

Music

VIEWS

by Paul Williams



HIGH SOCIETY

BING CROSBY · GRACE KELLY · FRANK SINATRA

Music Views

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THE COVER

Take the musical talents of Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby, Louis Armstrong and Celeste Holm; add ten sparkling new songs by the inimitable Cole Porter; toss in Grace Kelly for spice . . . and you have one of the season's really outstanding musical events. It is, of course, MGM's new VistaVision musical, "High Society." After seeing the movie you'll definitely want to recapture the musical magic with the soundtrack album, now available on Capitol. For more about "High Society," see pages 5, 6 & 7 of this issue.



It is doubtful whether Ann Miller can remember the titles of the very numerous movie musicals in which she has danced and sung in the past few years. Her most recent one was MGM's new one, "The Opposite Sex."



From the moment Nat "King" Cole introduced his most recent release on the "Toast of the Town" TV show, orders began pouring in for "That's All There Is To That" and "My Drenm Sonata." Here is Nat running over the songs at the Capitol recording session which produced the double-barrelled hit.

COLLEGE COMBO WINS JAZZ CONTEST



The "Spring Street Stompers," representing Williams College, Williamstown, Mass., have been named the winners of the "National Collegiate Jazz Contest," sponsored by the Rudolph Wurlitzer Company.

The "Westlake College Quintet," representing Westlake College, California, and the "Quarter Notes," representing University of North Carolina, were runners-up in the contest, placing second and third, respectively.

The contest was designed to find the most outstanding college jazz group in the nation.

Prizes for the winning group consisted of a guest appearance

on the Steve Allen "Tonight" TV Show, a Wurlitzer Electronic Piano for the college represented, and an RCA Victor recording audition.

Judges in the contest were: Dave Brubeck, Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey, Ralph Flanagan, and Don Elliott.

From numerous college jazz group entries throughout the nation, the Wurlitzer Music Workshop selected six finalists to compete in the final judging. By majority vote, the judges picked a winner and two runners-up.

Groups placing second and third will receive recognition trophies and an RCA recording audition.

The "Spring Street Stompers" have appeared, in concert, in Carnegie Hall in November of both 1954 and 1955, "Storyville," Boston, "Savoy Cafe," Boston, and are scheduled to appear at "Nick's," New York City in June. The group has made two LP records for the Jubilee label.

WHO?

Something new in casting was dreamed up by Bethlehem Records for their new album,

"Porgy and Bess." Porgy is by Mel Torme and Bess by Frances Faye.



HIGH SOCIETY





HIGH S

IN fashionable Newport, R. I., the staid social set is agog over two impending events.

First, there's the Jazz Festival. Louis Armstrong, Eddie Condon and Pee Wee Russell will be the star attractions. In honor of the occasion Dexter Haven (BING CROSBY), debonair sportsman and a song writer on the side, has turned over his mansion to the jazz kings for rehearsals.

Second event that has the town talking is the wedding of Tracy Lord (GRACE KELLY), beautiful and headstrong former wife of Dexter. It is the day before her marriage to George Kittridge (JOHN LUND), a serious-minded gentleman who is quite the antithesis of happy-go-lucky Dexter.

Dexter, whose estate adjoins the Lords, connives with the bride-to-be's younger sister, Caroline, to join Tracy



D CHETTY

and the others for lunch just as reporter Mike Connor (FRANK SINATRA) and photographer Liz Imbrie (CELESTE HOLM) arrive to cover the wedding for Spy Magazine.

IT doesn't take Mike long to discern something Caroline, Mrs. Lord and others have realized right along—that Dexter still loves Tracy. Dexter confesses as much to Tracy and says their marriage would have lasted had she been more tolerant of the frailties of others, less critical of the non-conformists. Tracy doesn't agree, assures Dexter that George is just the type for her.

Into this situation and its subsequent resolution, Cole Porter interpolates such sparkling new tunes as "High Society Calypso," "Little One," "True Love," "You're Sensational," "I Love You, Samantha" and others, all now available in a new Capitol sound track album.



