# high fidelity 60 CENTS THE MAGAZINE FOR MUSIC LISTENERS NOVEMBER V®

its music
 its orchestra
 its landmarks

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"It appears that Glaser-Steers has tried to make the GS-77 as nearly foolproof and flexible as possible. They have succeeded admirably."

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"The GS-77 comes about as close to perfection in a changer design as anything we have seen. Its mechanical performance is comparable to that of many other turntables and it has nearly removed the possibility of human error from its operation."



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### high fidelity

including AUDIOCRAFT and HI-FI MUSIC AT HOME

#### **NOVEMBER 1959** volume 9 number 11

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#### ADVERTISING

Main Office Claire N. Eddings, The Publishing House Great Barrington, Mass, Telephone 1 300

> New York 1564 Broadway, New York 36 Telephone: Plaza 7-2800 Bert Covit, Sy Resnick

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#### **AUTHORitatively Speaking**

Last winter someone gave John M. Conly (formerly Editor of this publication, now Chairman of its Editorial Board ) an especially dashing Tyrolean hat. First thing we knew, he was off to Austria-but spending more time in Vienna's Hofburg and environs than on the ski slopes. One re-sult: the article on the Vienna Philharmonic which leads off this issue (p. 54). Among other results: while still dutifully performing his regular stints as music critic for the Atlantic Monthly, writer on music and audio topics for various other journals, and member of the Selection Panel of the RCA Victor Society of Great Music, he's taken to substituting white wines for lunch-time Martinis. We wouldn't be surprised if he were found strolling in the Prater again any day now.

H. C. Robbins Landon really does have employ other than happily wandering around landmarks of the musical past, even though readers of his account of Esterháza (August) and of the present guide (p. 58) to musical Vienna might imagine otherwise. He is perhaps the authority on Haydn and a specialist on Mozart, too. In any case, we knew of no one better able to describe the scenes. photographed by Erich Lessing.

Joseph Wechsberg, whose history of Viennese operetta we present herewith, is undoubtedly familiar to HIGH FIDELITY readers through his contributions to Holiday, Esquire, and The New Yorker. They might not know, however, that he has been a dedicated amateur of chamber music and opera since he first took up the fiddle at the age of eight. For reasons unclear to us, Mr. Wechsberg doesn't care to publicize his professional appearances, but the dossier does reveal that he played with ship's orchestras on certain vessels of the French Line. It seems possible that our author's experience of "Flittermice and Merry Widows" (see p. 64) may not have been solely from the audience.

As Assistant Editor of Welt am Montag (Vienna's largest weekly newspaper), record reviewer, and press manager for Vienna's biggest record shop, Hans Herzog has excellent qualifications for the piece of detective work you'll find on p. 67. See why there are "Night Lights in the Konzerthaus."

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M. CONLY, music editor, Die Atlantic; AARON COPLAND, composer; ALFRED FRANKENSTEIN, music editor, San Francisco Chronicle; DOUGLAS MOORE, composer and Professor of Music, Columbia; WILLIAM SCHUMAN, composer and president of Juilliard School of Music; CARLETON SPRAGUE SMITH, former Chief of Music Division, N. Y. Public Library; G. WALLACE WOODWORTH, Professor of Music, Harvard.

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#### Debt fo the Past

#### Sin:

Your article on Thomas Edison [September] was most entertaining. Though it was quite lengthy, it still was not long enough. The variety of information and the method with which the anthor presented it made me slip back into the time when I was a visitor at Menlo Park, a bystander in Washington, etc. When I finished the article I didn't feel quite satisfied. I wanted a few lines telling about Edison's other inventions; Berliner and his phonograph and how it concerned Edison; but even so I still feel there is something about Mr. Josephson's story that must capture the wholehearted interest of all people who genuinely appreciate what has come to be high fidelity.

Yale Brevda Tampa, Fla.

#### Stereo Sanity

#### SIR:

Maybe "every regular reader of HICH FIDELITY knows what true stereo is" but here's one who didn't-until Charles Fowler's article came along in your September issue. Congratulations on bringing sanity to bear on sound and fury. I'm still among the monophonic incorrigibles, but conversion (in more than one sense) may be on its way.

> William A. Ditters Seattle, Wash.

#### A Yawn for the Id

#### SIR:

Isn't it a bit late in the day for you people to be playing the tired old game of the analyst's couch? Matthew Arnold's been dead a long time, and who in this year of enlightenment doubts that "Beethoven Had an Id, Too" [September]? In fact, who cares? Mr. Lockspeiser's article plays to the gallery—even housewives like myself get pretty bored by this stuff. And I said bored, not outraged.

Mary P. Grant New Haven, Conn.

Continued on next page

NOVEMBER 1959

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#### STEREO HI-FI

as, challenges comparison with the costilest components . .

prove it for yourself on our 15-day free home trial...doubly guaranteed: specifications meet or exceed published figures or we refund your money , unconditionally guaranteed for one full year ...





deluxe 60-watt complete stereo amplifier

Fifteen stereophonic and monophonic controls  $\cdot$  60 watts rated stereo output...76 watts usable...152 watts peak-to-peak  $\cdot \pm 0.5$  db, 25-20,000 cps  $\cdot$  Third channel speaker output with new additive full-range circuit  $\cdot$  5 pairs of stereo inputs...including auxiliary for new cartridge tape playback  $\cdot$  Long-life silicon diode heat-free power supply with oversize transformer  $\cdot$  Humless DC on all preamp tubes  $\cdot$  Vinyl-clad metal case included in price  $\cdot$  Anodized front panel in brushed gold and charcoal brown  $\cdot$  Shpg. wt., 35 lbs...only \$149.95.\$5.00 down.





#### deluxe stereo FM-AM tuner

Separate FM and AM sections for stereo reception - Adjustable DSR corrective feedback for lowest distortion of FM - Front panel audio and a.c. switching for multiplex - Dual limiters on FM - Tuned RF stage on both FM and AM - 2.5 microvolt sensitivity on FM +  $\pm$  0.5 db, 20-20,000 cps - Cathode follower multiplex and tape output jacks - Dual "Microbeam" tuning indicators - Illuminated 9½" tuning scale - Low-noise 50-ohm extra antenna terminals - Solid aluminum front panel, gold anodized, with vinyl-clad case. Shpg. wt., 21 lbs...only \$139.95. \$5.00 down.

New Easy Terms: Only \$5 down (or less) on orders up to \$200. Up to 24 months to pay.



Send for your complete, moneysaving guide to the world's largest selection of hi-fi components and systems. See everything in steree; all the new KNIGHT components; all leading make lines. For everything in hi-fi, for everything in Electronics, get the 1960 ALLIED Catalog-FREE-write for It today.

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### Now ... from Sonotone-

### 4 Big Improvements in the quality stereo cartridge

Sonotone 8TA cartridge ... higher than ever quality

> The new Sonotone 8TA cartridge gives greater than ever stereo performance... has 4 big extras:

> > ONLY

150\*

- fuller, smoother frequency response
- higher compliance than ever before
- lighter tracking pressure
- practically eliminates dust pile-up

#### New 10T cartridge at lowest price ever —easiest to install

The 10T sells at record low price of \$6.45.\* And it covers the complete high fidelity range. 10T's unitized construction makes it easiest to install, even for the person with ten thumbs. Snaps right in or out. Culs stereo conversion costs, too.

SFE	CIFICATION	13
	BTA	10T
	Smooth 20 to 20,000 cycles. Flat to 15,000 with gradual rolloff beyond.	Flat from 20 to 15,000 cycles $\pm$ 2.5 db.
Channel Isolation	20 decibels	18 decibels
Compliance	3.0 x 10-4 cm/dyne	1.5 x 10-0 cm/dyne
Tracking Pressure		5-7 grams
Output Voitage		0.5 volt
Cartridge Weight		2.8 grams
Recommended Load		1-5 megohms
Stylus		Dual jewei tips, sapphire or diamond.

\* including mounting brackets

Sonotone ceramic cartridges have more than impressive specifications...always give brilliant performance. You'll hear the difference with Sonotone. For highest stereo fidelity, use genuine Sonotone needles.



Leading makers of fine ceraniic cartridges, speakers, microphones, electronic tubes.

#### LETTERS

Continued from preceding page

#### Threni Welcomed

Sm:

As one who has long deplored the indifference (if not contumely) with which contemporary music is treated in much of the press, may I thank you, and Alfred Frankenstein, for the review of Stravinsky's *Threni* in your September issue? In general it is good to see the catholicity of taste exemplified in your record reviews, and the humility with which your critics temper their wisdom.

