

Recordially Yours

by Norman Weiser



Gwen Verdon

tops on the record shelves:

Some of the special packages you'll want to review this month are Gian Carlo Menotti's "Maria Golovin," the complete version by RCA; Shelly Manne and His Men playing "Peter Gunn," a Contemporary Jazz winner; and, from Disneyland, Ferde Grofe's "Grand Canyon Suite," magnificently performed by the Symphonie Orchester Graunke. "Porgy and Bess Revisited," featuring Cootie Williams and Rex Stewart, will be a collector's item in years to come; and, for the stereo fans, London offers the complete Richard Strauss "Arabella," with orchestra and soloists from the Vienna State Opera.

music for family listening:

On the vocal front, Warner Brothers unveils the Smart Set with "Informally Yours," and "Garry Moore Presents 1940—That Wonderful Year," an extremely well-done presentation. Capitol offers "Welcome to the Club" by Nat "King" Cole and "Judy Garland at the Grove," an LP recorded during a personal appearance by Miss Music.

"I've Heard That Song Before" is Patti Page at her singing best. Also from Mercury, but more for the jeans set, are "Hello, Baby!" by the late Big Bopper, and "Remember When," the Platters' way of introducing the teens to songs their parents used to sing. "Why Fight the Feeling?" spotlights Roy Hamilton on Epic, and Roulette swings with "Love Songs a la Rose" by Julius La Rosa, and "His Golden Year," another big one for Jimmie Rodgers. "For LP Fans Only" is the latest in the Elvis Presley RCA saga, and the Crew Cuts make their debut on this label with "Surprise Package." Finally, try "Satchmo in Style" by Louis Armstrong on Decca.

new sound, new beat:

In the pop vein, stereo offers Larry Elgart and his orchestra on RCA; "Cocktail Dancing" by Lester Lanin on Epic; "Open Fire, Two Guitars" with Johnny Mathis, and Percy Faith's big band in "Malgwen," both on Columbia; "The Four Seasons" by Tina Robin, "Swinging School Songs," played by Dave Pell and his octet, "Pam Garner Sings Quietly," and Teresa Brewer's "When Your Lover Has Gone," all on Coral; "Film Encores" by Montovani, "Evening in London" with Frank Chacksfield and his orchestra, and "My Foolish Heart" swung by the Betty Smith group, are London entries.

instrumental musical moods:

"For Lovers" by pianist Ray Hartley is RCA's gift of the Spring season and, via the same label, try "Love in the Afternoon" by the Three Suns. Most interesting is Epic's "Maravilloso" by Los Indios.

In a swinging mood, try "Jonah Jumps Again" by Jonah Jones on Capitol, and "Swinging My Way Through College" by Maynard Ferguson, Roulette. "The Magic Touch" by Buck Ram and his band on Mercury should entertain the entire family and, in the same vein, try "60 Great Songs That Say I Love You" by Dick Hyman, an MGM release. Finally, "Be Gentle, Please" is a Warner Brothers waxing by the Ernie Colman Trio.

special merit:

Deserving of your listening time are "Redhead," an RCA etching featuring Gwen Verdon and the cast of the Broadway hit; MGM's "The Best of Burlesque," featuring Tom Poston as Top Banana and, from the same company, the original-cast album of "Whoop-Up" with Sylvia Sims.

jazzomania:

"Andre Previn Plays Songs by Vernon Duke" is top jazz by a young genius, thanks to Contemporary. Verve's current issues include "This Is Tal Farlow," "Easy Street" by Turk Murphy, and "This Is Ray Brown." Roulette offers "Steve Allen at the Roundtable," and "Locking Horns" with Zoot Sims and Joe Newman. "The Real Fats Waller" is issued from the Camden archives and, finally, Matty Matlock's "And They Called It Dixieland" is a Warner Brothers swing set.

stereo sound-off:

In a classical vein, try Rossini-Respighi's "La Boutique Fantasque," the complete ballet by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra; "Pathetique," the Tchaikovsky symphony played by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra; the London Symphony playing a series of Spanish compositions under the title, "España," and Stravinsky's "Le Sacre du Printemps" by L'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, all on London.

Vanguard's StereoLab series offers Rimsky-Korsakov's brilliant "Scheherazade," and Haydn's "Symphony No. 100 in G" and "Symphony No. 101 in D," all by the Vienna State Opera Orchestra. From RCA comes Brahms' "Violin Concerto" by Henryk Szeryng with the London Symphony Orchestra.

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