TRUDY RICHARDS

The exciting vocal style of Trudy Richards is the end product of intensive training, association and experience with top names of the jazz and popular music world, careful thought and persistent hard work.

Born in New York City, Trudy was a professional singer at the age of ten. At that time she began a three-year association with radio's well known "Horn and Hardart Hour." At thirteen she retired from professional work to bear down on her studies, academic and musical.

While attending Hunter College, Trudy's career bloomed again . . . as the result of a prank! She was spending an evening at Leon and Eddie's a New York nightspot, when her companions conspired with the Master of Ceremonies to introduce her to the audience as "Trudy Richards, direct from a sensational engagement at Chicago's Chez Paree." Trudy went along with the gag and got up and sang. The management signed her for the next revue.

During one of her subse-



quent nightclub engagements, Trudy was spotted by Freddie Slack and hired to sing with his orchestra.

From there Trudy joined Charlie Barnet as featured vocalist. While with Barnet, she recorded several sides which are held in considerable reverence by the jazzophiles. Among these were "Easy Living" and "Gloomy Sunday," recorded, incidentally, on Capitol.

When Barnet broke up his band, Trudy returned to the bistro belt with even greater success. She also made several successful recordings including "Bye Bye Blackbird,"

(Cont. next page)

(Cont.)

"The Breeze," "I Waited a Little Too Long" and others.

So the refreshing style which Trudy brings to her first Capitol release as a solo artist is the result of a fine music background. From her love of jazz comes the feeling and rhythm; from training and experience come the skill and technique; from her imagination and thought come the unique phrasing and style. These are the ingredients which appear to make her new disk, "Temptation" and "Travelin' Home" destined for hitdom.



Songwriter Roy Stanley made such an impression while demonstrating his songs that he was signed by Capitol as a singer. First disk is rocker titled "Common Sense."



Daris Day looks pretty sitting and is sitting pretty with her newest Columbia disk, "Whatever Will Be, Will Be." She also stars in upcoming MGM moviemusical, "Julie."



"Just one of Ed's little jokes — a cattle stampede in Hi-Fi!"



Leigh Snowden complains that although she spent years and a fortune training her voice, she has never been allowed to sing in a motion picture. Obviously, nobody has considered it necessary that she sing. She recently had dramatic role in UI's "The Creature Walks Among Us."

● TOTS TAKE TO TOOTS

The American Music Conference, an association of music educators, estimates that more than 8,000,000 youngsters are now playing musical instruments and getting instructions in this country's schools. Feeling that the country is on the threshold of a Golden Age of musical activity, the educators estimate that there are some 60,000 bands and orchestras in the school systems and over 500,000 music teachers active in the field.

The adults are also musically active, with some 1,500 amateur symphony orchestras functioning throughout the country. The AMC estimates that 27,650,000 persons play musical instruments, or one in every six people.



Maestro Les Brown studies the arrangement during recording of new release on Capitol, "Hit the Road To Dreamland." Tune is from "That Certain Feeling," Bob Hope movie.



Exotic Anita Tucker makes another impressive appearance on Capitol wax with two rock 'n roll sides, "Handcuffed Heart" and "Hop, Skip and Jump," with Big Dave's music.



Pat Barrett of the Crew-cuts and Marianne D'Andrea of the singing D'Andrea Sisters decided to try two-part harmony recently. Poses a problem . . . who'll sing the lead?

CITY OF MUSIC

Want a perfect clarinet, oboe or bassoon? Residents of the little Italian village of Quarna, boast that they can provide it. In fact, they've been doing pretty close to just that since the Middle Ages. For centuries the inhabitants of this little hamlet have been noted for their production of high quality musical instruments.

Legend has it that the natives learned their art from the Pied Piper, who settled there after ridding Hamelin of

the rats. Another story insists that the first horns were made in the middle ages to help incite the residents to do battle with invaders.

Today, the entire city revolves around music. Everywhere workers are trying out their instruments. There are, of course, several musical organizations, including a small jazz orchestra. As is to be expected, when the citizens of Quarna die, there is music at the funerals.



