget the work's origin: the result of a commission from Billy Rose for a pre-Ed Sullivan highbrow Broadway variety show. Perhaps the aspect of *Scènes de Ballet* that will be best remembered is the anecdote connected with it that Stravinsky repeats in his liner notes. Rose, upon receiving the score, sent the following telegram to Stravinsky to the Stravinsky who just happens to be one of the great orchestrators of our century and in the history of music: YOUR MUSIC GREAT SUCCESS STOP COULD BE SENSATIONAL IF YOU WOULD AUTHORIZE ROBERT RUSSELL BENNETT RETOUCH ORCHESTRATION STOP BENNETT ORCHESTRATES EVEN THE WORKS OF COLE PORTER.

Stravinsky telegraphed back rather more succinctly: SATISFIED WITH GREAT SUCCESS.

The remainder of the release carries Jeu de Cartes—one of Stravinsky's most winning and effervescent lighter works—and his own small-orchestra arrangement of the Bluebird Pas de Deux from Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty. Both are delightful, and it would be missing the point of Columbia's documentation of Stravinsky's complete Stravinsky to



JOHN WHIJIAMS Dazzling virtuosity

suggest that there have been versions of *Jeu de Cartes* that are even more full of fun and sparkle than the present one.

The performances, obviously, are authentic, and the recorded sound is fine, IP, F,

#### RECORDING OF SPECIAL MERIT

⑤ ● JOHN WILLIAMS: Guitar Recital, Bach (arr. Williams): Fourth Lute Suite, Albéniz: Sevilla, Tarrega: Recuerdos de la Albambra, Turina: Fandanguillo: Soleares: Rafaga, Llobet (arr.): El Testamen de Amelia, Ponce: Scherzino Mexicano, Sagreras: El Colibri, John Williams (guitar). COLUMBIA MS 6608 \$5.98, ML 6008\* \$4.98.

Performance: Dazzling Recording: Outstanding

John Williams, a fabulously gifted Australian and former pupil of Andrés Segovia, made a group of recordings about five years ago, at the age of eighteen, that demonstrated his already brilliant technique and absolute control of his instrument. The intervening years have brought his artistry to a higher level of expressiveness and personal communication. There are many fine guitarists before the public today, but I doubt very much that any of them can match the virtuosity John Williams displays on this record.

The Bach piece is a transcription of the Partita No. 3 in E Major for unaccompanied violin. It seems (according to the liner notes of Kay Jaffee) that Bach left a manuscript of the Partita, dating from 1737. with certain alterations that suggest the lute as the performing instrument. Williams' transcription is apparently based on this manuscript. It introduces minor changes-bass notes added to fill out implied harmonies, chords extended in certain cadences, and the like. The result is that what is known as one of the cornerstones of violin literature emerges as a masterpiece just as perfectly suited for the guitar. For this, however, the performer must take the credit-absolutely dazzling discipline and dexterity, plus sensitivity in accent and phrasing.

The "encore" portion of the program consists of very attractive pieces, every one of them superbly played. And the extraneous noises that sensitive microphones often pick up in recording the solo guitar have been held to an unobtrusive level here. Whether this is thanks to the artist's wizardry or to Columbia's superior engineering 1 cannot say. What 1 can say is that the disc is an exceptional accomplishment in every way. G. L (S) ● NICANOR ZABALETA: Music for the Harp, Bach: Suite for Hurp, after the Violin Parita No. 3 (BWV 1006a). Handel: Variations in G Minor. Corelli: Sonata in D Minor (arr. by Czerny after the Sonata for Violin and Continuo. Op. 5, No. 7). Spohr: Variations for Harp on "Je suis encore dans mon printemps." Op. 36. Fauré: "Une châtelaine en sa tour." Op. 110. Mateo Albéniz: Sonata in D Major. Isaac Albéniz: Malagueña. Op. 165. No. 3. Nicanor Zabaleta (harp). DEUTSCHE GRAMMOPHON SLPM 138890 \$5.98. LPM 38890\* \$5.98.

Performance: Best in later works Recording: First-rate

Nicanor Zabaleta's technically deft playing is heard to best advantage here in the interpretations of the nineteenth- and twentiethcentury repertoire, in which no problems of stylistic awareness intrude. Thus, in the brief Fauré piece, in the salon-like Spohr variations, in Zabaleta's adaptation of the keyboard Malagueña, and in the late eighteenthcentury sonata by an earlier Albéniz, the harpist shows a wide range of color and a brilliance of execution. This part of the collection is extremely enjoyable.

When it comes to Bach, Handel, and Corelli, however, these assets are not enough. The Corelli. arranged for harp by Karl Czerny, is Baroque music heard from the viewpoint of a plush nineteenth-century sofa; the Handel, first published in Vienna in 1826 (sic), does not fare much better-my feeling is that it is either spurious or thirdrate Handel. The disc's longest work, an eighteenth-century arrangement of Bach's third violin partita for either keyboard or harp, reveals the harpist's stylistic shortcomings perhaps most obviously: not only are almost every one of the many ornaments treated incorrectly, but Zabaleta seems less interested in the dance-movement form of this piece than in trying to achieve rippling effects of sound that are far better suited to the later repertoire. DGG's sound is very good. 1. K.

FEBRUARY 1965

Grammophon Gesellschaft

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Reviewed by JOE GOLDBERG • NAT HENTOFF • GENE LEES

#### RECORDING OF SPECIAL MERIT

S CLARE FISCHER: Plays Antonio Carlos Jobim and Clare Fischer, Clare Fischer (piano); Dennis Budimir (guitar); Bobby West (bass); Colin Bailey (drums). Desafinado; Pensatira; Amor Em Paz; One Note Samba; and six others. WORLD PACIFIC WPS 1830\* \$4.98, WP 1830 \$3.98.

#### Performonce: Superb Recording: Excellent

Clare Fischer is a gifted musician of astonishing versatility—to my mind the most talented arranger of the post-Gil Evans generation. A Verve album of Duke Ellington tunes that Fischer did for Dizzy Gillespie is a classic of fine scoring and poor orchestral execution. Fischer became so admired as an arranger that when, on a piano disc for World Pacific, he turned out to be every bit as good an instrumentalist as he is a writer, eyebrows shot up all over the music world. Later, it became known that he plays several other instruments, including saxophone, quite well.

Fischer went at bossa nova in his timetested fashion: he took it apart. He studied the escuela do samba from which the samba came. (Incidental to these efforts he learned Portuguese.) He broke bossa nova down into its components and pondered them, lifeless on his laboratory table. Then he put the whole thing back together and lo! it lived, breathed, sang, and celebrated.

Though Fischer has been heard in bossa nova before-on a Cal Tjader Verve disc. for one-this is the first all-bossa nova disc he has done on piano. It pushes into the background everything else in the idiom recorded in this country, possibly-but only possibly-excepting Antonio Carlos Jobim's Verve disc. Fischer's playing is full of light, warmth, beauty of tone, and harmonic omniscience. It glows softly from within. His prodigious technique is held in check, creeping in only occasionally, and then always at the service of the music. Guitarist Dennis Budimir is excellent, bassist Bobby West is very good, and British drummer Colin Bailey is the only non-Brazilian I've heard who's really got the hang of the thing. Technical man Dick Bock has provided superb sound, John William Hardy's liner

#### Explanation of symbols:

- **(3)** = stereophonic recording
- 0 = monophonic recording
- \* = mono or stereo version not received for review

notes are a model of clarity, helpfulness, and literate sympathy for the music and the artist. The tunes include seven by Jobim and three by Fischer. G.L.

Image: Second State S



CLARE FISCHER Versatile arranger-instrumentalist

Sahib Shihab, Tubby Hayes, and Lennart Jansson (saxophones); Heinz Bigler (clarinet); Pierre Cavalli (guitar); Jimmy Woode (bass); Mel Lewis (drums). COLUMBIA CS 9051 \$4.98, CL 2251\* \$3.98.

Performance: Ambiguous Recording: Fair Sterea Quality: Okay

The Austrian pianist Friedrich Gulda has had a very curious career. He has been both a concert and a jazz pianist, and more recently a baritone saxophonist. He is probably as well known for his verbal young-Turk manifestos as for his music.

This disc consists of two pieces for jazz orchestra and piano soloist that Mr. Gulda has written. The first, called *Music for Piano*  and Band, is actually a three-movement piano concerto in the standard form of fast, slow, and faster sections. But Mr. Gulda has decided that "concerto" has become too pretentious a word for his purposes. There is also a lengthy one-movement piece intriguingly titled *The Veiled Old Land*.

There are several soloists besides Mr. Gulda two of whom should be singled out here: clarinetist Heinz Bigler, and guitarist Pierre Cavalli, who played the Django Reinhardt part in a lovely record Stephane Grappelly made for Atlantic a few years ago.

But the main interest lies in Mr. Gulda's playing and composing. The latter cannot be judged quite as well as I would like. since the engineers have given the orchestra a muddy sound. But it takes its place in the same nebulous area as the large orchestra pieces of Dave Brubeck and his brother, and like these, it is most effective in the romantic slow movement. As for playing, Gulda has massive technical equipment, a lovely touch, and a jazz style that owes much to Horace Silver, Lennie Tristano, and Bill Evans, but he switches back and forth disconcertingly between this and nearly straight classical playing. Gulda and his compositions are fascinating, ambiguous hybrids, unlikely to start new trends. This recording is neither excellent jazz nor as good as the best thirdstream pieces. 1. G.

⑤ ⑧ LES McCANN: McCanna. Les McCann (piano), Victor Gaskin (bass), Paul Humphries (drums), Willie Correa (bongo and conga drums, timbales). St. James Infirmary: Que Rico: Falling in Love With Love: Nairobi Nights; and five others. PACIFIC JAZZ. S 84\* \$4.98. 84 \$4.98.

Performance: Monochromatic Recording: Good

As a straight jazz pianist, Les McCann has long since revealed his narrowness of rhythmic and harmonic imagination. He's also a very limited melodist. The addition of a Latin percussionist in this set does not preserve McCann's performances from banality. Willie Correa, the percussionist, is a consistenily enlivening presence, but since Mc-Cann takes the foreground most of the time, the over-all effect is one of monotony. Inspired by meeting performers at the New York World's Fair African Pavilion, McCann has included a number of new originals with such titles as Zulu. Basuto Baby, and Nairobi Nights. In these even the promise of exoticism is not fulfilled, and the performances are just as predictable as the others. N.H.

(Continued on page 104)

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CIRCLE NO. 25 ON READER SERVICE CARD



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CIRCLE NO. 41 ON READER SERVICE CARD

LALO SCHIFRIN: *New Fantasy* (see Best of Month, page 76)

© OSCAR PETERSON: Plays My Fair Lady. Oscar Peterson (piano), Ray Brown (bass), Gene Gammage (drums). Wouldn't It Be Loverly; The Rain in Spain; I've Grown Accustomed to Her Face; Show Me: and three others. VERVE V 68581 \$5.98, V 8581\* \$4.98.

