

Recordially Yours

Jimmy Durante



by Norman Weiser

CRISPNESS in the Fall air means the opera and concert season has arrived. And with it come two exceptional record packages: Angel's "La Boheme" as performed by the La Scala company, including Maria Callas, and a new limited edition of "The Five Beethoven Concertos," as performed by Artur Rubinstein and the Symphony of the Air, Josef Krips conducting.

TOPS ON THE RECORD SHELVES: Who can forget the voice of Al Jolson? For the millions of Jolson fans, Decca has brought out "Among My Souvenirs," a series of off-the-air songs sung as only Al could sing them.

From the same label comes another special package, "Satchmo—A Musical Autobiography of Louis Armstrong." Complete with printed story and narrative, this is truly a living history of jazz as told by a master.

MUSIC FOR FAMILY LISTENING: For those who like vocal records, let's tee off with "Patti Page," a Mercury etching featuring selections everyone associates with the Singing Rage. Then follow with RCA's "Belafonte Sings of the Caribbean" which, of course, stars Harry Belafonte. In a sultry mood, try "Stormy Weather," an RCA etching by Lena Horne. And for more of the same, listen to Julie Wilson sing "My Old Flame," her new Vik LP.

Devotees of early Glenn Miller music will want to add "Marvelous Miller Moods" to their collections. This RCA album features Glenn's band of the Air Corps days and was produced from broadcasts made by the group shortly before it went overseas. In another vein, spin "Moods in Music," a Mercury release starring Herman Clebanoff and his beautiful strings. And switching moods again, "Club Durant" offers a history of night clubs, featuring the one and only Jimmy Durante with guests ranging from Ethel Barrymore to Bing Crosby.

COVERING THE CLASSICS: Verdi's "Rigoletto" is one of the best-loved operas, and RCA's new release, recorded at the Rome Opera House, comes complete with printed story and dialogue. "Souvenir of Vienna" is a musical visit to Old Europe via Angel, and Capitol's "Overture" as performed by the Hollywood Bowl Symphony Orchestra is a fine listening experience.

"The Art of Rosa Ponselle" is Camden's entry, and the program is tastefully selected and artistically performed. "Fritz Kreisler Favorites" with Rafael Druian, violin, and John Simms, piano, is another in the excellent Mercury Olympian series, while "The Sadlers Wells Ballet—A Silver Jubilee Tribute" is one of the finest groupings we've heard. Angel presents this package as performed by the Royal Opera House Orchestra.

JAZZOMANIA: Last year we were in attendance when Norman Granz smashed all records with his jazz concert at the Hollywood Bowl. Now this bash, complete with Ella Fitzgerald, the late Art Tatum, and many others, is on Verve records.

"The Swingin' Miss D" is Mercury's spotlighting of Dinah Washington on one of her best shellacs to date. From Atlantic comes Dixieland at Jazz Ltd., which features such names as Sidney Bechet, Miff Mole, and Muggsy Spanier. And Vik's contribution to the swinging scene is "The Four Brothers Together Again," starring Zoot Sims, Al Cohn, Herb Steward, and Serge Chaloff.

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