June Christy joins the long list of artists who are currently waxing tunes from movies by cutting "Intrigue," from the UA production, "Foreign Intrigue." Movie is based on the well known TV series.

● KITTY'S CHORDS CURED

The mystery which has surrounded Kitty Kallen's disappearance from the music scene last year, was resolved recently when she announced she would resume activities after a year-long bout with damaged vocal chords.

The thrush's voice gave out last July due to overwork and did not begin to return until six months ago when she started responding to treatment by Dr. Georgianna Preacher, professor of phoniatics at Temple University's department of Larynology.

Miss Kallen has resumed her recording activities and is set to begin personal appearances again.



Elsewhere in this issue of Music Views, considerable space is devoted to the album from the movie "High Society." Should be noted, however, that Sinatra has waxed a single from Porter's sensational score, titled "You're Sensational." Flip is from another of the pix in which Frank has starred recently, "Johnny Concho Theme."

Guy Lombardo listens intently to the playback of his newest Capitol release, "Bistro," to make sure that the famous Lombardo sound is there. His expression changed to one of pleasure when he discovered that the Royal Canadians were, as usual, in top form.



SEZ WHO?

Radio stations in this country try valiantly to attract as many listeners as possible. That doesn't seem to be the case, however, behind the iron curtain. The monitoring service for Radio Free Europe recently heard this announcement from a Czech radio station.

"First of all, we shall announce the names of listeners to whom the music is played. Furthermore, we shall play only to good workers whose letter of request is accompanied by a certificate from the shop committee of his trade union organization. Certificates obtained from the farm-collective administrator or the municipal council will also be acceptable. In the case of youth or children, a certificate must be issued by the local youth organization or school administration."



Ray McKinley and Marilyn Mitchell (need we explain that he's above and she below) are the new leader and vocalist, respectively, of the Glenn Miller Orchestra. The ork was recently reorganized and began a series of one-nighters in June with McKinley at the helm.



● BOONE TO MOVIES

Pat Boone, who's Dot disk "I Almost Lost My Mind" is currently climbing the charts, will sing the title song in the upcoming Allied Artists film, "Friendly Persuasion." Tune was written by Dimitri Tiomkin and Paul Francis Webster.

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Stan Freberg graciously accepts the congratulations of Hy Averbach and a plaque from Down Beat Magazine awarded because his disk "Yellow Rose of Texas" was selected as best novelty record of the year in the magazine's annual DJ poll. Award was made during Freberg's stint as "Comedy Hour" host.



Tex Ritter, Carolina Cotton and Merle Travis prepare to depart for South Africa via Pan American, as part of a troupe sent to raise funds for the establishment of a Cerebral Palsy Diagnostic Clinic in Johannesburg. Some 20 showbiz personalities made up the group.

COOL DOWN!

Louis Armstrong received a hero's welcome when a recent tour took him to the Gold Coast of Africa. More than 10,000 citizens met his plane and shouted a tumultuous welcome. Fifteen local dance bands played a musical tribute, specially composed for the occasion, "All For You, Louis."

Police Major Michael Col-

lens, however, was a little worried about the whole affair. He asked the trumpeter to cool off the tempo of his hot jazz to prevent the happy African audiences from rioting.

"When you play fast," said Collens, "these natives can't stand it. They'll riot all over the place with joy."

● SABRES CUT UP

A new vocal-instrumental group, The Sabres, is beginning to cut quite a wide swath in West Coast nitery circles. The three youngsters began singing together while still in the airforce and after their discharge, a few months ago, started working professionally around Los Angeles. A month later they were on their way to Las Vegas, where an enthusiastic reception at the Sahara Hotel caused them to be held over twice.

They were also spotted by RCA-Victor and an album is planned for fall release.



A music critic listens while alto saxist Bud Shank noodles to actor Steve Rowland's bongo beat. Shank records on Pacific Jazz label and has album which is being noticed.