Performance: Superficial Recording: Acceptable Stereo Quality: Fair

It is easy to fault Oscar Peterson for his glib superficiality-it is often done-but the charge has seldom been more pertinent than it is here, in this collection of seven songs from My Fair Lady. The album is a reissue of one made several years ago, during the brief period between the time guitarist Herb Ellis left Peterson's trio and the time drummer Ed Thigpen joined it. The interim replacement was drummer Gene Gammage, and because of his own limitations or Peterson's uncertainty with the new instrument behind him, Gammage stays quietly and perfunctorily out of the way, just keeping time. The album was probably an answer to the Shelly Manne-André Previn Fair Lady that soon made jazz versions of Broadway scores a staple a&r idea, but the Previn set is far more interesting-even though Previn is by no means my favorite piano player.

On fast tunes, Peterson plays what lies under his fingers, and on the slow ones including a strange Show Me with the bridge oddly harmonized—he gives us mostly cocktail sentimentality. This is one of Peterson's poorest outings. No matter which side of this project appeals to you the music or the musician—you can do much better. J. G.

LEE WILEY: The One and Only Lee Wiley (see Best of Month, page 77)

⑤ ● JACK WILSON: The Two Sides of Jack Wilson. Jack Wilson (piano). Philly Jo Jones (drums). Leroy Vinnegar (bass). Glass Enclosure; Kinta: Sometime Ago: The End of a Love Affair: and four others. ATLANTIC S 1427 \$5.98, 1427\* \$4.98.

Performance: Skillful Recording: Excellent Stereo Quality: First-rate

Jack Wilson's second album as a leader is divided into "the fast side" and "the slow side." On the first, he improvises fluid, uncluttered melodic lines while swinging smoothly. Yet there is little indication of individuality in his conception, nor does he communicate emotional urgency. Wilson's playing is highly efficient, but has only moderate impact. On the ballad numbers, he is often attractively impressionistic, but here too the playing is mostly over the surface of the emotions. In sum, Mr. Wilson's jazz, whether fast or slow, so far lacks depth. Throughout, Leroy Vinnegar is a big-toned, solidly propulsive bassist. But the main value of the album is in the work of drummer Philly Jo Jones. Crisply stimulating on the more rhythmically challenging numbers, he is provocatively subtle on the ballads.

As a composer, Jack Wilson is represented by two originals, neither of which is likely to be long remembered. He does, however, reveal superior taste in the other numbers he has selected—most notably Bud Powell's *Glass Enclosive* and three delightful ballads by Michel Legrand, Sergio Mihanovich, and Sacha Distel. As yet, however, his playing does not match his ability as a programmer. N. H.

#### COLLECTIONS

● THE JAZZ STORY. Volume One: Original Dixieland Jazz Band, Leadbelly, Zutty Singleton's Creoles, Cora and Sallie Martin, Eddie Miller's Octet, Sharkcy Bonano, Lizzie Miles, Armand Hug's Jazzmen, Wingy Manone's Band, Ray Bauduc and Nappy Lamare, Louis Armstrong (vocals and instrumentals). Barnyard Blues; Backwater Blues; Satisfied: Sugar: and eight others. Volume Two: Phil Napoleon's Memphis Five, Blue Lu Barker, Red Nichols and His Pennies, Jimmie Noone, Frankie



Lizzie Miles Heard again in Capitol's "Jazz Story"

Trumbauer, Julia Lee and Her Boy Friends, Capitol Jazzmen, Joshua Johnson, Ray Turner, Johnny Hodges, Earl Hines, Bobby Hackett (vocals and instrumentals), When the Wagon Comes: I Was Wrong: The Entertainer's Rag: Struttin' with Some Barbecue: and eight others. Volume Three: Joe Venuti and Eddie Lang. Duke Ellington, Fats Waller, The Chocolate Dandies, Gene Krupa's Chicagoans, Pete Daily's Chicagoans, Fletcher Henderson, Big Sid Catlett, Joe Sullivan, Bunny Berigan's Blue Boys (vocals and instrumentals). Pink Elephants; Three Little Words: I Never Knew: I'm Coming, Virginia; and eight others, Volume Four: The Casa Loma Band, Billie Holiday and Paul Whiteman, Art Tatum Trio, Duke Ellington, Don Byas, Cootie Williams, Benny Goodman. Benny Carter, Bob Crosby, Jimmie Lunceford-Billy May, Django Reinhardt, Harry James (vocals and instrumentals). Casa Loma Stomp; Blue and Sentimental; Maryland. My Maryland: Nuages: and eight others. Volume Five: Kenny Clarke, Tadd Dameron, Woody Herman, George Shearing, Jimmy Giuffre, Dizzy Gillespie and the All-Stars, James Moody's Boptet, Miles Davis, Gerry Mulligan, Cannonball Adderley, Stan Kenton, Joe Harriott (vocals and instrumentals). John's Delight; Finger Snapper; Taking a Chance on Love: Commencement;

and eight others. CAPITOL 2137/38/39/40/ .41 five 12-inch discs \$24.98.

#### Performance: Seldom outstanding Recording: Poor to excellent

Capitol Records executive Dave Dexter is a former *Down Beat* editor and an occasional jazz historian. His most recent book is *The Jazz Story* (Prentice-Hall), and to complement its publication, he has assembled this five-volume survey of jazz from 1919 to the present.

In addition to previously released Capitol sides, most of which have not been available for some time, Dexter has resurrected a few unissued Capitol masters along with some performances from the vaults of EMI, the British-based parent firm of Capitol. Some of these last-named recordings are being released for the first time in America, and some have not been in the active catalog for many years. Generally, the quality of the recorded sound is characteristic of the time of recording, from the tinny 1919 Barnyard Blues by the Original Dixieland Jazz Band to the excellently recorded Capitol big-band jazz of the past decade.

As a whole, the collection is a disappointment. Part of its lack of substance is owing to the limitations of the Capitol label in the jazz field, and part to Dexter's uneven taste. There are, to be sure, many skillful, relaxed performances, but there are very few that possess the extra quality one expects in a historical project with so formidable a price tag.

In the first volume, only Leadbelly's Backwater Blues and two ingratiating ballads by Louis Armstrong are first-rate (there is also a lusty blues track by Lizzie Miles). Volume Two is of more interest because of a rarc track by the sinuous blues singer Blue Lu Barker, a moving Blues Jumped the Rabbit by Jimmie Noone and sensitive trumpeter Guy Kelly, a mellow blues by Julia Lee, a caressing Jack Teagarden ballad performance, and the compelling piano of Earl Hines. The rest of this disc, however, is undistinctive.

Volume Three also has its moments, supplied principally by the 1933 Duke Ellington orchestra, Fats Waller, Bunny Berigan, and Coleman Hawkins' surging saxophone in Fletcher Henderson's It's the Talk of the Tourn. The fourth album is dominated by Billie Holiday's Travelin' Light. which is superb despite the Paul Whiteman accompaniment. Also substantial are a trio number by Art Tatum, a Duke Ellington train song (Happy-Go-Lucky Local), a robust Blue and Sentimental by Don Byas, and a glowing Django Reinhardt track. Weakest of all is the fifth disc, which reveals how limited a backlog of durable modern jazz is available to Capitol. Only Miles Davis' Moon Dreams and an airy Gerry Mulligan performance are particularly memorable, although Joe Harriott's experimental Shadows is provocative.

In summary, there are just about enough distinguished performances here to make up two twelve-inch records, so the five-disc set cannot be recommended. Also worth noting is that, unlike the meticulous Frank Driggs, who handles Columbia's reissue series, Dexter has not provided full personnel and exact recording dates on all tracks. Too much of his commentary in the notes, moreover, is adman's prose, revealing little besides his own enthusiasm. N. H.



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"When you go into a discotheque," says Killer Joe Piro, the world famous dance instructor whose students include famous celebrities, "the music should just force you to dance. It should knock you right out of your seat."

of your seat." To enable everyone to enjoy authentic discotheque dancing at home or at parties, Enoch Light and Killer Joe Piro have pooled their special knowledge and skills to create this unusual record — a record which contains on its two sides the perfection of sound and beat combined with variety of styles that a professional disquaire could only find by pouring through dozens of discs.

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At the heart of this new type of dance band is a rhythm section designed to provide all the primitive power that any dancer can cope with. Because guitars are the most important element in modern popular music a group of three guitars forms the core of the band — a solo guitar (played by Tony Mottola), a rhythm guitar (Al Casamente) and a bass guitar (Bucky Pizzarelli). Gathered around the guitars, supplementing and implementing their rhythmic and melodic potential are two drummers (Osie Johnson and Bob Rosengarden), a bass (Bob Haggart) and organ (Dick Hyman). These are the essentials of a discotheque dance band.

But to bring even more drive and excitement to these performances and to expand the fullness of the discotheque sound to the most vivid proportions, Enoch Light has backed up this basic group of instrumentalists with an eight-man brass section and an expanded saxophone section.

In addition to the Sound, the Beat CIRCLE NO. 13 ON READER SERVICE CARD



and the Dances, there is one other essential for a proper discotheque: the music MUST be continuous. One tune leads directly into the next so that there is never a let-down, never a pause in the hypnotic continuity of beat and sound.

All the musical elements for a discotheque — the Sound, the Beat and the Continuity — have been brought together on this recording with absolute authenticity by Enoch Light. All you have to do is enjoy the dances.

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⑤ JOHNNY KEATING: The Keating Sound. Orchestra, Johnny Keating cond. Speak Low; Samba d'Orfée; For All We Know; Everything Happens to Me; and eight others. LONDON SP 44058 \$5.98, LL 3400\* \$3.98.

Performance: Flashy Recording: Excellent Stereo Quality: Impressive

Stan Kenton's experiments of the 1940's ended in sterile pretension, and therefore few writers have followed up the genuinely exciting leads he and his arrangers contributed to the art of big-band orchestration. But I can think of two who are currently making intelligent use of Kentonisms—better use, in fact, than Kenton did. One is Lalo Schifrin; the other is Johnny Keating. Keating and Robert Farnon are to my mind the best orchestrators in England.

Keating's excellent charts have been heard behind singers on LP's by London and other labels. This is the first disc I've heard devoted entirely to his scoring. Keating, who writes superbly for strings but eschews them in this album, uses a twenty-seven-man band. The album is a sound-for-sound's-sake disc, meant to show off London's Phase 4 Stereo, which supplements the company's ffrr. Maybe they should call it Pb4ffrr, which sounds like a Ferrari going by, and would further confuse guys like me who don't know a 191/2-track Framex tape recorder from next Tuesday. However, I do know that sound recording in England is pulling ahead of our own, partly because the English engineers seem to be more meticulous than ours. Gimmicked though it is, I like the sound on this record. When Phase 4 settles into non-show-off recording, London could have just about the best sound being offered by any label.

The hero of this session, however, is Keating, who has in effect been asked to write a bad-taste album to show off *Pb4ffrr* but has failed the assignment by writing in good taste much of the way. One of his originals, *Bagbdad Blues*, is cornily offensive at first—hootchie-kootchie music. But then you realize it's a put-on, and an understated British put-on at that, and it becomes

Explanation of symbols:

- Sector Stereophonic recording
- monophonic recording
- \* = mono or stereo version
- not received for review

pretty funny. I didn't care for his *The Engulfed Cathedral* at first either, and I still much prefer to hear the Debussy original. But the way Keating has adapted it to brass is bound to command respect from anyone who cares for good orchestration.