C. Randall Adams Tucson, Ariz.

#### **Request Seconded**

SIR:

On page 12 of the September issue of HIGH FIDELITY is a short letter of D. L. Weeks of Los Angeles. I most emphatically want to second his request for a *Siegfried* recording. I cherish an old *Siegfried* by RCA Vietor (M 83-78RM) which is totally inadequate by recording standards of today.

Notwithstanding the shabby omissions of Wagner operas by Messrs. Rudolf Bing & Co. there is a definite need for more Wagner. Wagnerian singers are available all over Europe, and performances are plentiful there. Granted that the great length of these operas presents problems here in overtime pay for musicians and stage hands, and the financiers and benefactors of former days are impoverished by exorbitant taxes, still a way should be found to produce these operas. Perhaps the new and larger opera houses will be able to meet this problem. Europe is impoverished too. but Wagner is a necessity there. In the meantime our only hope in this country is new recordings. . . . Please, oh, please, let us have a complete recording of Siegfried. How about you Wagnerians: will you write letters, and more letters? Only in this way will we ever get what we want.

Walter F. Kirsten San Antonio, Tex.





se chilstings seats



The quality, the scope, the sheer capability of the FISHER 202-T will strike you the instant you see it. Behind its beautifully brushed brass control panel are the three finest components ever conceived for the knowledgeable high fidelity enthusiast who is no longer content with 'second-best.' He has learned that it pays to buy the best first. That is why he is ready for FISHER ... and particularly for the FISHER 202-T Stereo FM-AM Tuner and Master Audio Control.

THE FM TUNER offers better than one microvolt sensitivity, four IF stages, automatic interstation noise suppression, MICRORAY tuning, and space and controls for the FISHER MPX-20 Multiplex Adaptor.

THE AM TUNER has been equipped with a tuned RF stage, temperature-compensated converter stage, 10-Kc sharp cut-off filter, a rotatable antenna and a MICRORAY Tuning Indicator.

THE MASTER AUDIO CONTROL provides the user with twenty-eight controls for every conceivable program source and application, including-MULTIPLEX, CENTER CHANNEL and REMOTE CONTROL operation! Naturally, hum, noise and distortion are inaudible. Frequency response 20 to 20,000 cps ±1 db. \$349.50

WRITE TODAY FOR COMPLETE FISHER STEREO LITERATURE

#### FISHER RADIO CORPORATION • 21-25 44th DRIVE • LONG ISLAND CITY I, N.Y.

# FOR DISTORTION-FREE POWER, add

THE FISHER SA-300 60-Watt Stereo Power Amplifier -world's only stereo amplifief whose performance specifications are guaranteed! \$169.50

FOR FLAWLESS REPRODUCTION, add

THE FISHER XP-1 Free-Piston Inree-Way Speaker System -first high-compliance plus high-efficiency system! \$129.50

Prices Slightly Higher In The Far West

# General Electric's all-new VR-22 Stereo Cartridge try it in your own home



# money-back guarantee!

We believe that once you hear General Electric's all-new VR-22 in the privacy of your own home, on your own equipment, you'll want to have this superb stereo cartridge for your very own.

We're so sure of it, in fact, that we are making you an offer virtually without precedent in the Hi-Fi field: Try the VR-22 at home for 10 days. If you don't agree that this is the stereo cartridge for you, bring it back and the full purchase price will be cheerfully refunded. You have nothing to lose and a whole new world of enjoyment to gain! See your participating General Electric Hi-Fi dealer. The VR-22 is outstanding in all four critical areas of stereo cartridge performance: Channel separation-Response-Freedom from hum-Compliance.

VR-22-5 with .5 mil diamond stylus for professional quality tone arms, **\$27.95**°. VR-22-7 with .7 mil diamond stylus for professional arms and record changers, **\$24.95**°. TM-2G Tone Armdesigned for use with General Electric stereo cartridges as an integrated pickup system, **\$29.95**°. General Electric Co., Audio Components Products Section, Auburn, N. Y.

\*Manufacturer's suggested resale prices.

Acclaimed by the experts!



"... the VR-227 is a top performer. The frequency response is as flat as any cartridge tested to date. Channel-to-channel separation in the vital area between 700 cycles and 8000 cycles was equal to the very best stored cartridges now affered the public."

GENERAL



Wm. A. Stocklin Editor Electronics World as quoted in issuo of Sept. 1959

ELECTRIC





C. G. McProud Editor Audio as quoted in issue of Sept, 1959

"... is even better than its predecessor with respect to output, channel separation and extended frequency response and the two channels balance within  $\pm 2$  db to 15,000 cycles. The shielding has been improved and the grounding of the shield and the methad of shorting the two 'ground' terminals are well thought out."

HIGH FIDELITY MAGAZINE



### THE FISHER



Hum and noise less than 0.00001 part of full rated output-100 db down ! Distortion-free power at

all listening levels! Detimum results with all speakers! Wrote HiFi Review: "Results equalled manufacturer's highly exacting specifications."

Prices Slightly Higher In The Far West

In their October 1959 stereo amplifier report, the editors of HiFi Review said the following of the FISHER SA-300: "This is undoubtedly the most 'sophisticated' stereo power amplifier available to the public at this writing. The advertised claims of low hum and noise levels appear to be readily available in production models now on your dealers' shelves. This is certainly the quietest amplifier likely to be found outside of a professional recording studio. The built-in 'controlled-frequency-responsefilter' is a quantum jump in thoughtful engineering design. It was especially developed to permit this amplifier to operate with electrostatic speakers, and may also prove immensely valuable where subsonic woofer and supersonic tweeter problems are to be encountered. All in all, the SA-300 is the Aristocrat of

stereo power amplifiers, and is a wise investment for superlative stereophonic hi-fi."

WRITE TODAY FOR THE COMPLETE SA-300 STORY!

FISHER RADIO CORPORATION · 21-25 44TH DRIVE · L. I. CITY 1, N.Y. Export: Morhan Exporting Corp., 458 Broadway, New York 13, N.Y.

# THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESENCE O

### for the first time . . a needle shaped to follow record grooves exactly . . pick up all the sound



New Pyramid Point Diamond Traces the centerline of the microgroove with more surface contact. Accurately contacts all frequency areas. Assures minimum distortion, maximum true sound.



Ordinary Diamond Does not trace the centerline of the groove. Has less surface contact. Pinches and rides bumpily in high frequency areas — distorts many sound impressions.



It's here! The new Pyramid Point Diamond by Fidelitone — the only needle tip scientifically shaped to simulate the original recording stylus. It's designed to pick up all sound information cleanly reproduces the highest highs — the lowest lows. The exclusive new pyramid shape minimizes pinch effect in the high frequency passages, lowers background noise — and reduces distortions as much as 85%! Now for the first time the full pure tones of the original recorded sound are faithfully reproduced. And the greater surface contact between needle and record prolongs your needle and record life. So hear the amazing difference yourself in sound quality — stereophonic or monophonic with the new Pyramid Point Diamond by Fidelitone.

Over 30 years of quality needles



HIGH FIDELITY MAGAZINE

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### BEST IN EVERY STEREO HIGH FIDELITY CATEGORY

RECEIVERS + TUNERS MASTER AUDIO CONTROLS CONTROL AMPLIFIERS POWER AMPLIFIERS

THE FIS

THE FISHER 600 Stereo FM-AM Receiver is the world's first and finest

complete stereo receiver. It contains everything you need on one magnificent chassis: a Stereo FM-AM Tuner, Stereo Master Audio Control, and a 40-Watt Stereo Power Amplifier. Because of its ample power reserve, it is also the only receiver suitable for both high and low-efficiency speakers! FM sensitivity under one microvolt. Cascode RF stage on FM. Rotatable AM antenna. Nineteen operating controls, including separate, dual-channel Bass and Treble, plus facilities for center channel operation! Add two speakers (we recommend the FISHER XP-1) and a turntable, and you will have a stereo installation second to none. Ask your dealer for a demonstration - today! \$349.50



#### THE FISHER 101-R Stereo FM-AM Tuner

World's most sensitive Stereo FM-AM Tuner — 0.75 microvolt FM sensitivity for 20 db quieting! Four IF stages. Independent luners for stereo or mono reception. Two Micro-Ray Tuning Indicators. Automatic FM interstation noise suppression. \$229.50



THE FISHER 400-CA Stereo Master Audio Control World's finest, mast versatile stereo control center. Sixteen inputs far any combination of stereo ar mono applications — including remote control with the FISHER RK-11 Uniform frequency response: 20 to 25,000 cps. Hum and noise inaudible. \$174.50



#### THE FISHER X-101A Stereo Master Audio Control and 40-Watt Stereo Amplifier

Peak power, 75 watts. Twelve inputs for all stereo or mono program sources. Uniform frequency response from 20 to 20,000 cps. Separate dual-channel Bass and Treble controls. Record-Monitor facilities. \$194.50

Prices Slightly Higher In The Far Wess

WRITE TODAY FOR COMPLETE FISHER STEREO LITERATURE

FISHER RADIO CORPORATION . 21-25 44th DRIVE . LONG ISLAND CITY, NEW YORK

NOVEMBER 1959

Get this stereo tape bonus...