Rita Moreno is keeping busy in movie musicals these days. After completing "Vagabond King" at Paramount, she moved to 20th Century-Fox for role in "The King and I."



While on a recent European tour, jazz trumpeter Chet Baker stopped off in Germany to record with vocalist Caterina Valente. Miss Valente also played guitar on the session. Sides will be released on Decca in this country and Polydor in Europe. Baker has album on Pacific Jazz label.

NO NICKELS

Several cities in Western Europe are taking an attitude which poses a problem to the coin machine industry. Cities like Rothenberg, Germany, which try to preserve medieval charm as an attraction to tourists, have banned juke boxes and vending machines. The cities feel that such modern equipment would be out of place in their carefully preserved decor.

There'll be no rock 'n roll in ault Heidelberg.



Several years ago, Frank DeVol recorded "Teddy Bear's Picnic" for Capitol and it has been in consistent demand ever since. Now he has another instrumental which promises to be similarly successful, "Toy Tiger" from the UI pic.



Dean Martin does a little impromptu clowning during the recording of his latest on Capitol, "I'm Gonna Steal You Away" and "Street of Love." The Nuggets backstop.

● BING DIVERSIFIES

Bing Crosby has one of the most unusual recording contracts in the business. Although he recently signed a new pact with Decca (he's been with the label for 22 years), the contract is non-exclusive and permits him to record for other labels. He'll be heard on Capitol's soundtrack album "High Society," and has also recorded an album under the Verve banner.

JAZZ HATER

In California, if you don't like your employer's taste in music you can quit your job and collect your unemployment compensation.

In the case of a 69 year old woman who claimed that the loud jazz music her employer continually played was giving her headaches, the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board ruled that she had quit with good cause and was entitled to unemployment compensation.



French pianist Onesime Grasbois is now heard in this country via his Capital waxing of "The Left Bank," fast-breaking tune written by the composer of "Poor People of Paris."



The only things pear-shaped about Kathryn Grayson are the tones she uses in the new Paramount Vista-Vision musical, "Vogabond King."



"And the Boot Come Back Alone" is the title of a new Capitol International release by Renato Carosone and His Quartetto. Group's first release, "Infatuation," was well received here in the States.

● FESTIVAL WAXED

Some of the festivities of the Newport Jazz Festival will be made available on Columbia wax. The company helped pay for the talent and plans album releases of some of the material. Among the performers appearing were Dave Brubeck, Miles Davis, Buck Clayton and Eddie Condon, all of whom are already under contract to the label.

It is interesting to note that the Newport Jazz Festival is also the setting for the new MGM musical "High Society." Most of the musicians who appear in the picture have performed at the festival.

PACKAGE POLITICS

Just in case the public doesn't get enough election-eering through regular channels, Broadcast Music Inc. has sent out a series of scripts for election year programming to radio and TV stations. The scripts include "The Rise of Political Campaigning," "Famous First Ladies" and "Campaign Songs."

The scripts do not mention who will win.



Red Nichols listens to playback of newest Cap release, "Cool Tango." Disk follows on the heels of his well accepted instrumental, "The Beautiful Girls of Vienna." Flip is dressed up standard, "Indiana."



Singer Elvis Presley was recent guest of Milton Berle on latter's NBC-TV show. Presley is still riding high with "Heartbreak Hotel."

● LIBERACE TO B'WAY

If current plans materialize, Liberace, his brother George and Vampira may be the stars of a Broadway show this fall. This off-beat combination recently played in a nightclub revue, "Come As You Were," at the Riviera in Las Vegas. The Shuberts plan to bring the unit to Broadway and expand the package to a full length revue.

Liberace and Vampira?



Consistent favorites among the rock 'n rollers, The Five Keys are on their way to another hit with their latest on Capitol, "My Pigeon's Gone" and "Peace and Love." "Pigeon" is a swinger, "Peace" a ballad.



The teaming of singer Marilyn Maxwell with Bob Hope on a recent NBC-TV Spectacular did not exactly come as a shock. She started working with comic back in 1944.