Samba d'Orfée-Luiz Bonfá's other theme from Black Orpheus-swings powerfully with Kentonish trombones. The point is that it does swing, something Kenton's band



JOHNNY KEATING His taste shows off Phase 4

rarely did. Leroy Anderson's Serenata is beautifully done in a sort of neo-Roseland style.

There is wonderful detail in all of Keating's scoring. For example, the opening track, *Listen*, contains a passage in which the upper brass enters screaming; from around a corner comes the middle brass to play a descending and ascending passage; then the two choirs meet in a harsh tone-cluster that sounds like a collision between a truck full of tuning forks and another full of plate glass. The effect is marvelous.

The orchestra's musicianship is impeccable. We could record this cleanly in this country, but our orchestras don't rehearse in advance —they put a chart together on the record date, while the clock ticks ominously. The album is almost entirely ensemble, though there are a few brief trumpet solos. They're good, but very Miles Davis-derived. When will the English record producers realize that the freshest and most interesting trumpet soloist in England is Ken Wheeler?

I hesitate to recommend this album because I dislike audio ostentation. But Phase 4 is indeed promising, and Keating is a fabulously good writer whose work deserves wide: notice. G.L.

(S) (MORGANA KING: The Winter of My Discontent. Morgana King (vocals); orchestra, Larry Clinton cond. The Winter of My Discontent; Your House; Who Can I Turn To; and nine others. Ascot ALS 16014 \$4.98, AL 16014 \$3.98.

Performonce: Limp Recording: Flat Stereo Quolity: Good

There are many reprehensible practices in the record business. Here is one that particularly bugs performers: a company will record an artist, then not issue his (her, in this case) record. She goes on to build a successful career, with no help whatsoever from the company, and eventually gets a hit record with some other label. The first label will then issue the earlier recording to cash in on her current success and its attendant publicity. The record, being inferior by the artist's present standards, does her reputation great damage-it may even take the edge off her current success. There have been lawsuits over this little trick, and not too long ago a famous folk singer had such a disc removed from the market.

This release is a result of that practice. It never should have been issued. Morgana King, who has in recent years evolved into a technically astonishing performer, is hot these days. She has a hit album going for her on the Mainstream label and, after years of neglect, lots of night-club work. United Artists—the parent company of the Ascot label—has issued this disc, made up entirely of Alec Wilder tunes, to capitalize on a success they didn't help her make. To compound the sin, the company doesn't bother to tell you the record was made seven years ago, leaving you with the impression that it is an example of her current work.

Miss King's work today is infinitely superior to what is on this disc. The seeds of the style she was to develop were already there when it was made—great range, an oddly pure and almost operatic sound, superbly subtle control, and an instrumental style of delivery—but the imagination that is her chief characteristic today had not yet come into her work.

Among the other things the album notes

don't bother to tell you is the name of the arranger. The writing for the small group backing her is lifeless, unimaginative, dreary. On checking, 1 found that Larry Clinton wrote the charts.

If you want to hear what Morgana King sounds like—and you *should* hear this woman—get her Mainstream recording. But skip this one. You'll be doing her and yourself a big favor. G.L.

RECORDING OF SPECIAL MERIT

© EDITH PIAF: The Definitive Piaf. Edith Piaf (vocals); various accompaniments. La Foule: Milord; Boulevard du Crime; Comme Moi; Avant Nous; Le Vieux Piano; and sixteen others. CAPITOL STBL 2193\* two 12-inch discs \$10.98, TBL 2193 \$8.98.

Performance: Electric Recording: Variable

What emerges from these twenty-two performances is the love of life, the standing up and challenging the world to knock her down again, that made Edith Piaf's performances almost exalting experiences. At the time of Piaf's death, Martin Williams compared her to Billie Holiday, and it is a point worth repeating. Like Miss Holiday, when Piaf sang an indifferent or even poor song it gained stature. *Poor People of Paris* is a good example. And you might be surprised to hear the ominous feeling she gets from *Black Denim Trousers and Motorcycle Boots*. For a real clue to Piaf's greatness. you might compare her version of *1f You* 



KAYE BALLARD A visit to the outrageous Cole Porter

Love Me with the one by Kay Starr that was so popular here.

Despite the fact that Piaf used corny bands, echo chambers, and all the other commercial appurtenances, whatever she sang she sang with indomitable, ringing defiance, with a tragic but courageous resignation. Her greatest song, perhaps, is *Je ne regrette rien (I Regret Nothing)*. Billie Holiday could have sung that one, too. I can think of no other singer who makes you feel it is worth being alive the way Piaf does. *I. G.* 

#### RECORDING OF SPECIAL MERIT

(S) (COLE PORTER REVISITED. David Allen, Kaye Ballard, Ronny Graham, Bibi Osterwald, Bobby Short (vocals); orchestra, Norman Paris cond. Come On In; A Little Skipper from Heaven Above; You're a Bad Influence on Me; I've Still Got My Health; But in the Morning, No!; Since 1 Kissed My Baby Goodbye; By the Mississiniwab; I'm Throwing a Ball Tonight; Far Far Away; Solomon; It Ain't Etiquette; Tale of the Oyster; I Worship You; Red, Hot and Blue. RIC ST 3002 \$5.98, M 3002 \$4.98.

Performance: Perfect Recording: Very good Stereo Quality: Clean

I am part of that generation that became conscious of musical theater when two-thirds of the late Cole Porter's work was already done. I have never seen a Porter showexcepting movie versions, which are cleaned-up ones and therefore not true Porter. There must be countless others who have never had a chance to hear some of Cole Porter's more outrageously funny songs. such as It Ain't Etiquette and By the Mississiniwah. The former was sung by Bert Lahr in Du Barry Was a Lady, and although Ronny Graham's presentation of it is funny on the disc, it becomes twice as funny when you imagine how Lahr must have delivered it. By the Mississiniwah is a quasi-Indian tune about two girls who happily share the same husband; it contains a line I still don't believe after hearing the record several times. How did they get away with this in 1943?



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MAGNECORD SALES DEPARTMENT MIDWESTERN INSTRUMENTS, INC. Subsidiary of the TELEX Corporation P. O. Box 7509 / Tulsa, Oklahoma 74105 David Allen—one of my very favorite singers—handles the ballads, such as *I Wior-ship You*. But ballads are secondary: the album's purpose is up-tempo outrage. In addition to fine funny performances by all the singers, there are witty period-piece arrangements by Norman Paris. *G. L.* 

(S) (B) JOAN SHAW: In Person. Joan Shaw (vocals); Herman Foster Trio. This Is All I Ask; Lover; Moon River: and eight others. SUE LPS 1031\* \$4.98, LP 1031 \$3.98.

Performance: Tasteful Recording: All right

Joan Shaw is a singer of promise but as yet, except for occasional moments, of little real distinction. She sings well—in tune, in time, and with a sense of the meaning of lyrics. But there is not yet anything personal about her work.

The trio accompanying her is up to the standard level for night-club accompaniment. The mix is bad—too much drum, not enough bass. And the rolled chords on piano at climax points become tedious after a time. The tunes are mostly standards, and the audience behaves with customary American night-club audience rudeness—there is much back-ground noise, including drink-clinking. The liner notes fail to say in what night club the album was recorded, which is unfortunate, since I'd like to avoid the place. *G. L.* 

#### FOLK

ADD1S & CROFUT: Four Hundred Years of Folk Music. Steve Addis (vocals. guitar, Chinese Ch'ung, Cambodian flute); Bill Crofut (banjo, French horn, guitar); Tim Prentice (guitar, bass). Dry Riverbeds: I Sing of a Maiden; Sully Gurdens; Bunjo Medley; and eight others. FOLKWAYS FA 2404 \$5.95.

#### Performance: Hanest but rather bland Recording: Good

Steve Addis and Bill Crofut have traveled extensively in Southeast Asia and Africa under the State Department's Cultural Exchange Program. Their associate in this set. Tim Prentice, has also performed abroad for the State Department, In addition, Addis and Crofut have given many concerts in Europe and at American colleges and universities. Their approach to folk music is eclectic in style and spans centuries and countries in material. Instrumentally adept, Addis and Crofut sing pleasantly but with no particular distinctiveness. Their program here is characteristically diversified: a medieval song, a popular tune from Vietnam, a whaling song, a contemporary antiwar composition by Shel Silverstein, and the haunting Sally Gardens. Instrumentally, Crofut imitates the koto with his banjo in Impressions of Japan. In Alishan, Addis plays the Chinese ch'ung, a long string instrument, and on Cambodian Flute he plays that instrument too.

The result of all this versatility, a wellintentioned example of transcultural exchange, is a series of impressions from the outside. Even in American and British material, Addis and Crofut do not perform from inside the music. They are amiable guides to a variety of experiences throughout the world, but they do not transmute those experiences into deeply personal music. N. H.

(Continued on page 110)

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#### RECORDING OF SPECIAL MERIT

RAFAEL ADLER/BENJAMIN SIEGEL: Song of the Baal Shem. Benjamin Siegel (vocals); chorus and orchestra. Rafael Adler cond. Simbas Torah Nigun: A Dudele: Pesah Nigun; A Din Toyre Mit Got; and eight others. UNION OF AMERICAN HE-BREW CONGREGATIONS UA 0623ST\* \$4.98, UA 0623 \$4.98

Performance: Stirring Recording: Good

Hasidism, now some 230 years old, is a form of Jewish religious expression that emphasizes the joy of worship and utilizes singing and dancing as basic ways of communicating with the deity. This faith is mystical as well as exultant. Its originator was Israel Baal Shem Tov, born in the Ukraine in 1700. In the generations following him, other Hasidic leaders appeared and each had his own utterly devoted following. Because of the Nazis, most of the surviving Hasidim emigrated to America and Israel, where they still flourish. Part of the Hasidic tradition has been the composing of songs-nigunim -by the more musical of the rabbis. This new recording provides a brilliantly performed cross-section of Hasidic musical literature.

Included are three songs attributed to the Baal Shem himself, two by direct disciples, melodies by later rabbis, and several anonymous compositions. Although there is here a higher formal gloss on the orchestral playing and choral singing than is to be heard in Hasidic gatherings outside the recording studio, the spirit of the music has been retained in the arrangements by Rafael Adler and Richard Neumann. They have the thrust of joy and the equally pervasive aura of mysterv and wonder that characterize Hasidic song. The soloist. Benjamin Siegel, sings with vibrant power and technical assurance.

Many of the pieces are traditionally wordless, vocal sounds being substituted for lyrics in the conviction that the interior dialog between man and his Creator is much more a matter of feeling than of explicit language. Others, however, are verbalized invocations to God-both of praise and, in one striking case, of argument. The last is a composition by Rabbi Levi Yitzhak (1740-1809), in which he addresses God with a demand for the end of the oppression and exile of the lews

The quality of recorded sound is good, and the notes contain useful historical data and translations. Credit is due B. and H. Stambler, a husband-and-wife team who have already produced a number of exemplary Hasidic albums on their own Collectors Guild label, and have surpassed much of their previous work in this assignment for the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. The album is available in record stores, in Jewish book stores, and directly from the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 838 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10021 N, H.