Four new 4-track, 7½ ips Bel Canto Stereo Tapes free—to start your library with a 4-track Bell Tape Transport



With scores of brand new 4-track stereo tapes already available, now's the time to buy the tape transport you've wanted for your stereo system. Make sure it's a Bell . . . because only Bell gives you a STEREO BONUS of four new 4-track stereo tapes to help you start your tape library with a Bell Tape Transport.

These stereo bonus tapes have been carefully selected from the complete Bel Canto library. Wonderful music. More than 2 hours of enjoyable listening. Worth nearly \$32.00 to you!

But it's all yours, absolutely free, from your Bell dealer when you buy a Bell 4-track Stereo Tape Transport. Rated best for stereo recording, Bell gives you the best in performance and features ... three motors for positive tape control... automatic stop mechanism ... add-on pre-amps for stereo recording ... many more.

If you already own a Bell Tape Transport, ask your Bell dealer about easy-to-install 4-track-head conversion kits for as little as \$25.00.

See and hear the Bell Stereo Tape Transport and get the bonus tapes shown on this page when you buy. Do it today at your Bell dealer's.

#### Bell dealers offer this stereo record bonus, too!

Four Mercury Stereo Records, worth nearly \$24.00, as a bonus when you buy a model 3030 Bell Stereo Amplifier — now priced at only \$149.95\* \*slightly higher west of the Rockies

BIEI\_I\_ Sound Division · Thompson Ramo Wooldridge Inc. - Columbus 7, Ohio In Canada: THOMPSON PRODUCTS, Ltd., Toronto

# by H.H. SCOTT

Stereophonic AM-FM Tuner \$224.95\*

330D



#### Important Features 330D AM-FM Stereo Tuner

1. Separate Silver-Sensitive FM Front End, heavily silver plated for maximum sensitivity and reliability. Meets all FCC radiation specifications. 2. Highly sensitive, separate AM front-end. 3. Separate AM and FM professional tuning controls for precise station selection. 4. Wide-Band FM detector for distortion-free reception on all signals. 5. Highly selective FM IF stages permit separation of stations close together on dial. 6. New wide-range AM detector for high fidelity performance on AM stations. 7. Selector switch with these positions: Off, Mono, Stereo, Stereo Phase Reverse. 8. Band switch with these positions: FM, AM Wide, AM Normal, AM Distant. 9. Illuminated professional signal strength and tuning meter. 10. Stereo output jacks. 11. Spe-cial jack for instant connection of accessory multiplex adaptor. 12. Separate stereo tape recorder output jacks. 13. Highly sensitive AM Ferrite Loop Antenna. 14. Chassis specially constructed of heavy copper bonded to aluminum to insure reliability and high sensitivity over many years of use. 15. Separate fevel controls on AM and FM output channels. 16. 10 KC whistle filter eliminates heterodyne whistle on wide range AM reception. Specifications: FM sensitivity 2 microvoits for 20 db of quieting on 300 ohm antenna terminals (IHFM rating 2.5 µV.); FM detector bandwidth 2 megacycles; Automatic Gain control; 85 db cross-modulation rejection.

#### All H. H. Scott FM Tuners Feature Wide Band Design

Wide-Band FM tuner design is recognized as one of the most significant of H. H. Scott's many contributions to audio science. It assures you of absolutely drift-free and interference-free reception in even the weakest signal areas. It also results in ability to separate stations so close together on the dial that ordinary tuners would pass them by. In AM circuitry the unique H. H. Scott Wide-Range detector is equally important. For the first time you can receive full-frequency AM broadcasts with fidelity and frequency response comparable to FM.

#### 320 AM-FM Tuner

The many fine features built into this superb AM-FM tuner have never before been available for less than \$200. This tuner is equipped with Wide-Band FM and Wide-Range AM. It has complete facilities for simple addition of a multiplex adaptor when available. This sensitive tuner meets the discriminating

listener's requirements where AM-FM Stereo reception is not available. Sensitivity 2.5  $\mu$ v. for 20 db quieting; IHFM sensitivity rating 3  $\mu$ v. 139.95\*

#### **310C** FM Tuner

This professional tuner is the most sensitive and selective available. Its high standards of performance, including sensitivity of 1.5 microvolts for 20 db of quieting (IHFM rating 2  $\mu$ v.), have made it the choice of broadcast stations, universities and government laboratories throughout the world. It is instantly adaptable to multiplex. \$174.95\*



For stronger signal areas where the ultimate sensitivity of the 310C is not required, the 311D rated at 2.5 microvolts is recommended. \$124.95\*

# high fidelity

#### and what's in it for you



The Editors of High Fidelity have one-track minds. Their main concern is pleasing their readers ... giving you the most practical, entertaining and informative magazine possible.

The articles, features, reviews will greatly enhance your enjoyment and appreciation of all music – live and recorded ... classical, popular and jazz.

The commentary on records – by the nation's leading reviewers – will help you build a truly outstanding library... one that will continue giving you and your family pleasure through the years. Each High Fidelity reviewer (and there are more than a dozen!) is an expert in his particular field. Nathan Broder, for example, reviews the Classical composers, Harold C. Schoenberg and Robert Charles Marsh the Romantics... John S. Wilson covers jazz, etc. Thanks to this kind of authoritative reviewing, you'll save money on records, toq – you need never be disappointed in a record purchase again!

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### press comment on the



### The American RECORD

(Larry Zide)

"Given a good stereo source, a pair of AR-3's comes as close to musical realism in the home, I believe, as the present state of the art permits... In sum, until someone comes out with something better that doesn't take up the entire house, the AR-3 is for me the reference standard."

### high fidelity

(TITH report)

"A major problem of tweeter design has been the beaming effect of very high frequencies . . . The "fried egg" [nickname for the AR-3 tweeters] appears to be a major step forward in the smooth dispersion of sound at extreme high frequencies."



"In terms of bass response, these two speakers [the acoustic suspension AR-1 and AR-2] represent a phenomenal improvement in the state of the art.

"The complete AR-3 speaker system, in addition to containing a superb acoustic suspension woofer, which has enjoyed wide acceptance by professionals as well as audiophiles, constitutes, in our opinion, a mid and high frequency system which is in every way complementary to the bass quality. The new AR-3 rivals in overall quality the very best woofers and combinations."

The AR-3 is priced from \$203 to \$231, depending on cabinet finish (\$216 in mahogany or birch). Literature is available for the asking.

ACOUSTIC RESEARCH, INC.

24 Thorndike St., Cambridge 41, Mass.

### HOW TO BUILD A STEREO CONSOLE THAT REPRODUCES MUSIC AS FAITHFULLY AS SEPARATELY MOUNTED COMPONENTS

For many years, serious music lovers have searched for a way to enclose high quality highfidelity equipment in a cabinet that would match their finest furniture.

Until now, there was no practical solution. You had to compromise. You had to sacrifice the best possible music reproduction if you wanted a good looking cabinet. If you insisted on high quality reproduction, you chose components, some of which may not have been quite so appealing to the eye.

If you dislike compromise, Stromberg-Carlson's new kind of console will interest you. We call them Integrity Series Component Ensembles—and to an uncompromising music lover each word in that name will be significant.

At the start, we faced the same problem that every console manufacturer has tried to overcome: when full-range speakers were rigidly mounted in the same console as high quality components, there was a serious loss of sound quality.

This loss—most often recognized as muddy or boomy noise—is caused by "feedback." It occurs because sensitive components can detect the speaker vibrations which are fed back through the body of the cabinet. These vibrations are amplified with the music and reproduced as noise.

If you own a console now, but do not hear these noises, it is not because your ears are insensitive.

You do not hear them because we and every other console manufacturer had to eliminate them by compromising the musical reproduction of your console. You do not hear them because the sound you hear is not complete.

#### HOW TO BUILD A CONSOLE THAT ELIMINATES FEEDBACK NOISES

As we analyzed the problem, we realized there were seven projects that we had to accomplish before we could bring you this new kind of console.

**PROJECT #1** The first consideration was given to our components. They had to have high quality reproduction. The standards we set for them can be most simply described by the phrase "Integrity in Music Reproduction." If you are familiar with Stromberg-Carlson stereo tuners, amplifiers, turntables and speakers, we believe you will agree they earn this description.

