



Recordially Yours

by Norman Weiser

IF YOU WERE fortunate enough to get a new phonograph for Christmas, or even if you're still listening to "old reliable," here are some new albums to start you off on a merry, musical 1959.

TOPS IN THE RECORD SHOPS: "They Sold 20 Million" is a Warner Brothers' present featuring some of the top tunes and artists of all time. Capitol gives us "The Ballad Style of Stan Kenton," and Verve offers "Ella Fitzgerald Sings the Irving Berlin Song Book," a double-disk delight. MGM's "The Fanny Brice Story in Song" featuring Kaye Ballard is also a wax winner.

MUSIC FOR FAMILY LISTENING: For a vocal program, try some of the following for size: Capitol's "Voices in Love" by the Four Freshmen; Warner Brothers' Mary Kaye Trio with "Too Much!"; Lena Horne, "Give the Lady What She Wants" on RCA; "Connie Boswell Sings Irving Berlin," Design; Capitol's Keely Smith in "Politely"; and "Tab Hunter" with the film star singing for Warner Brothers. "When You Come to the End of the Day" spots Perry Como on RCA, and, finally, "The Song You Heard When You Fell in Love," with Atlantic's Betty Johnson.

For instrumental listening — and dancing — give these a spin: "Dance Music in the Jimmy Lanin Manner" via MGM; "Jackie Gleason Presents Rebound," Capitol; and three from RCA, "Dancing with the Smart Set," Meyer Davis and orchestra, "Dilo" by Perez Prado, and "The King Plays Some Aces" by Xavier Cugat.

COLLATING THE CLASSICS: We have space to mention only a few of the many new classical LPs now available, so here goes: Dvorak's "New World Symphony" played for Capitol by the Los Angeles Philharmonic; Beethoven's "Eroica Symphony" by the Boston Symphony on RCA; and from Angel, Tchaikovsky's "Symphony No. 4" by the Philharmonia Orchestra, Thomas Schippers conducting.

For opera lovers, there are some fine complete recordings now in the record shops. From RCA comes "Lucia Di Lammermoor," the Donizetti master-

piece, with soloists, orchestra, and chorus of the Rome Opera House, and on the same label, Ponchielli's "La Gioconda" direct from the famed Metropolitan Opera. Finally, you will want the complete Tchaikovsky ballet, "The Sleeping Beauty," as played by the Philharmonia Orchestra for Angel.

JAZZOMANIA: Verve's "Louis under the Stars" is a most happy sound to start off a New Year. And for a vocal vroom-vroom, dig Atlantic's "Chris Craft" starring Chris Connor. "European Windows" is an RCA release by John Lewis, while Buddy DeFranco playing Nelson Riddle's "Cross-Country Suite" on Dot is rapidly becoming a collector's item. "Percussion at Work" is a Pete Rugolo offering via Mercury, and from 72-year-old Kid Ory comes a most exciting wax, "Song of the Wanderer" on Verve.

Via Warner Brothers, Jack Webb presents "Pete Kelly Lets His Hair Down." HiFi Records brings us a real swinging set in "Big Dixie" featuring Harry Zimmerman.

STEREO SOUND-OFF: The big new sound is here, and many fine recordings made especially for the two-eared listening medium are making their bow.

Complete operas which are a must are Puccini's "Madame Butterfly" on RCA, featuring Anna Moffo, Cesare Valletti, Rosalind Elias, and the orchestra and chorus of the Rome Opera House, and Verdi's "Il Trovatore," with Mario del Monaco, Renata Tebaldi, and Giulietta Simionato, on London.

One of the most magnificent sounds yet heard on stereo is London's tremendous "The Mikado," in its entirety, with the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta being performed by the famed D'Oyly Carte Opera Company.

Capitol offers two by the Hollywood Bowl Symphony, Grofe's "Grand Canyon Suite" and "Gypsy," Carmen Dragon conducting. In a pop vein, try Disneyland's "Tutti's Trumpets," with Tutti Camarata, and RCA's "Saturday Night with Mr. C." starring Perry Como, "Stars and Stripes Cakewalk" by the Boston Pops Orchestra on RCA also should be a big hit.

Kaye Ballard

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