S M ANTONIO: And the Ballets de Madrid. Antonio (dancer); Rosita Segovia and Pepe Fuentes (vocals); Manuel Moreno and José Giménez y Sebitas (guitars). Farrucas: Caracoles: Fandangos de Huelva; Martinete: and four others. LONDON INTER-NATIONAL SW 99341 \$4.98, TW 91341 \$3.98

#### Performance: Fiery Recording: Excellent

Antonio Ruiz Soler, known simply as Antonio to aficionados of the Spanish dance. was long a partner of his cousin Rosario in the team "The Kids from Seville," and after a separation they have recently been reunited. This album comes from the stage of Antonio's career during which he built his own superb troupe of singers, musicians, and dancers to present programs based on the remarkably rich dance vocabulary of Spain. In this brilliant recording, members of the troupe stage a tavern scene ("La Taberna del Toro") during which they perform a series of flamenco dances. There are an exultant Farruca, a graceful Tanguillo, a bitter Levantine chant called Taranto, a melancholy La Caña, a sprightly Fandango, and a Mar-



ANTONIO A panorama of flamenco

tinete, that severe, brooding song of the blacksmith. Through the dancing of Antonio and his troupe, the singing of Rosita Segovia and Pepe Fuentes, and the instrumental accompaniment, a hotly colored panorama of the flamenco temperament is evoked. The sound quality is excellent, and stereo heightens the effect greatly. The record is a substantial addition to the flamenco discography. NH

S M THEODORE BIKEL: Sings Yiddish Theatre and Folk Songs. Theodore Bikel (vocals); orchestra, Dov Seltzer cond. ELEK-TRA EKS 7281 \$5.95, EKI. 281\* \$4.98.

Performance: Apparently authentic Recording: Good

The Yiddish theater, which makes its American home on lower Second Avenue in New York, has nearly died out. But it provided one of the bases for the Group Theatre of the Thirties, and it is the basis for Theodore Bikel's new album. "This . . ." the liner notes say. 'is an amalgam of some of the best of Yiddish Theatre song, folksong and art song." With the aid of arranger Dov
Seltzer, Bikel has achieved a fine sense of verisimilitude. The two seem to have the style down perfectly. When the clarinet starts weaving its lines in the bora rhythm, one can almost see the wedding parties. There are many kinds of songs here, some of them comedy songs, but there is a peculiarly Jewish sadness to all of them. Most touching of all is the tender mood Bikel creates on Got Fun Arrohom, whose composer, Sholem Secunda, is the Richard Rodgers of Second Avenue. The disc as a whole is a fine and unique achievement. J. G.

S HAMILTON CAMP: Paths of Victory. Hamilton Camp (vocals, guitar, harmonica). Guess I'm Doin' Fine: Pride of Man; Long Time Gone: Only a Hobo: and nine others, ELEKTRA EKS 7278 \$5,95, EKL 278# \$4.08

#### Performance: Honest but still unformed Recording: Very good

Hamilton Camp is an actor, currently part of "The Committee," a San Francisco-based company of topical satirists. On this debut disc as folk singer, guitarist, and harmonica player, Camp shows marked potential. His vitality is not in the least factitious, and his rather high, flexible voice is able to command attention.

Camp's problem at this point is style and repertoire. Obviously fond of Bob Dylan's work, he includes no fewer than seven Dylan compositions here. Since his singing approach too has been influenced by Dylan. the result is that he seems too much a disciple and too little himself. By and large, he brings more understanding to Dylan's pieces than do most of Dylan's other interpreters, but this album does not yet make clear just who Hamilton Camp is as a folk singer.

Camp also tries to adapt some poems to folk music. The selections from the Rubaiyat are ill-advised. Yeats' Innisfree almost works because of Camp's capacity to convey a haunting lyricism, but two short Irish poems miss because the settings and the performance are self-conscious. If Camp can develop a conception and repertoire more his own, he could be a valuable addition to the folk ranks N, H

#### RECORDING OF SPECIAL MERIT

**③ @** GREENBRIAR BOYS: Ragged but Right! Ralph Rinzler (vocals, mandolin), John Herald (vocals, guitar), Bob Yellin (vocals, five-string banjo), Eric Weissberg and Sandy Black (bass). Let Me Fall: Yellin Holler; I Cried Again; Methodist Pie: Levee Breaking Blues: and nine others. VANGUARD VSD 79159 \$5.98, VRS 9159.

Performance: Spirited Recording: Excellent Stereo Quality: Slightly diffuse

The Greenbriar Boys are what Nat Hentoff has called citybillies. They come from Swarthmore, C.C.N.Y., and the University of Wisconsin, but they have attained an understanding of Bluegrass music that makes most of their performances indistinguishable from what I used to hear on the radio when I was growing up in West Virginia. I mean that as a compliment: you couldn't get closer to the real article than they do, for instance, on Long Lonely Day. On other pieces, they show a fine, lively spirit, and they are all excellent



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instrumentalists. Perhaps the finest of their numbers are a sad, mourning Roll on John and an ironic assassination song, McKinley. Their instrumentals are fine, too: one of them, Minor Breakdown, sounds almost like lewish music.

Where these citybillies part company with hillbillies is on those numbers where they mock their material. It must be said, though that they do it better than the Kingston Trio or Peter, Paul and Mary, who want to be more sophisticated than those corny old songs. Ragged but Right contains a sharp aside about their own profession, and Blues My Naughty Sweetle Gate to Me has a wonderfully accurate period spoof at the end.

The Greenbriars aren't Flatt and Scruggs or Bill Monroe, but they are the best answer to these the urbanites have. The monophonic version has greater clarity than the sterco. 1.G.

⑤ ● BESSIE GRIFFIN: Ob Glory Hallelujab! Bessie Griffin (vocals); unidentified instrumental accompaniment. How Great Thou Art: W'ben Day Is Done; Lord. Look Down: Eternity: and eight others, EPIC BN 26101 \$4.98, LN 24101\* \$3.98.

Performonce: Forceful Recording: Good

Bessie Griffin is a gospel singer with a robust, exultant sound and a powerful beat. She is not on the magisterial level of Mahalia Jackson, nor does she possess any strikingly individual characteristics. Yet Miss Griffin is a more than competent representative of the Negro gospel tradition.



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9500 West Reno, Oklahoma City, Okla.

The only mistake in this album is that made by whoever conceived of adding lush strings to several tracks. The effect is somewhat similar to putting ice cream in bourbon. Fortunately, for most of the album Miss Griffin's support is a rhythm section alone. N.H.

#### RECORDING OF SPECIAL MERIT

S CISCO HOUSTON : A Legacy, Cisco Houston (vocals, guitar). Black Is the Color: Precions Lord: Midnight Special: Dan Tuckcr: and eight others. Disc DS 1103 \$4.98, D 1103\* \$3.98.

Performance: Superior Cisco Recording: Strong sense of presence Stereo Quality: False

Disc is an adjunct of Folkways Records, and according to Folkways, these tracks by the late Cisco Houston are being released for the first time. Houston was a singer of unusual sensitivity, and had the ability to make a broad range of material sound spontaneously autobiographical. While his voice was not in itself a remarkable instrument, he so thoroughly understood the background and cssence of the songs he chose to interpret that he attained that quality of artlessness that is one of the most difficult of all arts to master.

Nearly all the songs in this collection are familiar, but Houston makes them come freshly alive. As for sound quality, the original monophonic recording has been "reprocessed" into simulated stereo that neither clarifies nor heightens the music. N, H.

S S TOM PAXTON: Ramblin' Boy. Tom Paxton (vocals, guitar), Barry Kornfeld (banjo, second guitar, harmonica). Felix Pappalardi (guitarron). Harper: Goin' to the Zoo: When Morning Breaks; Daily News: The Last Thing on My Mind: and ten others. ELEKTRA EKS 7277 \$5.95, EKL 277\* \$4.98.

Performance: Calm and assured Recording: Excellent

Tom Paxton is often spoken of as one of the best of the new breed of folk composers. He shares the preoccupations of most other practitioners of his paradoxical craft-automation, civil rights, civil liberties, Kentucky miners, the Right Wing. There is an occasional flash of real wit, as in What Did You Learn in School Today?, but Paxton is generally limited to the obvious social perceptions, and seldom adds much to our understanding of the things he sings about. No matter how deeply felt his songs may beand some of those dealing with love and nostalgia obviously are-the lyrics, with their "lips like sherry wine" and "Ionesome freights at 6:08." sound as though they were written in an attempt to conform to some idea of folk practice rather than as a reflection of personal experience.

Paxton's real gift is for creating easily remembered melody that sounds as though it might be folk song. As a performer, he is much improved since I heard him in person about a year ago-natural, charming. and easy-and he has good backing here. For the best of Paxton, you might listen first to I Can't Help But Wonder Where I'm J. G. Bound and Ramblin' Boy.

**@** PETE SEEGER: Folk Songs by Pete Seeger. Pete Seeger (vocals, banjo, guitar). Careless Love: John Henry: This Train: Freight Train: Bank( of Marble: and seven others. CAPITOL W2172 \$1.98.

Performance: Substandard Recording: Okay

This Capitol recording by Pete Seeger was recorded by Moses Asch and "released by agreement with Folkways Records," so it probably dates from before Seeger's present Columbia contract. It is far from the best of his discs, Columbia has wisely recorded Seeger primarily before audiences, where his marvelous ability to achieve instant rapport adds to his performances. This studio recording lacks the excitement he can generate in other circumstances,

Seeger has never been an outstanding singer—even his wildest fans would probably admit that. On *Old Muid's Song*, however, he shows that he is a superb folk instrumentalist. He is often unconvincing as a blues singer, and that holds true here for the Hank Williams-styled *T.B. Blues*.

Despite his limitations, Seeger will sing any song he likes. There is an Indian-based picce here by Peter LaFarge called *Coyote*. It involves a generous use of falsetto, and Seeger makes an endearing but embarrassing try at it. Also on the debit side is still another version of a song everyone has probably had enough of  $-Jimm_3$  *Crack Corn*, more familiarly *Blue Tail Fly*.

There are too many other Seeger albums around for you to concern yourself with this one. J. G.

S THE THREE D'S: New Dimensions in Folk Songs, Dick Davis, Duane Hiatt, Denis Sorenson (vocals and instrumental accompaniment). The Vinegar Man: The Highwayman: The Riddling Knight; Gunga Din: and six others. CAPITOL ST 2171 \$4.98, T 2171\* \$3.98.

#### Performance: Overly studied Recording: Too much echo

By any remotely reasonable definition of the term folk song, this album has nothing to do with the idiom. Its title, "New Dimensions in Folk Songs," would be more accurate if changed to "New Dimensions in Gimmickry." The Three D's are college students who have set familiar poens to quasifolk melodies, The idea, if it is to work at all, requires a great deal more sensitivity and musical background than these young men apparently possess. The three are bland of voice and mechanical in their beat. One minstrel who had some success with this kind of fusion is Richard Dyer-Bennet, but he is known to ponder for years over the right setting for a particular short poem.