**PROJECT #2** Speaker systems were the next important project. For our new kind of stereo console we needed two speaker systems of unquestionable quality. We were fortunate here, because we



had already developed a system that met the quality requirements, the wellregarded Acoustical Labyrinth<sup>®</sup> Speaker System. Its quarter

wavelength duct enclosure, properly coupled to a low-frequency radiator, achieved a system rcsonance lower than the unbaffled free air cone resonance of the radiator itself. This is the kind of quality we knew you wanted.

**PROJECT #3** To reduce the size of high quality speaker systems so that they would fit into a stereo console of reasonable dimensions. We were certain that component-quality sound in a console could only be achieved with speaker systems that



did not depend on the console cabinet for their enclosure. This meant that we had to reduce the size of the Acoustical Labyrinth enclo-

HIGH FIDELITY MAGAZINE

sure so that we could fit two separate speaker enclosures within a cabinet that had reasonable dimensions. It was not easy, but we did it. After many, many trials and tests we achieved the correct size without sacrificing one iota of the extremely linear and extended response of the system.

#### NOW THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM HAD TO BE FACED

**PROJECT #4** To effectively eliminate feedback by effectively eliminating the mechanical coupling that allows it to occur. Instead of treating the symptoms, we treated the cause. We developed a method of effectively isolating the speaker systems from the sensitive components. (As a result, Stromberg-Carlson Integrity Series Ensembles are the first successful uncompromised ensembles.)

The key development is what we call ISO-COUSTIC SPEAKER SYSTEM MOUNTING. This mounting, in which the resistance and compliance to vertical



and horizontal pressures have been carefully engineered, has solved the problem. It allows Stromberg-Carlson to create a cabinet-within-cabinet suspension system which prevents transmission of speaker vibra-

tions to the sensitive components. If you component owners could put your equipment into a cabinet whose speaker systems have our ISO-COUSTIC Mounting, the quality of the sound you'd hear would be as good as your component system is now. In fact, the components we use are the same ones you would choose for your separately mounted component system. They are interchangeable.

#### INTEGRITY SERIES WILL NEVER BECOME OBSOLETE

**PROJECT #5** To assure the purchaser of an Integrity Ensemble that his choice would never be obsolete, we designed the units in accordance with a modular concept. All of the components are completely interchangeable. You can replace any com-



ponent in the ensemble to keep pace with new developments—without ever replacing your fine cabinetry.

#### CABINETRY HAD TO BE EXCEPTIONAL, TOO

**PROJECT #6** To design cabinets with the permanent beauty of fine furniture. Federico responded to the challenge by creating cabinetry in Traditional, Contemporary, Early American, Italian Provincial, French Provincial and Oriental styling. You choose from 16 basic models in these styles, in a choice of finishes. These cabinets, like a fine painting, best describe themselves. They must be seen.

**PROJECT #7** To give you maximum flexibility in your enjoyment of an Integrity Series Ensemble. Every ensemble provides for your listening tastes and room acoustics by including the Stereo Choice Switch for precise regulation of stereo separation, with or without separate matching speaker systems. All ensembles provide space for adding a tape deck.

You may select your own Stromberg-Carlson stereo components or choose a recommended component complement—in any case Stromberg-Carlson components are always interchangeable.

If you now own a console or components, we invite you to exercise your critical judgment by listening to an Integrity Series Ensemble. (You will find that the better component shops—as well as the better department and music stores—have chosen to feature this new kind of stereo console.) Listen carefully. Look closely. Ask questions. Then accept not our judgment, but your own.



#### INTEGRITY SERIES COMPONENT ENSEMBLES

-three hundred and fifty dollars to about six thousand dollars. You may choose from 16 models in Traditional, Contemporary and Period stylings, each tastefully designed by Federico. You may select your own Stromberg-Carlson components or choose a recommended Stromberg-Carlson component complement-in any case Stromberg-Carls son components are always interchangeable.

For a complete color catalog of Integrity Series Component Ensembles and components write STROMBERG-CARLSON, Special Products Division, 1419 N. Goodman St., Rochester 3, New York.

#### "There is nothing finer than a Stromberg-Carlson"

STROMBERG-CARLSON

For integrity in music...

### A NEW STROMBERG-CARLSON SINGLE-SPEED TURNTABLE

...in component systems ...in Integrity Series Ensembles



"Prices audiophile net, turntables less bases.

"THERE IS NOTHING FINER THAN A STROMBERG-CARLSON"



**PR-500 SINGLE SPEED** Here is a revolutionary concept in turntable design: a dual-drive system consisting of two hysteresis-synchronous motors operating one belt drive.

The motors are spaced exactly 180° apart. Any variation of speed is automatically corrected by the interaction of the motors and the impregnated belt. Rumble and noise are virtually eliminated by the belt drive and a unique suspension system in which the tone arm and table, as a unit, are isolated from the mounting board.

Single, 33<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> speed. Includes tone arm. PR-500, black and brushed chrome ...... \$69.95<sup>±</sup>





### For integrity in music... THREE NEW STROMBERG-CARLSON TUNERS

... in component systems ... in Integrity Series Ensembles

SR-455 AM-FM STEREO TUNER The SR-445 is actually two separate and complete units which have been placed together for convenience of mounting and use. They have individual circuitry in which no duplicate use of tubes or circuits is involved. Operate as an AM tuner, an FM tuner or together as an AM-FM stereo tuner. The SR-455 combines the separate AM and FM tuners described below. The specifications are exactly the same as listed for these two units. SR-455 .... \$129.95\*

All three tuners are available in gold and white ar black and brushed chrome. Top cover in white, black, tan or red available at extra cost.



FM-443 FM TUNER Exceptionally sensitive, low noise reception due to the wide peak-to-peak separation (475 kc) and long, linear slope (350 kc) of the balanced ratio detector, and the grounded grid cascode front end. Sensitivity is 2 uv for 20 db quieting, 4 uv for 30 db quieting (300 ohm). Local-Distant Switch results in 2 uv for 40 db quieting on local stations. Dial station selector and "hair-trigger" tuning eye. Temperature controlled circuits eliminate drift. Includes switched AFC circuit. Tuning Range: 88-108 mc. Bandwidth: 200 kc. Frequency Response: 20-20,000 cps. Self-powered with auxiliary power for AM-441 tuner. Provision for multiplex adapter. FM-443

AM-442 AM TUNER For exceptional AM reception, this tuner has a frequency response of 20-7,000 cps, down 7 db at 7,000 cps. It features a tuned RF stage and 3-gang variable tuning condenser. Its tuning range is 540 to 1,600 kc; Bandwidth is 9 kc. Local-Distant Switch adds 20 db quieting on local stations. Adjustable ferrite loop and external antenna. AM-442 \$59.95\* AM-441 AM TUNER Same as above, but without its own power supply \$49.95\*

\*Prices audiophile net, zone 1, less cover

### A DIVISION OF GENERAL DYNAMICS

FM-443

AM-442/AM-441

NOVEMBER 1959

### For integrity in music... STROMBERG-CARLSON STEREO CONTROL AMPLIFIERS

... for component systems ... for Integrity Series Ensembles





ASR-333 STEREO CONTROL AMPLIFIER, and a fine ce-

ramic cartridge, give you quality performance at a low price. This amplifier-with 12 watts per channel-was designed for optimum reproduction with ceramic cart-

ridges. It features tone and volume controls for each channel, plus a loudness control. Frequency response, noise level, distortion, same as ASR-433. Inputs: ceramic phono, tuner, tape/auxiliary. In black and brushed chrome. ASR-433 STEREO "24" CONTROL AMPLIFIER A dual channel amplifier with excellent performance and control features. Each channel provides 12 watts of exceptionally clean, balanced power. The exclusive "Stereo Tone Balance" signal permits you to adjust the two channels by a single tone.

The deliberately conservative specifications include: frequency response 20-20,000 cps; harmonic distortion less than 1% at full output; IM distortion less than 1% at program level; hum and noise 63 db down. Inputs: magnetic and ceramic phono; tuner; tapehead; auxiliary/tape. Available in gold and white or black and brushed chrome. ASR-433 .. \$129.95\*



\*Prices Audiophile net, Zone 1, loss top covers, which are available in white, black, tan or red.

"THERE IS NOTHING FINER THAN A STROMBERG-CARLSON"

\$99.95\*

ASR-333



### For integrity in music... STROMBERG-CARLSON SPEAKERS AND SYSTEMS

...for component systems ...for Integrity Series Ensembles

Stromberg Carlson manufactures a full line of speakers and the famous Acoustical Labyrinth<sup>®</sup> Speaker System. This system enclosure achieves a system resonance that is lower than the unbaffled free air cone resonance of the low frequency radiator. It utilizes mass loading and frictional damping as acoustical devices to extend the low frequency range of the system with extreme flatness of response. Five new complete speaker systems with a variety of decorator housings are now available. We suggest that you compare the quality of their performance with similar equipment. You be the judge.