● JAZZ HELPS SYMPH

The Connecticut Symphony Orchestra got financial aid from an unexpected source recently, when a jazz concert was staged for its benefit. Duke Ellington's ork headlined the bash, with the Chico Hamilton Quintet also featured.

● FLANAGAN SCRIBBLES

Bandleader Ralph Flanagan has authored a book titled "How To Build a Dance Band." The tome answers questions asked Flanagan by students about how to start and build a band.

PLAY BALL!

The tune "Little Leaguer," which has been aired on several top TV shows, was written by tunesmith Art Kassel because his grandson dared him to "come up with something" to prove he was a songwriter.

In addition to a couple of commercial records which have recently been released on the tune, Kassel's own Double-play Records has been pressing disks which the Little League baseball clubs buy at wholesale and peddle at a 50-cent profit to add to their treasuries.

● CHOOSE NO BOOZE

Old villain alcohol has been foiled again, this time by deejay Alan Freed. When the graduating class of Chappaqua (New Jersey) High School talked the parents into allowing beer to be served at the graduation party, civic and religious leaders kicked up such a fuss that the parents decided to back down and offered the kids an alternative. The students readily agreed to a top showbiz attraction as a substitute, which turned out to be Freed and a 12-piece rock 'n roll band.



Dizzy Gillespie tries a filtered cigarette Turkish style during a recent tour of the middle east. Following the tour he entertained at the White House Correspondents Annual Dinner, where he is purported to have introduced Ike to bop.



Formerly vocalist with Tommy Dorsey ork, Fran Irvin is now seen and heard on KTLA's "Bandstand Revue" by Los Angeles televiewers.



An ardent record collector, Peggie Castle wants to do a musical at her home studio, Warner Bros.

SANS PAROLE

The Voices of Walter Schumann are at a loss for words. At least as far as their new RCA-Victor album is concerned. The package presents the vocal group in a collection of standard tunes, but they just sing the music, not words. Appropriately enough, the album is titled "Not a Word Was Spoken."

● PRIZES WITHHELD

Members of the 10-member judging panel for the Student Composer Radio Awards of 1955 were unable to find works of sufficiently high quality among the 200 submissions by college and conservatory students and decided against awarding the \$6,500 in prizes. The amount will be added to next year's awards.

Two awards were made in the Secondary School group, however. \$500 was awarded to Michael Kessler, Age 14, of South Merchantville, New Jersey, and Donald Jenni, age 18, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The 1955 competition was the fourth annual contest sponsored by B. I and BMI Canada, Ltd. to further the creation of concert music by student composers.



Discovered by Capitol in a local nightspot, Tabby Calvin and the Rounders cut their first wax for the label, "False Alarm." It aint.

● GALE STILL STRONG

Now that Gale Storm has acquired a reputation as a top vocalist, she's readying a new TV film series for this fall. Show will have a musical format and be called, "Oh, Susanna." One of the first tunes spotlighted will be her current click, "I Ain't Gonna Worry."

SWEET REVENGE

Probably no recording artist has ever taken greater pleasure in turning down a song than did Sammy Davis Jr., recently. Sammy was approached by a fellow named Robert Harrison, to record a song titled "Shh—It's Confidential." Harrison is the publisher of Confidential magazine, which has recently published three "exposes" involving Sammy.



Betty Grable recently left her race horses long enough to make one of her infrequent TV appearances on the Bob Hope Spectacular.



Ruby Murray, sensational teenaged British import, makes her second appearance on Capitol with a lush ballad, "A Voice In the Choir."



Jimmy Bryant and Speedy West tune up their guitars for another frantic performance on new Capitol release, "Pickin' Peppers." Flip is also swinger, "Pushin' the Blues."

CAPTIVATING

Music hath charms to soothe a ruffled movie producer, according to John Farrow, producer-director of RKO's "Back From Eternity." Farrow felt he was losing time in reassembling the cast between takes while shooting the picture, so he hired an accordion team to play during the intervals. The cast stayed to hear the entertainment and thus were available when needed. Farrow feels he saved a day's shooting. At current production prices that's a lot of money . . . and nothing soothes a movie producer like saving a lot of money.