There are two minor achievements-Lewis Carroll's Jabberwocky and Sara Teasdale's gentle but chilling Soft Rain. The rest are either exercises in sentimentality or just wrong musically. The setting of Annabel Lee, for instance, deprives the poem of all its ominous mystery, and the dry, desperate elegance of Richard Cory is beyond the ken of these performers. The most vulnerable track of all is Gunga Din, presented in a way that might have scored high marks in an elocution class thirty or forty years ago. I would not, however, recommend that the Three D's sing it to contemporary college audiences that include members of CORE or SNCC. N, H

(Continued on page 114)

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#### THEATER

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Performance: Bright Recording: Excellent Stereo Quality: Rich

There are those of us who think that, while much excellent light music has been written for Broadway musicals, the best performances of it are not necessarily the originals. Often, it is only when you hear one of the better pop singers do a song from a show that you begin to realize how good it is. That marble-throated crowd on Broadway has little idea of how to extract the essence of a melody. But, the original-cast album aside, show tunes usually get recorded singly, so one doesn't get to hear them in relationship to the others in the same musical.

Frank Sinatra, who is credited with concelling the idea for this four-disc packageno doubt the first of many, if this one succeeds—has come up with an excellent solution to the problem. With some of the most seasoned performers of popular music in America, he has re-created these four shows—or rather, he has almost re-created them. Actually, no attempt is made to have a given performer play a given role. Some songs that were for solo voice in the original shows, for example, are done here by the Hi-Lo's. Continuity of role on each disc would have been an asset.

This shortcoming notwithstanding, these performances make better record listening than the originals. For one thing, the orchestrations are head and shoulders above the originals. The arrangers have been able to utilize the full scope of the talent to be found among Hollywood's studio musicians. Another thing makes these charts more interesting than the originals: the originals were scored for the weaknesses of singers with ears for the harmony of 1895. As often as not in Broadway shows, the orchestra will play unison with the melody of the singer. who otherwise couldn't find his way through the tune. But given singers of the caliber and experience of those who participate in this Reprise project, the arrangers, freed of the necessity of hand-feeding the singers, have come up with some really interesting background writing. What is more, a number of the performers, particularly the Hi-Lo's, know how to swing. I never heard a Broadway singer who did.

Sinatra himself is in excellent voice here. Surprisingly, Dean Martin also sings quite well. He eschews clowning to address himself to the songs with respect and care. All the singers are excellent, in fact, excepting Rosemary Clooney, whose slow vibrato has always bothered me.

The arrangers are such men as George Duning, Nelson Riddle, Skip Martin, Jerry Fielding, Marty Paich, and Billy May. Musical director Morris Stoloff has pulled all the parts of the project together commendably well.

Purists who want to hear show scores complete with stiff phrasing, sharp and flat notes, and utter absence of swing won't like this project. I like it very much. I hope it finds a large and ready audience and that it is the first of many such packages. Though the discs are being issued as a unit, they will be available separately also. G.L.

#### SPOKEN WORD

RECORDING OF SPECIAL MERIT

THE COMMITTEE. Scott Beach, Hamilton Camp, Garry Goodrow. Larry Hankin, Kathryn Ish, Ellsworth Milburn, Irene Riordan, Dick Stahl. Alan Myerson, director. REPRISE FS 2023 \$5.98, 2023 \$4.98.

Performance: Hilarious Recording: Ingenious

Stereo Quality: Exceptionally good

There is something of the missionary spirit in the so-called theater of improvisation in this country. Legend has it that the movement began at the Crystal Palace in St. Louis and gradually proliferated until "The Premise" in New York and "The Sccond City" in Chicago were attracting crowds with a kind of satire that had not been applied to political



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events since Will Rogers stopped twirling his lariat. If I read the program right, "The Committee" was established by a pair of evangelists from "The Second City" who rolled westward to San Francisco for their honeymoon and were soon gathering money to raise another temple to the improvisatory faith at North Beach. As things stand today, after briefly looking in on the product currently on sale by the "Second City" and "Premise" people in New York, I personally vote "The Committee" best of the breed. On stage, it is a joy to watch this young group tackle a skit. They rarely fumble, and never mistake bad taste for boldness. On records they seem even funnier than they do in a Broadway theatre, which lacks the intimacy this kind of comedy deserves. Besides. much of the water has been squeezed out, since they do not have to fill up a two-hour program. Almost every item on the agenda detonates successfully. Particularly devastating are "Sex on Campus," a scene between Kathryn Ish and Larry Hankin wherein a pair of college students demonstrate the difference between mere public relations and real accomplishment in the art of seduction; 'Bar Scene," set in a gay bar where a man who has wandered in by mistake is thoroughly unstrung by a wicked chap named Larry Pritikin ("I'm a heterosexual." "Oh? Are you registered?") and "Pavlov," in which the great scientist falls prey to his own methods of conditioning. The girls are given their chance in a ten-minute dialog involving two re-united college chums who discuss with embarrassing realism the exploits of their active summer. The show ends with the whole ensemble turning into musical instruments for a travesty on music appreciation methods that should be required listeningas punishment-for music educators. P. K.

#### RECORDING OF SPECIAL MERIT

© © EURIPIDES: *Medea*. Judith Anderson, Anthony Quayle, others. Howard Sackler, director. CAEDMON Theatre Recording Society 302 two 12-inch discs \$11.90 stereo and mono.

Performance: Stunning Recording: Beautiful Stereo Quality: Spacious

For twenty-three centuries *Medea* has been chilling the spines of audiences, but it is hard to imagine any performance, even under the sky of Athens, more beautiful or more bloodcurdling than this one for the phonograph. *Medea* does not seem so much to be peopled with characters as with the demons that hide in the heart, unconscious forces which here are loosed to seize control of human behavior. Packed into the play's terse confines are all the cruelty, treachery, and rage of which man is capable.

We find Medea in the midst of suffering, jilted by her husband Jason after she has helped him to regain the golden fleece in her native land of Colchis. Now, in Corinth, he is about to marry the king's daughter Creusa, sending Medea into exile. When Medea realizes that pleading with Jason will get her nowhere, that she is to be banished and separated from her children unless she consents to share her husband with his new wife, she asks for twenty-four hours to settle her affairs. By the time the day is over she has murdered both Creon and Creusa with a



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poisoned veil (as Circe's sister she is well versed in sorcery) and has killed her own two little sons before leaving for Athens to seek the refuge promised to her by King Acgeus.

Judith Anderson has been playing Medea since 1947, and she has just about brought the role to perfection by this time. She is able to reveal every facet of sorrow, realousy, pride, and ferocity implicit in the part. Anthony Quayle brings the spoiled Jason to life in all his insensitivity and selfishness. The supporting players make every line glow with beauty and high feeling. The whole production is lean and propulsive. The chorus, for example, is limited to the voices of three women, and never for a split second do any of them falsify a line with the amateurish kind of prattling that can instantly reduce the solemn tone of Greek drama to absurdity.

The director, as is his custom, uses the various voices of his characters like instruments, playing speech against speech in a fugal development. He has also supplied a musical score for wind instruments, tambourines, and muffled drums that underline the action's moods with intelligence and discretion-up to the last moments, when all is enveloped in an ominous mist of semimusical sound Stereo is used to achieve a spaciousness that creates the illusion of an almost outdoor grandeur. Rex Warner's translation is hard and clear, free (like the production it receives) of superfluous embellishment and rhetoric. PK

B JAMES JOYCE: Ulysses (Hades). J Tyler Dunn, Lawrence Hanratty, Richard Alan Hughes, Norman Isaacson, John Boylan, Sam Corsi, Maureen Asztalos, Tony De Fusto, Francis Walsh, Fred Baube (readers) Zack R. Bowen and J. Tyler Dunn, directors FOLKWAYS FL 9814 \$5.95.

Performance: Amateur Recording: Good

With a grant-in-aid from the Research Foundation of the State University of New York. Mr. Bowen and Mr. Dunn, as dauntless a pair of educators as it is possible to imagine. started some time ago to make recordings of various sections of Ulyrrer in the form of dramatized readings. Leopold Bloom, the hero of Joyce's monumental novel, is a reincarnation of Odysseus in the form of a Dublin Jew who, in the course of one day in his life, relives the entire Odyssey. In the first album released in this series-"The Lestrygonians" (FL 9562)-Mr. Bloom is observed during a walk at lunchtime in search of a place to eat. The Lestrygonian cannibals turn out to be the Dubliners, gorging on food and ale in a steamy restaurant, at the sight of whom Bloom's gorge rises. The technique followed by Bowen and Dunn was to use a large cast to represent the various voices in the story and to supply a background of the songs Joyce indicates are never very far from the threshold of his hero's consciousness. The results very successfully revealed the plan and intent of Joyce's work. The same is true of the present record, which deals with the chapter that covers a morning visit by Bloom and friends to a cemetery for the funeral of a crony named Paddy Dignam In the course of the ride to the funeral, Bloom is beset by images of death and horror (interwoven with his own woolly and wonderfully inaccurate understanding of the latest scien-

tific discoveries of his day) as he dwells on mortal frailty.

The contrapuntal treatment of Bloom's inner voice and the voices of his acquaintances-Martin Cunningham, Simon Dedalus, and the others who accompany him to the funeral or are encountered on the way-is made marvelously clear. The dirges and popular songs that go through Bloom's head intensify the mood and meaning of each passage. And the narration moves all elements forward.

Unfortunately, the record can be recommended only to those who are curious about Joyce's methods and not to the listener in search of professional entertainment. Aside from Richard Alan Hughes, who gives an understanding and suitably Gaelic portraval of Bloom, the cast are hopeless amateurs. What they are aiming for in this series is



(Sketch by Augustus John, Paris, 1930)

magnetic and instructive, and much scholarly ingenuity is expended. It can only be hoped that a group of real actors under a keen director will discover these scripts and transform them into the kind of first-rate theatrical experience required for effective projection on recordings. P. K.

THE KENNEDY WIT, David Brinkley (narrator). RCA VICTOR VDM 101 \$4.98.

#### Performance: Remarkable Recording: Resourceful

"To hear his voice again is to bring tears and smiles together." says Adlai Stevenson in his introduction to this new disc. Thus the right and inevitable mood is set for this collection of excerpts from speeches, press conferences, and off-the-cuff remarks by the late President Kennedy, issued as a companion piece to Bill Adler's best-selling book and edited too by Mr. Adler. No architect's memorial could be a better tribute to the late President's keen mind than an album such as this, so free is it of all hollow solemnities and ponderous culogizing. Narrated-somewhat more explicitly, perhaps, than is strictly necessaryby David Brinkley, the record is a fast-moving survey of Kennedy's hard-driving brand of humor all the way from a barrage of verbal fire aimed at Nixon in the midst of an Alfred E. Smith dinner at the Waldorf Astoria to



that historic moment in France, in June 1961, when the President announced, "I am the man who accompanied Jacqueline Kennedy to Paris."

Kennedy could tell a funny anecdote and tell it well-there's one about Arthur Goldberg, when he was Secretary of Labor, getting lost in the Alps and shouting down to his Red Cross rescuers, "I gave at the office!" Kennedy could satirize himself better than anyone else could, and the album includes an endearing takeoff he did at a press dinner on his own ultimatum to the steel industry. He was a master, too, of the comic line that clears the air at the start of a serious address. and there are a number of these. But he was in his best form when he was thinking on his feet, rapping out a flashing retort at a press conference without the benefit of previous thought or collaboration, and so the record sparkles most in those invaluable moments when he locked horns with the gentlemen-and ladies-of the press.