RT-477



DECORATOR HOUSING RH-469



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**RF-484** 

NOVEMBER 1959

**RH-465** 

**RW-486** 



Notes No

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus, Jennifer Vyvyan, Monica Sinclair, Jon Vickers, and Giorgio Tozzi completed for RCA a full, 250-minute recording of Handel's Messiah. Owing to a wealth of unprecedented orchestral effect, this production is sure to send the purists into a huff as soon as it hits the Christmas market. The eight sides are divided into two sections, one big, one small. The big section comprises a self-contained concert edition of the oratorio which Beecham conducted publicly for the first time in the Kunsthaus at Lucerne's autumn music festival. The small section is an appendix comprising all choral and other numbers left out of the concert edition. Beecham's orchestra took part in the recording at the height of their Glyndebourne Opera Festival commitments, a circumstance involving them in hectic cross-country shuttling and many early mornings following late nights.

The new orchestration is not Beecham's handiwork but was, as he jocosely puts it, "instigated" by him. One day he said to Sir Eugene Goossens, the conductor-composer, "Would you like to write the Messiah accompaniments as Handel would have scored them if he had been living tuday?" Goossens accepted the commission and spent five months on it. Handel's string parts remain untouched, except that in this version they are allocated to a full symphony complement with eight string basses. For the rest the specification includes triple woodwind (with a fourth oboe), con-trabassoon, bass clarinet, four horns, two trumpets, three trombones, bass tuba, one harp (or more) and, in the "kitchen," triangle, cymbals, bass drum and tenor drum.

Some of the details—e.g., the bumpety-thump of the tenor drum in the "Glory to God" chorus and the triangle trills that underline the "Wonderful! Counsellor!" outbursts—make an odd

Continued on page 32

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#### NOTES FROM ABROAD

#### Continued from page 30

initial impact. At an early Walthamstow run-through the contralto looked over her shoulder with a startled expression, as though the roof were caving in, when the cymbalist came in with a crescendo roll under her upward triplets on the repeated phrase "is risen." Perhaps the tenor was sim-ilarly disturbed by the plucked string basses doubled by soft bass-drum strokes which dog his steps in "Thou shalt break them." I must say, however, that on a second hearing I found this particular "realization" hair-raisingly dramatic. Goossens has here been creative; he actually adds something to Handel.

There is much doubling and reinforcing of choral strands by instrumental groups; much juxtaposing of solid blocks of woodwind, string, and brass tone one against the other. I am not certain that this is how Handel would have written for the oratorio if living today. It is certainly how he would have written for it if he had lived in the age of Berlioz, Wagner, and Elgar or under their influence.

During the Lucerne rehearsals I thought of the meager Messiah specifications that have come down to us from Handel's time (thirty-three players at the outside, plus organ) and of how scrupulously these vestiges are prized by the purists.

"What are the purists going to say about your version?" I asked Sir Thomas.

"I never think about the purists," he replied. "If Handel and many other composers were left to the purists, you would never hear them at all. The thing to remember is that no man knows how the oratorios were performed. I have thought about it for sixty years, much longer than the gentlemen who write strange books and monographs on the subject. They leave out of account that Handel, who played the organ or clavichord or harpsichord in these performances, was the greatest *improvvisatore* of his day."

day." "Would you care to discuss any 'purist' Messiahs you have heard recently?"

"My dear boy, I have done 'purist' Messiahs myself. I have done them all over the world. Invariably the public walk out. And for a simple reason. . . Until people heard Wagner and Tchaikovsky they had no notion of the modern orchestra. Once they heard the modern orchestra they refused to listen to the old orchestra. They won't tolerate two and a half hours of singing with archaic orchestral sounds." CHARLES REID

HIGH FIDELITY MAGAZINE

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Further, this balance is not disturbed with any required change in stylus pressure, because changing stylus pressure with the Empire 98 does not shift the center of mass as it does in arms where stylus pressure depends upon the position of the counterweight.

The counterweight is only used to 'zero-out' the cartridge. Stylus pressure is actually dialed with a calibrated knob. This knob adjusts the tension of a temperature compensated linear torsion spring which applies a torque force as close to the theoretical center of mass as is mechanically possible. This knob is calibrated in grams with an accuracy of 0.1 grams.

The natural resonance of the Empire 98 is below the threshold of audibility (approximately 10 to 13 cycles). Precision ball-bearing races provide friction-free compliance in both vertical and lateral movements. The cartridge shell accepts all standard cartridges, is interchangeable, and is fitted with gold-plated, non-oxidizing electrical contacts. Every detail of the Empire 98 substantiates the careful planning that went into its design, and gives ample evidence of its quality in action.

EMPIRE 98 12" transcription arm \$34.50; EMPIRE 98P 16" transcription arm \$38.50

### NEW Empire 88 STEREO/BALANCE CARTRIDGE

The most impressive—the most dramatic feature of the new Empire 88 is the quality of its performance. It is difficult to equate and describe smoothness of response, clean, articulate reproduction, dimensional fullness and balance—yet, these are the sensations immediately evident with the first demonstration of this remarkable cartridge.

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# RECORDER/REPRODUCER SPECIFICATIONS

The true values of a recorder are best assessed through careful evaluation of its performance specifications and operating features. It is worthwhile noting here that these specifications are based not on theoretical design parameters but on actual performance tests. They are specifications which the recorder not only meets or exceeds today, but which years from now will still hold true.

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	(a) 4-Track	(b) 2-Track	(c) Monaural Tapes,
	Storeo Tapos	Storgo Tapes	half-track
1200 foot reel	3% ips - 2 hrs. 8 mln.	33/4 ips - 1 hr. 4 min.	33/4 ips - 2 hrs. 8 min.
	7½ ips - 1 hr 4 min.	71/2 ips - 32 minutes	71/2 ips - 1 hr 4 min.
1800 foot reel	33/4 ips - 3 hrs. 12 min.	33/4 ips - 1 hr. 36 min.	33/4 ips - 3 hrs. 12 min.
	71/2 ips - 1 hr 36 min.	71/2 ips - 48 minutes	71/2 ips - 1 hr 36 min.
2400 foot reel	33/4 ips - 4 hrs. 16 min.	3% ips - 2 hrs. 8 mln.	33/4 ips - 4 hrs. 16 min.
	71/2 ips - 2 hrs. 8 min.	7½ ips - 1 hr. 4 min.	71/2 ips - 2 hrs. 8 min.

RECORD INPUTS: High impedance line inputs (radio/TV/phono/auxiliary) 0.3V rms for program level; high impedance microphone inputs

PLAYBACK OUTPUTS: Approximately 0.5V rms from cathode follower when playing program level tapes PLAYBACK FREQUENCY RESPONSE: 30-20,000 cps at 7½ ips; 30-15,000 cps at 3¾ ips Within ±2 db 50-15,000 cps at 7½ ips; 55 db dynamic range

Within  $\pm 2$  db 50-10,000 cps at 334 ips, 50 db dynamic range

FLUTTER AND WOW: Under 0.2% rms at 71/2 ips; under 0.25% rms at 33/2 ips

HEADS: Manufactured to the same standards of precision that exist in Ampex broadcast and recording studio equipment. Surfaces are lapped to an optical flatness so precise that they reflect specified wavelengths of light, resulting in uniform performance characteristics and greatly minimizing the effects of head wear. Azimuth alignment of stereo head gaps in the same stack is held within 20 seconds of arc, equivalent to less than 10 millionths of an inch – a degree of precision achieved through use of a unique process involving micro-accurate optical measurements within a controlled environment. Head gap width is 90 millionths of an inch  $\pm 5$  millionths of an inch.

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The Sense of Music. Although Victor Zuckerkandl explicitly renounces the orthodox methods of music appreciation books, bis general purpose is much the same: to enhance the musical understanding of novice listeners. His approach, however, is distinctively new in that it is based solely on direct aural experiences, gradually progressing from single tones, melodies, and chords to complete compositions. These are analyzed and explained in terms of dynamic tonal qualities and relationships rather than expressive intentions or emotional reactions, and their technical terminology is provided only after what actually happens in sound and perception has been both perceived and comprehended. Nothing could be more sensible or lead more directly to a grasp of basic psychoacoustical principles, as well as those of melodic structures, polyphonic and harmonic textures, and so-called musical theory in general. This, of course, provided that the reader follows the text line-by-line with the musical illustrations actually sounding in his ears. In Zuckerkandl's own classes (at St. John's College, Annapolis), his analyses and clucidations must be exciting and immediately rewarding, but in book form they make heavy demands on attention as well as require constant access to recordings of the examples (mostly available on LPs, but also in a special tape which can be obtained from the book's publisher).