The King's IV, vocal and instrumental group, are now heard on a wax revival of the old Zeb Confrey novelty tune, "Stumbling." Flip is a new tune, "You're on Trial."

● AUSTRIANS IRKED

Austrian songwriters are complaining that they are being put out of business by their foreign competitors, chiefly Americans. They have formed the Austrian Society of Lyricists, to look after their interests and attempt to get more exposure for locally produced tunes. They contend that less than 50% of the songs programmed last year on the radio were of Austrian origin.

LUCK'S LUCK

Irving Luck, a student who rented a billboard in New York for the purpose of attracting Perry Como's attention to his songs, might possibly get back the \$850 he spent on the stunt. So far he hasn't had a song recorded by Como, but Stan Rubin's Tiger Town Five did record one of his ditties. Now if they can peddle around 85,000 copies of the disk, Luck will just about break even.

● LOLLOBRIGIDA SINGS

Gina Lollobrigida will sing a total of five songs in her upcoming picture, "Notre Dame de Paris." Songs will be written by the French composer Georges Auric.



Long-stemmed Julie Adams co-stars with Jeff Chandler and Lex Barker in Ul's "Away All Boats." Title tune was waxed by various labels.



Neophyte Dean Jones was uncovered singing at Knott's Berry Farm in Los Angeles and signed record pact with MGM. You may now make up a pun about how it is the berries.



Eddie Cantor "played it straight" for the first time in a recent dramatic performance on TV-NBC Matinee Theater. The hour-long drama co-starred Lillian Bronson.

● FUND EXPANDS

The George Gershwin Memorial Foundation, which fosters promising young composing talent in the U. S., is planning to expand its activities this year. In addition to making its annual Gershwin award for the best composition in a nationwide contest, the Foundation is planning to assist the work by the Composers' Forum and will also encourage concerts featuring works by young American tune-smiths.

● SANGUINITY BANNED

"Transfusion," a novelty tune about a speed-happy motorist who winds up needing someone to "shoot the blood to me bud," is running into trouble with the network censors. One network has banned the tune, while others are still dubious. Dot Record, who waxed the ditty, insists that it contains a safety message.

Regardless of the pros and cons, the tune is showing up on the hit rosters.

● MAY DANCE TO JUKES

A bill has been introduced into Congress which would permit dancing in establishments which have mechanical music, without subjecting them to the admission tax. Currently the tax is levied wherever dancing takes place.

● BUMPER LP CROP

According to figures compiled by the Billboard, entertainment newspaper, the public will have its pick of more than 5,000 new LP albums during 1956. Total includes both pop and classical releases. Projected figure points to the biggest year in the history of the record business.

FYI

The New Hampshire State Planning and Development Commission wanted to set the record straight, recently, so they issued a statement to the effect that the original lyrics of "The Yellow Rose of Texas" were written by Josiah Moody Fletcher of Nashua, N. H., in the year 1890. The sheet music credits Don George with the lyric.

Do they have yellow roses in New Hampshire?

● CASA LOMAN RETURNS

After several years of retirement, Glen Gray is returning to the music business. The veteran orchestra leader was recently signed by Capitol to record under the old billing of Glen Gray and the Casa Loma Orchestra. At one time Gray's crew was one of the top bands in the business.



Talented French import, Denise Dorin, plays the accordion, sings and dances. She also appeared in Broadway's "Goodbye Again" and CBS-Radio's "21st Precinct" series.



Danny Knight makes wax debut on MGM with folkish "The Searchers" backed with "The Somewhere Voice."

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One of the fastest rising stars in the rock 'n roll firmament is 20-year-old Gene Vincent. Although "Be-Bop-a-Lula" and "Woman Love" (initial waxing for Capitol by Gene and His Blue Caps) have only been on the market a short time, both sides are already established hits. The Blue Caps are made up of enthusiastic youngsters, ages from 15 to 20 years.