Some of this material has been on discs before, but never set out in such dazzling array, or so resourcefully put together. The album's chief virtue as a document-its comprehensiveness-weakens it a bit as entertainment. It really is almost too much for a single sitting to hear the many-sided orator that Kennedy was in the single key of comedy. The sound is quite good, considering the many sources from which the material had to be culled. P. K.

ALEXANDER POPE: The Rape of the Lock. Peggy Ashcroft, George Rylands, Joan Hart, Margaret Field Hyde, Dennis McCarthy, John Nettleton, Janette Richer, Prunella Scales (readers). George Rylands, director. Argo RG 373 \$4.98.

Performance: Precious Recording: Good

Despite the efforts of seven great English actors and director George Rylands to make this eighteenth-century satirical fantasy come alive, the enterprise is hobbled by the rigidities of Pope's metrical scheme and the ornateness of his language. "The most airy, the most ingenious, and the most delightful' of the poet's compositions, as Samuel Johnson described it, fails to convey these qualities to the car. The Rape of the Luck started out as a bagatelle based upon a feud that developed between two upper-class British families when a certain Lord Petre cut off a lock of Mrs. Arabella Fermor's hair. The poem was supposed to make light of the incident and bring about a reconciliation. This piece was eventually elaborated into the five cantos and thousands of lines that make up the mock-heroic pocm we have inherited. In it, a love affair between the beautiful Belinda and a "well-bred Lord" unfolds to the accompaniment of countless invisible elves, nymphs, sylphs, and other immortals who flit about her through her day. "A toilette," wrote Hazlitt, discussing the poem, "is described with the solemnity of an altar raised to the Goddess of vanity . . the little is made great, and the great little." Mr. Rylands and Miss Ashcroft are valiant narrators through this precious. mocking maze, but the poem is too long and labyrinthine for listening. The shapely enunciation of the rest of the cast is an asset but no solution. It was a whimsical notion to have Margaret Field Hyde, who played Ariel in Mr. Rylands' version of Shakespeare's

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*Tempest*, enact Pope's conception of the same character here. I found her dewy approach more in keeping with Pope than it was with Shakespeare. Prospero's servants were made of sterner stuff. *P. K.* 

(3) ● SHAKESPEARE: All's Well That Ends Well. Margaretta Scott, Prunella Scales, Peter Orr, Michael Hordern, Max Adrian, Patrick Wymark. Janette Richer, Esme Church, Roy Dotrice (players). George Rylands, director. LONDON OSA 1370 three 12-inch discs \$17.94, A 4370 \$14.94.

Performance: Splendid Recording: Excellent Stereo Quality: Effective

The public has somehow never warmed up to All's Well That Ends Well. In fact, this spirited play has the negative distinction of being the most unpopular of its author's stage works. Yet each generation must investigate and re-evaluate these matters for itself. If, even in a society which has liberated women, there remains something objectionable about this play's heroine. Helena, it is at least not on moralistic grounds that we might disapprove of this lady who rushes about Europe after a gentleman won in a scheming bargain with the King of France. The plot is intended perhaps to show how arbitrary and unfeeling men are in their dealings with uomen-by putting the shoe on the other foot and following the fancy through all its ramifications.

Helena is a doctor's daughter who has inherited a prescription just right for curing an unidentified malady afflicting the French king. In return for his cure the king is prepared, fairy-tale style, to grant her fondest wish. This turns out to be marriage with Bertram, a young count who wants nothing to do with her, Bertram is forced to marry Helena, but he goes off to Florence as a volunteer in a local war, swearing that he will never live with Helena unless she bears his child, a circumstance he has no intention of making possible. Helena follows Bertram to Florence and manages by a series of maneuvers to disguise herself as an Italian girl named Diana and to get him to consummate the marriage unwittingly. Meanwhile, in a subplot, Parolles, an unsavory associate of Bertram, is fooled into believing he is betraying their regiment to the enemy. He proves himself a total coward, but winds up being forgiven and provided with a livelihood, while Bertram and Helena are united in unaccountable harmony and bliss. The play's conclusion finds the king rummaging about for a husband to make things up to the cheated Diana.

As the plot develops, Shakespeare, following a curious recipe of his own, folds in generous measures of wisdom, melodious speech, farce, and fancy as well as a number of intriguing minor characters: Lafeu, an elderly courtier and unfailing fount of sophistication; the Countess of Rousillon, Bertram's mother, a woman of worldliness and compassion; Lavanche, a clown who is among the most bitter and trenchant in the Shakespearean gallery of jesters; and some French courtiers who can bandy puns and insults with the best of them.

Thanks to London's new booklet listing all the players in the now-completed Marlowe Society cycle of the plays. I can tell you that it is Max Adrian, that most artful of actors, who gives the role of Lafeu tremendous flair; that Prunella Scales is the eloquent Helena, a Portia without the quality of mercy: that Peter Orr is an insouciant Bertram, Michael Hordern a convincingly stricken king. Janette Richer a winsome Diana and Esme Church her appealing mother, Margarette Scott the knowing Countess of Rousillon, and Patrick Wymark the suave, cowardly Parolles. There is solid acting by all hands. and though the listener might wish for a faster pace, less reverence and more élan, this is nevertheless a handsome-sounding, thoughtful production-and the only one P.K. available.

(§) (®) SHAKESPEARE: *Henry the Fourth*. *Part One*, Harry Andrews, Pamela Brown, Dame Edith Evans, Richard Johnson, Ronald Lewis, Anthony Quayle, Sir Michael Red



MAX ADRIAN Tremendous flair in All's Well

grave, Paul Rogers (players). Peter Wood, director. CATDMON SHAKESPEARE RFCORD-ING SOCIETY 217 three 12-inch discs stereo and mono \$17.85.

Performance: Hearty Recording: Superior

Henry the Fourth takes up where Richard H leaves off, and traces the travails undergone by the usurper of Richard's throne when erstwhile supporters try to unseat him. This rebellion "finds rebuke" in the last scene, but not before a great deal of unpleasantness and some bloodshed has occurred. Were history and these intrigues all the substance of the Henry the Fourth plays, they would be mere historical costume dramas. What redeems them is the presence of some of the liveliest character types in the whole Shakespearcan gallery. There is the Prince of Wales, a dissolute, carefree chap who, until he is seized by remorse and patriotism in the latter half of the play, is a most entertaining companion. There is Hotspur, the choleric, obsessed foe of Henry, a study in political and personal ambition. Above all, there is Falstaff, the readily corruptible professional officer, who grows fat while kingdoms totter. who is wise, droll, and witty-and on stage often enough to keep the play from slowing down.



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FEBRUARY 1965

Mr. Wood has mounted a lucid, fastmoving, and well-acted version here. Michael Redgrave ekes every ounce of fevered drama from the role of Hotspur. Anthony Quayle shows a Gargantuan humor in realizing the possibilities in the character of Falstaff, drunk or sober, erect or on his ear. Edith Evans as the tavern hostess Mistress Quickly and Pamela Brown as Hotspur's wife appear only briefly, but they enliven things when they do. Richard Johnson is a likeable Prince of Wales and Harry Andrews a thoroughly kingly Henry to the end. *P. K.* 

SHELLEY: Poems. Patrick Garland, Richard Marquand, Gary Watson (readers). ARGO RG 380 \$4.98.

Performance: Fervid Recording: Good

Shelley, the very prototype of the nineteenthcentury Romantic, possessed a lyric genius that was unsurpassed in his era. His sensuous, melodious verses seem to wage a Promethean struggle to free themselves from the cold page and sing aloud. Previous recordings have failed to set them soaring; this one does. Richard Marquand in particular strikes just the right note of lyrical fervor as he reads passages from the essay The Defence of Poetry and the poem Prometheus Unbound, as well as the poems Ozymandias, Love's Philosophy, and Music When Soft Voices Die, Mr. Watson and Mr. Garland are a bit heavier, and they breathe hard over some of the longer selections, such as Ode to the West Wind and Adonais, but the total effect is quite just. The material is chosen to present examples not only of oftanthologized masterpieces, but also of some of the revolutionary poems such as The Mask of Anarchy and the final chorus from Hellas. P. K.

THE STAR MAIDEN AND OTHER INDIAN TALES. Anne Pellowski (reader). CMS 500 \$4.98.

Performance: Pleasant Recording: Adequate

Miss Anne Pellowski, assistant storytelling and group work specialist at the New York Public Library, is an old hand at reading to children at storytelling sessions in the park. She does not approach her work with the glib charm of a professional actress, but speaks slowly, clearly, and gently, so that one can believe the photograph on the album cover showing her charges surrounding her in rapt attention. She is sweet but never syrupy.

The four stories on the disc, all from American Indian sources, are enchanting, There is one about a raccoon who offers his mittens to an old woman in return for ridding him of fleas and then demands the mittens back. Another is an elaborate fantasy about a maiden from outer space who keeps shuttling back and forth between the "starry plains" and earth until somehow the entire animal world is involved in her concerns. The story of Chief Brown Bear, who rescues his wife from underwater captivity, is moving. Finally, there is a comical horror tale that explains why the rattlesnake sheds its skin. There are many more elaborately produced children's records that are entirely devoid of the pleasures youngsters might discover in this one. P. K.

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# **CROSS FIELD ADVANCES TAPE TECHNOLOGY**

By Cliff Whenmouth, President Magnetic Tape Duplicators

## An audio engineer reports on the capabilities of the Cross Field Concept

Is the Cross Field concept of tape recording a "gimmick"? Or is it, indeed, the long-sought-after solution to the problem of high frequency losses at slow speeds? Along with most audio men, I have watched the performance of the Cross Field concept closely since its introduction a year ago. After exhaustive testing in the studio, in home sound systems and out in the field—there is no doubt but that the Cross Field is a brilliant success.

As applied by Roberts Electronics, in that firm's Cross Field Model 770 4-track stereo tape recorder, the problems of loss of high frequencies at slow speed and of excessive head wear are neatly resolved. In fact, the <u>performance of this remarkable</u> instrument may very well set a new standard for the entire tape recording industry!

#### Unique Cross Field Head Assembly

To achieve its high frequency response at slow speed, the Roberts Cross Field 770 employs an unique recording and playback technique involving three heads:



- 1. A conventional Erase Head, which erases the tape immediately prior to recording, as is normal practice.
- An extraordinary Record/Play head with the highest resolution in the industry—a gap width of only 40 millionths of an inch. During playback, the narrow gap

width picks up the very short recorded wave lengths necessary to provide high frequency response at 17% IPS. (These short wave lengths cannot be picked up by wider-gap heads in conventional recorders.)

3. The unique separate Bias Head which provides the bias field during recording, and which automatically swings out of the field during playback. The tape never touches the bias head, which is therefore not subject to wear.