The listener with some ability to read the notated examples or to play them himself will, however, find these pages less laborious. For him there will be a wealth of new insights into familiar experiences and techniquesmost particularly perhaps the "dy-namic" qualities of individual tones and chords, the ancient ambiguities of consonance/dissonance, and the complexities of tonality. Readers of Zuckerkandl's controversial Sound and Symbol: Music and the External World (1957) should also find the present work-much clarified in theory, less polemical, and far less turgidly written than the earlier volume -of very special interest. In at least breaking the way for more meaningful introductions to familiar music, the Sense of Music is an outstanding achievement indeed. (Princeton University Press, \$6.00).

Mozart and His Music, by John N. Burk, is a book of substantial merit,

Continued on next page



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## **BOOKS IN REVIEW**

#### Continued from preceding page

but one more likely to appeal to admirers of the well-known Beethoven biographer and Boston Symphony program annotator than to Mozarteans -simply because it is overshadowed by several earlier, more penetrating and subtle studies. It is to Burk's credit that he steadfastly eschews any touches of sensationalism or honeyed popularization. His "life" is soberly organized and sympathetically recounted, vet never romanticized; his analytical and descriptive notes for the works are notably inclusive and informative. There is little with which even the most finicky scholar can take exception and much to satisfy and stimulate the lay concertgoer and record collector-but unfortunately this book can be recommended only as supplementary to the richer masterpieces of the Mozartean literature by Turner, Einstein, Dent, et al., to say nothing of the composer's own letters (Random House, \$4.75).

Encyclopedia of Concert Music is the latest in the interminable series of "family guides" which David Ewen has been producing since the early Thirties. The materials (mostly "ap-preciative" program notes) and the style (pedestrian) remain doggedly unchanged. The present example, which specifically complements an Encyclopedia of the Opera of 1955 and like it is cast in dictionary form, runs to some 550 pages of brief entries (plus a 12-page bibliography) covering music-term definitions as well as program notes for well-known instrumental compositions and biographical sketches of their composers and interpreters. Apart from the most topical entries there is little here that cannot be found, usually in less sketchy form, in standard musical dictionaries and encyclopedias (Hill & Wang, \$7.50; boxed with the Encyclopedia of the Opera, \$13.50).

Jean Sibelius, by Harold E. Johnson, is at once the long-needed more objective successor to Karl Ekman's quasi-authorized biography of 1935-6 (now out-of-print in this country); a sober deflation, rather than debunking, of the fantastic and often selffostered Sibelian legends; and the first really convincing attempt I've ever encountered to explain and mediate between the violently contradictory evaluations of Sibelius' music by his overenthusiastic partisans and his overprejudiced detractors. Few other

Continued on page 44

HIGH FIDELITY MAGAZINE



A precision instrument performs flawlessly. It blends naturally into its proper setting and imparts a special distinction to that setting. A sports car on the open road; a fine camera in the hands of a skilled photographer; a high fidelity instrument in the home. The new Harman-Kardon Stereo Festival is just such an instrument. It is simple and precise in its operation. It is straightforward and logical in its design. Its reproduction of music is incomparable. The Stereo Festival, timeless in its styling, free of frills or faddishnessadds distinction and beauty to any home.

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# **BOOKS IN REVIEW**

#### Continued from page 42

composers have ever aroused such critical dichotomy. For that matter, perhaps César Franck is the only other "great" composer who wrote so many potboilers and as few major works: and probably only Rossini offers a comparable example of abdication from creative activity at the very peak of a career. Johnson's task in making understandable both the personal and artistic contradictions here well may have been one of the most formidable tackled by any musical biographer. Yet any impartial reader who studies his pages carefully will find it hard to decide which is the more admirable: the author's painstaking Finnish researches in uncovering long-lost or deliberately obscured facts and influences, or his rigorous refusal to succumb to the temptations of special pleading, either pro or con. Yet for all this sobriety, his book has the hypnotic fascination of a psychological thriller. And still more important than its power to command one's rapt attention is the superb illumination it throws not only on Sibelius, but on one's own previously mixed reactions to the music itself. Johnson surely would be the last to claim that he has solved the Sibelian enigma, but he unquestionably has uncovered the vital clues to many of the long-baffling problems posed by a composer who became a national monument in his own lifetime, while then and now presenting a Janus-like duality to the rest of the world (Knopf, \$5.00).

The New Yearbook of Jazz. After taking a year out to produce his Book of Jazz: A Guide to the Entire Field (Horizon Press, 1957), the indefatigable Leonard Feather has returned to his documentary series begun with the monumental Encyclopedia of Jazz in 1955 and its supplementary Encyclopedia Yearbook of 1956. Like the latter work, the present one is primarily a specialist's miscellany combining reports on the latest developments in this country and overseas with extensive additions to the biographical and discographical sketch entries, listings (with addresses) of various types of jazz organizations, recording companies, etc. Again there is an excellent pictorial section of some fifty wellchosen photographs, but probably the liveliest appeal lies in two brand-new features: a six-page "Meet the Critics" section of biographical sketches of the leading writers and reviewers, and Charles Graham's ten-page historical survey of "Jazz and the Phonograph" (Horizon Press, \$4.95).

R. D. DARRELL

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# VIENNA



## In Praise of a City

It has been said that every civilized man has two homes: his own and Paris. The civilized musical man, however, may rightfully beg leave to differ. For him it is Vienna that asserts strongest claim to being his spiritual "other home." No rival capital can come close to equaling the multitude of musical associations established within Vienna's confines.

In the course of forty-seven brilliant years-from 1781, when Mozart took up residence in Vienna, to 1828, when Schubert died there -the city witnessed an almost unbelievable eruption of musical masterpieces: Mozart's Figaro and Magic Flute, the quartets and oratorios of Haydn's maturity, Beethoven's symphonies and concertos, the songs and sonatas of Schubert . . you could continue the compilation indefinitely. Never again was there to be quite such a dazzling flare-up of creative accomplishment in Vienna; but the afterglow produced by Brahms, Johann Strauss, Bruckner, Mahler, and Berg was nevertheless far from negligible.

All of this happened, historically speaking, only yesterday. The Athens of Phidias, the Florence of Michelangelo, the London of Shakespeare are remote places, way off in the yonder of long. long ago. The Vienna of Beethoven seems much more accessible. You can still find people in Vienna who remember seeing Brahms on his daily walks in the Prater; and in Brahms's day there were plenty of people who could remember seeing Beethoven on his walks round the city's ramparts. Amidst the streets and buildings frequented by Brahms and Beethoven, it requires no great effort of the imagination to call. back yesterday.

This is an issue in salute to Vienna. Any month of any year would have sufficed as an occasion to bring it out. Vienna is perennially ripe for the devotion of musical enthusiasts. But November 1959, when the Vienna Philharmonic is visiting us on the American lap of its round-theworld tour, seems a particularly fitting moment to do her honor.

If Vienna is the city of your dreams, read on. R. G.

# The Ancient and



by JOHN M. CONLY

The Vienna Philharmonic, probably the world's most independent orchestra, has been described by one of its leading members as a family with 124 heads. It's a family you'd enjoy meeting.

VIENNA is a city in league with time. It is both old and young, wearing its age with a bright dignity and its youth with dash; on amiable terms with history, and with progress. Its folk have a cordial conversance with yesterday and an easy expectancy of tomorrow, springing mainly from a lively enjoyment of today. They are famous for this, of course. It is, however, something sometimes ill-described, as if it were a sort of shiftlessness. It is not. As instance, Vienna is a good deal cleaner than New York, London, or Paris. There is nothing contradictory about this. A New Yorker is always a little too busy and hustled to put his personal rubbish in a trash container; a Viennese isn't, and he is also more conscious of his surroundings. New York and London are good-hearted cities, helpful to strangers. A New Yorker or a Londoner will take the time to be pleasant. The Viennese needn't take it; he has it. It's a gift.

This quality, this atmosphere, is certainly not new, and it is one of the reasons—not the only one—why this uniquely independent city on the Danube has been the western world's capital of music for most of the centuries we remember. Art must have a ready environment for its creation, especially art which is realized in performance. For four hundred years London has been the world's best theatre town; there is plainly some connection there with the phenomena of Shakespeare and Shaw. In Vienna there is *time for music*; perhaps it is significant that, historically, Viennese concerts—important ones—often were played in the early morning, because music was important and because it was a good thing to start a day with.