#### Opens Another Octave in High Frequency Spectrum

The correct blend of bias and recording fields accounts for the remarkable performance of the Cross Field concept. In the Roberts 770, an entire octave in the high frequency spectrum, which has never before been captured on tape, is recorded and played back. (Other recorders, by combining the recording and biasing functions in a single head, erase these high frequencies as they are recorded.) Frequency response of the Roberts Cross Field 770 has been established as follows :

at 7½ IPS-from 40 to 22,000 CPS  $\pm$  2dB at 3¾ IPS-from 40 to 18,000 CPS  $\pm$  2dB at 1‰ IPS-from 40 to 13,000 CPS  $\pm$  3dB

#### Pure Stereo at 1% IPS

With a frequency response of 40-13K at 1% 1PS, the Cross Field 770 advances tape recording technique into the realm of long-play stereo. In test after test with the Roberts instrument, brilliant stereo sound was achieved at the 1% speed. Recording 4-track stereo at long-play speed, the equivalent of 18 stereo tape cartridges-up to 8 hours of stereo play -were recorded on an ordinary 7" reel of tape. Long-play stereo is indeed a reality!

Heat Problem Also Solved With the longer in-use periods normal for the Cross Field 770, Roberts has also solved the problem of heat build-up. Their newly-patented blower ventilation system is, in itself, a revolutionary development in electronic cooling.

New Drive System Designed A new motor and drive system developed by Roberts for the Cross Field

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770 reduces wow & flutter at all speeds to a minimum. W&F at 17% IPS is less than 0.30% rms. Roberts employs a heavy-duty hysteresis synchronous motor with an electrical speed change, a refinement usually found only in the most costly professional recorders.

#### Many Other Sophisticated Features

The Roberts Cross Field 770 is a highly sophisticated instrument with such professional features as automatic all-off/ shut-off-and



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and is available at Roberts Franchised Dealers throughout the United States and Canada. Currently the world's first hi-fi stereo 6-hour LP tape (a valuable Collector's Album of music by famous artists reproduced on the new MTD Biasonic Duplicator) is being given away free with each Cross Field 770.

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#### RECORDING OF SPECIAL MERIT

(© BEETHOVEN: Fidelio. Birgit Nilsson (soprano), Leonore; James McCracken (tenor), Florestan; Tom Krause (baritone), Pizarro; Kurt Böhme (bass), Rocco; Graziella Sciutti (soprano), Marzelline; Donald Grobe (tenor), Jacquino; Hermann Prey (baritone). Don Fernando. Vienna State Opera Chorus; Vienna Philharmonic, Lorin Maazel cond. LONDON LOS 90085 two reels \$16.95.

Performance: Exhilarating Recording: Very good Stereo Quality: Effective

More than most. Fidelio is a conductor's opera. It is not one that just any conductor can bring off successfully, but it will admit of several points of view. And the conductor who can fully convince the listener of the validity of his particular point of view must be a man of strong convictions and penetrating musical insight. Thereby he, more than the singers involved, becomes the determining factor of the personality of the performance. Lorin Maazel's Fidelio is as sleek and modern as a new automobile. It also combines power, excitement, and stimulating emotional color on the order of the old Toscanini version, and admirers of the kind of music-making the late Maestro brought to that recording will welcome this tape. Those who prefer the nobility of Klemperer (Angel ZC 3625) or the eloquent deliberation of Knappertsbusch (Westminster WTZ 154) are apt to lose patience with the young conductor and his fast and furious tempos, but there is no denying the strong impact of Maazel's approach.

Birgit Nilsson sings Leonore here as she does in the opera house, intelligently and forthrightly, with warmth, vitality, and no trace of vocal effort. James McCracken is an impressive Florestan (his first major role in any opera recording), Tom Krause a commanding Pizarro, and Kurt Böhme a personable Rocco. Hermann Prey, in his brief appearance as Don Fernando, is just about ideal.

The four-track version has been turned out at a rather low level, so that tape hiss during quieter passages is quite noticeable. The singers, too, seem to be a bit out of focus at times, but the orchestra and chorus sound fine. Act One occupies all of the first reel, with the sequence break at Pizarro's entrance,

Explanation of symbols: (a) = stereophonic recording (b) = monophonic recording

FEBRUARY 1965

and spills over onto the second reel at the end of the Prisoners' Chorus. Yet, since this act lasts only a little over an hour, as Maazel takes it, it might have been fitted onto a single reel. Act Two, with a running time of some forty-five minutes, could then have easily filled out one uninterrupted sequence on the second reel. All of this, of course, would have used up more tape, meaning an increase in total cost to the consumer, and it might, as well, have necessitated an inappropriate break in the middle of Act One. But I wonder. Logic and convenience seem



BIRGIT NILSSON Intelligence and vitality for Fidelio

to favor this format over the one we are given, and the higher price could easily be justified on the basis of the material added to fill out the second reel. *C. B.* 

## BERG: Wozzeck (excerpts); Lulu-Suite (see MAHLER)

GOUNOD: Faust (excerpts). Victoria de los Angeles (soprano). Marguerite; Nicolai Gedda (tenor). Faust; Boris Christoff (bass). Mephistopheles; Ernest Blanc (baritone). Valentine; Liliane Berton (soprano), Siebel; Victor Autran (baritone). Wagner. Orchestra and chorus of the Théâtre National de l'Opéra, Paris. André Cluytens cond. ANGEL ZS 35827 \$7.98.

Performance: Passable Recording: Good

These highlights are drawn from a performance that, even though it happens to be the best of the available lot, is less than fully satisfying. And despite the fact that Faust lends itself very well to excerpting, this reel contains no more than a few of the opera's brightest moments. Included are the "Roi de Thule" and the Jewel Song, beguilingly sung by Victoria de los Angeles, Liliane Berton's lovely Flower Song, Nicolai Gedda's splendid rendition of the aria "Salut! demeure," and Mephistopheles' serenade sung with compelling vigor (and a cavalier disregard for the niceties of French pronunciation) by Boris Christoff, Orchestra and chorus acquit themselves handsomely throughout, and the recorded sound is wholly acceptable. Texts and translations are included. C. B.

RECORDING OF SPECIAL MERIT

(S) MAHLER: Symphony No. 5. in C-sharp Minor. BERG: Wozzeck (excerpts). Phyllis Curtin (soprano); Boston Symphony, Erich Leinsdorf cond. RCA VICTOR FTC 7007 \$14.95.

SERG: Wozzeck (excerpts); Lulu-Suite. Helga Pilarczyk (soprano); London Symphony, Antal Dorati cond. MERCURY STC 90278 \$7.95.

Performance: Superb Mahler by Leinsdorf Recording: First-rate Stereo Quality: Fine

The striking difference between this Erich Leinsdorf-BSO tape of the Mahler Fifth and the earlier one of the First (FTC 2129) lies in the responsiveness of the orchestra's playing. In the few years Leinsdorf has been in Boston he has been increasingly able to get from his men the kind of sound he wants and the kind of execution he must demand. It shows here, in a performance that is clean, controlled, and remarkably poised. Without catering particularly to the Mahler mystique, it has plenty of emotional heft and dynamic thrust, particularly in the second movement and Rondo-Finale, which in turn are spelled by a warmly sympathetic Scherzo and an Adagietto of beautifully sustained lyricism.

Filling out the second sequence of this double-length reel of tape are the three scenes from *Wozzeck* that Berg himself extracted from his complete score, on the advice of Hermann Scherchen, in 1924. To these Leinsdorf brings his formidable skills as an opera conductor, and soprano Phyllis Curtin her sensitive vocal art. The children's chorus that turns up briefly at the



CIRCLE NO. 26 ON READER SERVICE CARD

end is unidentified. The high-level, low-noise recording is notable for the kind of distortion-free, open sound we have a right to expect on tape.

Helga Pilarczyk, for Mercury, puts a little more bite into the vocal passages assigned her in the same W'ozzeck excerpts, and finishes Lulu off with a really spine-tingling death shriek. But Dorati's direction is no match for Leinsdorf's in discipline or brilliance. nor is the London Symphony quite the equal of the Boston. The recording itself is a few years old, one of the first made on 35-mm. film. It compares favorably with any being produced today. C. B.

#### RECORDING OF SPECIAL MERIT

<sup>(S)</sup> PURCELL: *Dido and Aeneas*, Mary Thomas (soprano), Dido; Honor Sheppard (soprano), Belinda, first witch, attendant; Maurice Bevan (baritone), Aeneas; Helen Watts (contralto), Sorcercss; Robert Tear (tenor), spirit and sailor. Oriana Concert Choir and Orchestra, Alfred Deller cond. VANGUARD VTC 1692 **\$7**.95.

Performance: Stylish Recording: Excellent Stereo Quality: Excellent

Alfred Deller once again demonstrates his skill as a conductor with this winning performance of an opera generally regarded as unstageable by impresarios today. Its place in the recorded repertoire, however, is firmly fixed, and sung as well as it is here, its antique charm is irresistible. Mary Thomas as Dido may be a bit light of voice for the needed contrast with Honor Sheppard's Belinda, and she may lack the authority Janet Baker brings to the role in London's competing version (EOL 96002), but where this recording excels is in the Sorceress of Helen Watts, which is most compellingly sung and not intoned. Dynamic level is relatively high throughout, tape noise corre-spondingly low, and stereo definition, particularly in the double choruses and elfin byplay, enormously effective. I recommend this tape highly. C. B.

#### RECORDING OF SPECIAL MERIT

STRAUSS: Die Fledermaus. Adele Leigh (soprano), Rosalinda; Anneliese Rothenberger (soprano), Adele; Risë Stevens (mezzo-soprano), Orlovsky; Sándor Kónya (tenor), Alfred; Eberhard Wächter (baritone), Eisenstein; George London (bassbaritone), Dr. Falke; Erich Kunz (baritone), Frank; Erich Majkut (tenor), Blind. Chorus and Orchestra of the Vienna State Opera, Oscar Danon cond. RCA VICTOR FTC 7004 \$14.95.

Perfarmance: Ingratiating Recarding: Very good Stereo Quality: First-rate

The marvelous thing about this recording is that you, the listener, can easily persuade yourself that it is not a recording at all but a live performance unfolding somewhere in the vicinity of your speakers. And in no time at all you can just as easily be swept off your feet by it. "To achieve this feeling of spontaneity," writes coproducer Charles Gerhardt, "we decided to abandon the operatic 'numbered-floor-plan' type of recording and ask the singers to use the large stage area for just that purpose: a stage. We allowed them complete freedom of movement without any dictates from the control room." As he goes on to say, it works like a charm.

During the party sequence "we asked all the principals to be on stage at the same time, plus the chorus and the offstage ballroom musicians. Everyone sang, danced, drank champagne"—everyone here including the rather overbearing Orlovsky of Risë Stevens, the appropriately fatuous Eisenstein of Eberhard Wächter (I could not object any more strenuously that a baritone was cast in this role), the utterly beguiling Adele of Anneliese Rothenberger, and a charming Rosalinda sung by Britain's Adele Leigh.

The champagne, we are told, was real during the nonstop recording of this scene. So, too, are the sounds of popping corks, the chimes of Eisenstein's pocket watch, and



OSCAR DANON Conducts a stylish Fledermaus

the gypsy cymbalom. But even more real is the immediacy of the performance itself, its radiant warmth, its style, and its infectious gaiety, much of which can be credited to the Belgrade Opera's Oscar Danon and the members of the Vienna State Opera Orchestra under his baton. The stereo engineering is absolutely first-rate throughout, the sound on tape bright and beautifully balanced, *C. B.* 

STCHAIKOVSKY: Symphony No. 4, in F Minor, Op. 36; Symphony No. 6, in B Minor, Op. 64 ("Pathétique"). London Symphony, Antal Dorati cond. MERCURY STP 90312 \$11.95.

Performance: Efficient Recording: Very good

Antal Dorati does not dally over either of these works, least of all the "Pathétique," for which his approach is brisk and businesslike. Many listeners may prefer the less mannered but equally clear-cut performance of the latter by Klemperer for Angel (ZS 35787). Number Four, on the other hand, benefits greatly from the animation and power Dorati brings to it. Yet it lacks the subtlety and flexibility to be heard in the Monteux reading for RCA Victor (FTC 2031), which I consider just about tops. This is nevertheless the only release to date (Continued on page 124)

HIFI/STEREO REVIEW

# **Bias transfer characteristics and dependent parameters**

Ever heard the story about the pilot on his first solo flight? Unfortunately the engine failed. But fortunately he had a parachute. But unfortunately the chute failed to open. But fortunately he landed on a haystack. But unfortunately there was a pitchfork in the haystack. Except for the unhappy ending, this might be the story of how gamma ferric oxides respond to magnetic fields. Everything about it is fortunate with one exception. Linearity. The oxide needles used in the coatings have atrocious linearity characteristics. Feed in a clean, pure sine wave and out comes a nonsinusoidal complex waveform that looks something like a demented snake trying to bite its own head off. How does it sound? About as pleasant as Junior's first violin lesson.

How then is magnetic recording possible? Fret not—there's a way out. The entire problem is solved by one wonderful, mysterious phenomenon called bias. The transfer curves tell the story.



The slightly twisting curve at the upper left represents the oxide response. The lower curve is a pure, sine wave input. At the upper right we have the result of the response curve on the input . . . a mess.

The reason it looks the way it

does is because the sine wave input is affected by the non-linear characteristics of the gamma ferric oxides. But look closely. Note that while the oxide performance is non-linear when taken over its entire length, we can find linearity over selected sections. In other words, we can get rid of our distortion if we can put the signal on the linear section of the oxide's characteristic curve. And that is exactly what bias does. It "lifts" the signal away from the convoluted central area on the graph and moves it out to linear areas.



The amount of bias (that is the current in milliamperes) applied to the head is highly critical if top performance is to be achieved. Bias affects output, high and low frequency sensitivity, signal-to-noise ratio and distortion. This curve explains it.



The steep curve represents low frequency sensitivity (measured in db.) at varying bias levels for many tapes. Note that you get good performance providing you have a bias setting of about 4 milliamperes. (Curves for the other magnetic parameters are similar in shape and all peak at about the same bias level.) Vary one milliampere and you "fall off the curve" and suffer severe losses in sensitivity. Now look at the broader curve. You can vary a milliampere with hardly any change in performance at all. Here's the point. Kodak tape has that broad curve. It gives you top performance even though your bias settings aren't perfect. And if your tape recorder is more than a year old, then chances are enough shift has taken place to push you off the cliff. That's why we designed a broad bias curve. And that's why you need it. It's just one more way that Kodak tape gives you an extra bit of assurance of top performance.

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offering more than one Tchaikovsky symphony, and there is much to be said for the fact that each can be played without interruption. The price is right—you get two for only a little more than the price of one—and Mercury's sound is exceedingly good—spacious and incisive, with fine instrumental presence and perspective. *C. B.* 

#### COLLECTIONS

© EASTMAN WIND ENSEMBLE: Folksong Suites. Vaughan Williams: Folksong Suite: Toccata Marziale. Holst: Suite No. 1, in E-flat Major: Suite No. 2, in F Major. Grainger: Hill-Song No. 2. Eastman Wind Ensemble, Frederick Fennell cond. MERCURY STC 90388 \$7.95.

Performonce: Solid

Recording: Unacceptable

The same defect in tape processing that characterizes the new London reel of Britten's Serenade mars this attractive collection. That is, in most of the slower movements—the charming Intermezzo in Vaughan Williams' Folksong Suite, the Song without Words from Holst's Suite in F Major, and the elegantly bucolic Hill-Song by Percy Grainger—the oboes sound bubbly, the clarinets warbly, and the brasses downright dyspeptic. This is too bad, because the reel offers so much more, musically and in quality of performance, than the usual recorded band concert. C. B.

#### SPOKEN WORD

#### RECORDING OF SPECIAL MERIT

SALBEE: Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? Uta Hagen, Arthur Hill, George Grizzard, Melinda Dillon (players). Alan Schneider, director. COLUMBIA DOQ 667 \$16.95.

Performance: Fascinating Recording: Near-perfect Sterea Quality: Vivid

Columbia is not the first company to produce stereo tapes of recorded drama using the slower-than-usual speed of  $3\frac{3}{4}$  ips. London has already dipped into its Marlowe Society series and released several of Shakespeare's plays in the four-track medium at that speed, fitting each onto a single reel. But Columbia is the first to tape Broadway sources, and in so doing has been mightily successful.

That any play might be wound onto one reel of tape is itself something of a feat. In the case of Edward Albee's W bo's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, which is available on four discs with a playing time of three hours. it is tantamount to a technical breakthrough. I must confess the four-record album had been sitting on my shelf, unheard, for several months before this tape arrived. The idea of putting needle to groove on the first lines of this marathon conversation piece, and spending the better part of an afternoon or evening with it, had proved thoroughly unnerving. But with the tape in hand-a single, normal-size reel of tabe-my resistance seemed to have been largely overcome -replaced, in fact, by a spirit of adventure.

I do not wish to imply that my admiration for the play itself was then, or is now, anything less than total, but anyone who has seen it on stage or read it will, I think, agree that it is an exceedingly "involving" play. The convenience of long-playing tape just makes it a bit easier to consider becoming involved.

Listening to Virginia Woolf in the home, as it turns out, is quite a different experience from seeing it in the theater. It is rather like having four unruly guests around, guests you cannot quite ask to leave, and with whom you have become almost unwillingly fascinated. Mr. Albee's mastery of dialog seems all the more remarkable, and the techniques he employs to explore motivation and character all the more deft.

The four members of the original cast— Uta Hagen and Arthur Hill as the faculty couple caught in the toils of middle age, along with George Grizzard and Melinda Dillon as the younger pair—fill out their roles superbly. And the excellent stereo



MELINDA DILLON Superb in Virginia Woolf

definition provides a vivid picture of their stage movement under Alan Schneider's skilled direction.

Since Virginia Woolf is one of the few contemporary plays to observe the classic unities of time, place, and action, it makes sense that the recorded version should be run off without interruption (except, of course, for the necessary sequence break). Tape noise is extremely low, but you will notice that when either Mr. Hill or Miss Hagen raises his or her voice above a mezzo-forte, which happens fairly often, someone is riding the gain. C. B.

(s) ANOUILH: Becket (bigbligbts). Richard Burton, Peter O'Toole. John Gielgud (players). Peter Glenville, director and narrator. RCA VICTOR FTO 5031 \$8.95,

Performance: Impressive

Recording: Fair Stereo Quality: Lacks directionality

With all the useless sound-track music around, it is gratifying to find that someone thought highly enough of Hal Wallis' production of *Becket* to excerpt some of its outstanding scenes and make them available commercially in a recording unified by the lucid narration of the film's director, Peter Glenville. Peter O'Toole and Richard Burton both deserve unstinting praise for their por-

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trayals of England's Henry II and the man the king impulsively made his Archbishop, and the lines given them by French playwright Jean Anouilh in many instances provide just the poetic illumination to permit us to glimpse what the history books fail to disclose.

The actual processing of the voice track, however, leaves a wide margin for improvement. There is a complete lack of directionality: the spoken dialog seems to emanate solely from the center, and the voices themselves sound unusually hollow. Occasionally sound effects and the few snatches of Laurence Rosenthal's incidental music one hears offer the only proof that stereo techniques have been called upon at all. (This recl, by the way, turns at the standard  $7\frac{1}{2}$  ips.) *C. B.* 

#### RECORDING OF SPECIAL MERIT

Interpretation States (Section 2014) (Section 20

Performance: Robust Recording: Excellent Stereo Quality: Superb

"So there you are, you scum!" Thus begins this play by Sidney Michaels, documenting, in the best sense of that word, the late Dylan Thomas' two visits to America. The line is spoken by the protagonist's wife, played by Kate Reid (who, incidentally, replaced Uta Hagen on matinee days during the early run of Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?). She brings down the final curtain on a similar note: "Dirty Dylan," she shouts, slamming her fist on the coffin bearing her husband back to Wales. Oh, it's a wild play, all right, but a beautiful one and at times truly eloquent-as when the poet, brilliantly portrayed by Sir Alec Guinness, explains the "real" meaning of the nursery rhyme "Bah, bah, black sheep" to his American agent (James Ray): "'... Have you any wool?" That's the request life makes of poets, long rainbow strands of woolly thought to be woven into the dense and lovely fabric of poems, which are the ferventest of prayers by which men praise God in this his slapdash Eden, continually lost and found-and lost, alas!"

This is another of Columbia's 33/4-ips long-playing reels, and again, because the story of Dylan unfolds in twenty scenes with only one arbitrary act-break, the play can be accommodated nicely to the tape medium. The locales are wide-ranging, including a gallery at the Metropolitan Museum, the White Horse Tavern in New York's Greenwich Village, the lecture platform of the YMHA in the same city, and the stage of Boston's now defunct Old Howard burlesque house, the unique atmosphere of each being artfully conveyed by the stereo recording. Most effective is the three-shot sequence toward the end, when the listener finds Dylan at his favorite pub, center-stage ("I want to be the drunkest man in the world."); his distraught agent stage right-that is, on the left channel-("Maybe I should never have invited him to America."); and his wife, Caitlin, off in Wales, on the right ("I have the curious sense I'll never see him in this world again."). Listen to this 33/4-ips recording and marvel that Broadway can be brought so convincingly to life. C. B.



You'll have more fun with your tape recorder if you use it more frequently. Always keep an extra supply of tape on hand, so that you're always ready to record!

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#### MAGAZINES

ELECTRON is A Brand New Electronics Hobbyist Magazine. Free Sample Copy. Electron, Box 796, Montreal, Canada.

ELECTRONIC Magazines—Back issues. Alexander, 45-7th Avenue, Roxboro, Quebec, Canada.

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WINEMAKERS: Free catalog of equipment. Semplex, Box 7208, Minneapolis, Minn. 55412.



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HIFI/STEREO REVIEW



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## HIFI/Stereo Review

#### June, 1964

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POPULAR SCIENCE June, 1964

**Radio-Electronics** 

February, 1964

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"Reproducing test tones,

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April, 1964

across the audio range!... But whatever one's personal listening tastes are, it would seem there is an E-V model to suit them."



December, 1963

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If Speakers Could Blush, Ours Would!



E-V TWO

E-V FOUR

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