It belongs to everyone, too. A bartender in the Bristol Hotel will mention that his son-in-law is a concert pianist who has toured America and made recordings; the dining-car steward on the Austrian State Railways' Rome Express informs you that his daughter has a violin scholarship at the Academy. Vienna newspapers sometimes relegate the latest acrimonies exchanged by Eisenhower and Khrushchev to page three, but if a new guest conductor for the Staatsoper or the Philharmonic comes

# Honorable Philharmonic

to town, that you discover on page one—along with any possible scandal going on in musical circles. (Vienna's star reporters concentrate on such affairs, describing them in the most vivid and colorful terms, which the Viennese love.)

This kind of attitude may be different from that of people in westward nations, but it isn't provincial. It couldn't be, or it would not so thoroughly have infected the rest of the musical world. Be it remembered that very many of the musical names associated with Vienna are those of men who weren't born in Vienna. They went there. (Include among these one you wouldn't have thought of: the founder of the Boston Symphony, Henry Lee Higginson, who surely had his inspiration from the Philharmonic concerts while he was studying piano as a youth in Vienna.)

The second reason for Vienna's musical progenitiveness is its geographical position. It sits athwart the main southerly thoroughfare from East to West, along which have wandered through centuries Czechs, Turks, Slovenes, Magyars, Gypsies, Bulgars, and west-Eurasian peoples with no name at all. All had their music, and all of it came up the Danube, where on the Vienna wharfsides the waltz was born, and many another musical folk-form captured. The flow of tunes and tempos was endless and resistless. Its infinite variety we hear now in the minuets of Haydn, the Schubert trios, the dancing finales of Brahms. The essence began in villages and firelit encampments far away; the last refinements took their indestructible shape in Vienna, the mint and treasury. Naturally this became the place to which born music makers made their way if they could.

The city's acquisitive instinct for music seems to have begun with the tenth-century Babenberg dukes, who collected minnesingers. It flowered highest in the days of the later imperial Hapsburgs, whose courts collected princes, who in turn collected Mozarts and Haydns.

Then princely music ended, even before the great Mozart and the great Haydn died. There was a chance that all large-scale instrumental music would die. The French Revolution, though technically a failure, had wrought a drastic change in the roles of monarchs and the nobility. They felt themselves now answerable to the people whose money they lived on. Private orchestras were promiscuous luxury; therefore they were assembled no more. It is an ironic thing that Beethoven's revolutionary *Eroica*, performed at the Lobkowitz palace, had one of the last truly great premieres given as an invitation event.

In Vienna, for orchestral players, the jobs that held out were those at the Royal Chapel, the Court Opera, and the Kärtnertor Theater, and the last was dubious: it depended on promotion, an art not well understood in the early 1800s. Beethoven's later life was wracked with endeavors to assemble audiences and orchestras at the same time. Neither existed in any dependable shape, at least in Vienna, and there wasn't anybody who knew how to get them together. London might have been able to do a better job. Beethoven himself thought so, apparently, but still, for some reason, he couldn't leave Vienna. Vienna was, for musicians, and for better or worse, home.

This is all an essential prelude to the story of the Philharmonic, which becomes afterward mostly a tale of success, and compressible. At first, however, it is a tale of initiative, and of a change in the attitude of the artist toward his society which has a Beethovian complexion, or perhaps even a Jeffersonian one, since it is a declaration of independence.

Between the need and the fulfillment came both boon and something sad enough to weep about. With the vanishment of good princely orchestras, Beethoven wrote his last sonatas and quartets, perhaps as nohle personal testaments as we have. But also, in this darkened interim, Franz Peter Schubert put forth one of the three tallest and most radiant symphonics of the nineteenth century, and he never heard it himself at all, because there was nobody to play it. "I think of this," said a member of the Philharmonic, "whenever we play the C Major."

The Philharmonic organized itself fourteen years too late to do the living Schubert any good, though it has done him splendid service since. Its focal personalities, leaders in the assembly, were Karl Otto Nicolai, then only thirty-two, later to make his name by writing The Merry Wives of Windsor, and Nikolaus Lenan, a poet destined for the madhouse, meanwhile obsessed with the work of Beethoven. There was considerable overlap in the personnel of the three working Viennese orchestras. The organizers seized upon that of the Kärtnertor Theater as the most promising.

There is some dispute as to which is the oldest per manent professional orchestra in the world (third place is firmly held by the New York Philharmonic), revolving around the questions of permanency and professionalism. It doesn't matter. The Viennese musicians who met to make themselves the Philharmonic early in 1842 had no precedent. They simply voted for an executive committee and asked it to secure the Redoutensaal (the Imperial Formal Hall) for their first concert. They got it, and their music making has not really stopped since, though it was interrupted by the revolution of 1848. Parenthetically, it is possible that they were the first coöperative in history. The Rochdale Society (of weavers and grocers) in England, commonly tendered this distinction, did not start until 1844.

Certainly they are a coöperative now, and they have behaved like a coöperative since the beginning. That is to say, they began at once to squabble vigorously among themselves, while retaining outward unity. Nicolai fought unstintingly and impartially with everyone, until he took sick and died in 1849. Karl Eckert succeeded him, bringing with him a fine new bone of contention, Wagner, whose cause he had been fighting for also at the Opera. Eckert and Wagner won out. Then came Otto Dessoff, promoting Brahms. Brahms played



Its unique style, "effortlessly unified spontaneity."

his First Concerto with the orchestra, but for some reason the membership raised objections to the D Major Serenade. Dessoff, who had been hired after winning a large majority vote, quelled the dispute. Next came Hans Richter, the first alumnus (he'd been first horn) of the orchestra to serve as its conductor; others to follow him were Artur Nikisch and the composerconductor Franz Schmidt. Richter's main campaign was on behalf of Bruckner. Oddly, he was displaced finally, at both the Opera and the Philbarmonic, by the man whose name is most commonly coupled with Bruckner's, Gustav Mahler.

Mahler had the appeal of what is called today a "controversial" figure. Fascinated with sound—as his own works attest—he was forever experimenting with tonal balances and orchestral placement. He even tried reorchestrating, not drastically, some of the Beethoven symphonies, on the ground that Beethoven had written for older, smaller halls. This was undoubtedly a worthwhile experimentation (later Weingartner, Tovey, and Toscanini all ventured into the same effort, without proclaiming it so loudly), but the Viennese didn't care for the way it was carried out. The ticket sales were very good, but a lot of people came to boo. Mahler stayed four years, which, at that, is longer than he lasted in New York.

Thereafter the Philharmonic began taking on conductors for one concert apiece. Their playing schedule had settled into its present shape of eight subscription concerts a year, which afforded plenty of time between performances to negotiate. Among others, Richard Strauss, Karl Muck, Nikisch, Felix Mottl, young Bruno Walter, and Felix Weingartner helped see them through the turn of the century and into the first quarter of the next, the time of the First World War. Then, perhaps inconsistently, but respondent to circumstances, they once more tried a permanent conductor, Weingartner. He worked for them and led them nearly twenty years. He was called by Viennese their most elegant conductor; he took the Philharmonic on its first tours out of Austria (to great acclaim); and he made the orchestra famous, too, in places it never had been seen, by virtue of his epochal cycles of symphonic recordings. For English Columbia, he put on discs the entire symphonics of Beethoven and Brahms, in versions still treasured and deemed definitive by many a studious listener-and certainly studied by every wise aspirant conductordown to the present day. At last he quit, nobody seems to know exactly why. Incidents don't explain it. It seems likehest that the extreme vivacity of the orchestra, expressed partly in internal politics, finally wound him down in his advancing age, so he went away to Switzerland. Many people think that the Philharmonic reached its highest and most durable style working with him.

It is hard to describe this style, or say what constitutes it. It can be heard and sensed, though, in many current recorded works. Take the nuptial march in *The Marriage*  of Figaro, in either the Kleiber (London) or Leinsdorf (Victor) versions. Probably no other orchestra can play this just the way the Vienna Philharmonic does, straightly joyous, and yet subrly but surely conveying Mozart's implication of whimseys still to come. Or take the last movement of the Beethoven Fourth Concerto, recorded with Clifford Curzon (London LL 1045). It is almost false in this to identify the pianist as the soloist; it's rather as if he were playing ducts with the sundry orchestral instruments, in musical repartee almost incredibly articulate. A listener can (hearing something like the Beethoven concerto) think of the Philharmonic as a huge chamber group, there is such effortlessly unified spontaneity. This springs from something as simple as it is uncommon: understanding of the music, and love for it. Kindred is the orchestra's virtue in its other role, as an opera orchestra. Nearly from the beginning, and continuously since 1869, when the Opera House was built, the Philharmonic has doubled as the Opera orchestra-the Court Opera until 1918, the State Opera since then. More than one new conductor, essaying Don Giovanni at the Staatsoper, has had his life saved by the fact that the Orchestra players knew the music better than he did.

It is a matter of justice, thus, that the Orchestra should have had its life saved by a conductor. When Hitler's Germany absorbed Austria, the Philharmonic was in trouble: the Berlin cultural ministry viewed it jealously and, in fact, set up a rival orchestra to lure its players away. No VPO man succumbed. Further, the players responded to purge orders by hiding their Jewish colleagues and helping them out of the country. There are no Jews now in the Orchestra, incidentally, but this is not the Orchestra's fault; it is because Jews have not cared to return to a scene of past dread. The Orchestra dealt in Austrian style with other Nazi nonsense. When orders came to burn the non-Aryan scores of Mahler and Mendelssohn, the archivist Franz Schreinzer managed to get lost looking for the incinerator, and turned up instead at the house of the concertmaster, who had a cellar suitable for hiding manuscripts. The Philharmonic would have been dissolved, had it not been for Wilhelm Furrwängler, who became a one-man lobby on their bchalf in Berlin, and won. Every year now the VPO gives two memorial concerts, one for Nicolai, one for Furtwängler.

It has nine other concerts, the eight subscription evenings all played in the Musikvereinsaal, behind the Imperial Hotel, and the New Year's Eve all-Strauss waltz concert which takes place in the Sofiensäle, the ballroom where the Waltz King himself used to preside. Willy Boskovsky, senior concertmaster, conducts this now as Strauss used to, standing and playing his violin. One can either dance or sit, if one is fortunate enough to get in at all, which is pretty hard to do.

It's hard to get in to any Philharmonic concert, or to any of the eight public rehearsals. Eighty per cent of all tickets are bought by subscribers, called "associate members." The rest are put on sale, as a series, and are always all gone within three hours. The Philharmonic would love to play more concerts, but can't. As Boskovsky points out, what with nightly performances at the Staatsoper over a ten months' season, the summer Salzburg festival, and the heaviest recording schedule of any major orchestra in the world, everyone is doing too much work. "We keep it up because we are idealists. The Staatsoper is our livelihood. The Philharmonic is our renown, and it is where, as an association, we do our musical duty. Some kinds of music we think we know better than anyone else. Furtwängler said once: 'Everywhere in the world there are good musicians, but the Viennese don't believe it." Boskovsky disavows this immodesty, but only in part: "Our dominion, with our sound, is Beethoven, Brahms, Bruckner, and the classics; at this we are good. Perhaps American orchestras can play some of the newer music better."

"However," he adds thoughtfully, "our style has grown for a hundred years, and is not yet static."

The Philharmonic lives in symbiosis with the Staatsoper. Perhaps, indeed, if it didn't, it wouldn't live at all. The New York Philharmonic also began as a coopcrative and worked as one for a half century, whereafter it couldn't afford to continue. For one thing, it had the perpetual problem of aging members, whom it couldn't support in retirement, and thus kept on too long. The VPO's survival owes to its unwritten contract with the State Opera. The Opera actually hires its instrumentalists individually, and its active rolls contain about 150 musicians. Of these, 124 are members of the Philharmonic and the rest hope to be, after they have played out their probationary years to the satisfaction of the Philharmonic's admissions committee. In other words, the Philharmonic selects, trains, and maintains in readiness an orchestra for the Opera. Continued on page 154



Von Karajan, conductor for the current world tour.

# by H. C. Robbins Landon

# Wurst and Beethoven

# An un-Baedeker-like guide



REMEMBER, when I received the commission for this article, getting out a map of Vienna and marking the places I thought HIGH FIDELITY readers might like to know of; when I finished, I had a list impressively long-and as dull as a page out of Baedeker. The Gluck houses; the Schubert houses; the lovely villa in Hietzing where Wagner began to write the text of Die Meistersinger; the café in Hietzing where Johann Strauss used to play, and where I often drink a cup of morning coffee, looking over the Hietzing square; the house where Salomon came to fetch Haydn, and where, a few years later, Beethoven came to study counterpoint and composition; the enchanted garden in Perchtoldsdorf where Hugo Wolf, treading the narrow path between genius and sanity, wrote some of his most beautiful songs; the stately Webern villa in Mödling; the Schoenberg and Berg houses; the café where Strauss, Hofmannsthal, and Clemens Krauss used to discuss a new operatic production; the Redoutensaal, where Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven performed some of their best dance music; the archives of the Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde, where you can see the autographs of Mozart's G minor Symphony, Schubert's Unfinished, or the dedication copy of the Eroica with Napoleon's name scratched out in terse, angry lines; the Theater an der Wien, where Beethoven's Eroica and Fidelio were first publicly performed; the stately Lobkowitz Plais, where the Eroica was first privately played before a small, invited audience; the Prunksaal of the Austrian National Library, that splendid wash of baroque color where Van Swieten held his Sunday morning concerts, and where Mozart arranged and conducted Handel and Bach; the Augarten, formal gardens of measured elegance situated across the Danube Canal, where extravagant concerts were held, sometimes with fireworks, and where,

# In Vienna the boundaries of time dissolve:

Seen through the Imperial Castle Gate, above, is the house on the Michaelerplatz where Haydn lived as a young boy, after being expelled from the Choir of St. Stephen's. The open window, shown also in the closeup at right, identifies the garret room he occupied.



# even the wallpaper radiates musical memories

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Musical museums can be dead things, but in Vienna they are full of living presences. Above, at left, is the house on Haydngasse (in the eighteenth century, Kleine Steingasse and in the suburb of Gumpendorf) which Haydn bought in 1793 at his wife's request. Beyond its courtyard is a garden where the composer used to take his morning walks. At lower left is the house where Schubert was born, and above right is the handsome Baroque house on Schulerstrasse which Mozart rented for 460 Gulden a year and where he spent perhaps his happiest days, from September 1784 to April 1787. Here his father Leopold and Herr Haydn and the young Beethoven all visited him and made music. Another Mozart house, on Domgasse, appears opposite.

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# Photographs by Erich Lessing



in the 1780s, you could hear Mozart symphonies early on a Sunday morning; Brahms's favorite restaurant on the Fleishmarkt, where you can still get some of Vienna's best food; the exotic orange gallery in Schönbrunn Castle, where Mozart's Schauspieldirektor was first given; the Musikverein, that famous concert hall with an acoustical warmth which no other European hall quite approaches (here, the aging Bruckner witnessed a triumphal performance of one of his symphonies, and at the same concert the young Richard Strauss was introduced to Vienna's clite via his Till Eulenspiegel). My list suggested a bewildering army of famous works, famous composers, famous performers, all involved one with another-Brahms with Mozart, Gluck with Wagner, Haydn with Schoenberg, Beethoven with Webern. Yet, as one saw this vast parade of musical genius stretching back over the centuries, nothing appeared incongruous, nothing seemed impossible. It was one great and mighty river, flowing from one source: the city of Vienna.

Never has any one city nourished so many great musicians, and never has any one city provided inspiration for so many widely differing musical geniuses, whether performers or composers. Vienna is not an outwardly fascinating city: it lacks the eternal grandeur of Rome. the warmth of Paris, the cosmopolitan brilliance of London or Berlin. But it was Vienna to which, inevitably, musicians flocked for the past three centuries. Faced with a roll call of the mightiest names in musical history-only a very few, such as Bach and Handel (who never visited Austria) are physically absent--there seemed only one choice. I decided to concentrate on the three composers who formed and perfected the Viennese classical style and who thus shaped the face of Western music for nearly a hundred years: Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven.

Museums devoted to musicians are generally very boring. The case of a musician is radically different from that, say, of a painter. In a painter's birthplace you can hang one of his masterpieces. In a musician's home, the best you can offer is a portrait or two on the wall, the first page of an autograph, or the title of a first edition; compared to the sound of his music, this is a very poor substitute indeed. And yet there is a great deal of atmosphere in these Viennese museums and composers' houses, if you combine all the various circumstances, past and present. I have tried to take a very short tour in a very un-Baedeker-like manner through Haydn's, Mozart's, Beethoven's, and-in passing-our own, present-day Vienna. The dividing line between eighteenth- and twentieth-century Vienna is not, as any Austrian knows, that clear and definite anyway; on a warm summer night, over a glass of new wine, the line grows wavery and soon disappears entirely.

On a wet November evening in 1955, the Vienna State Opera opened its doors again, after almost total destruction during the last days of the war (only the outer walls remained more or less intact). As it happened, I was in London when this historic event occurred, and attended the new production of *Fidelio*, conducted by Karl Böhm, via radio broadcast, sitting comfortably before an open fire with friends in a cozy London house. One could somehow sense the joyous excitement, the glittering audience, the electrical atmosphere; but of course it wasn't the same thing as being there.

A fortnight later, I returned to Vienna on the Orient Express, arriving at the newly built Westbahnhof. As my taxi drove past Schönbrunn Castle, I asked the driver about the newly opened opera house.

"I drove two parties there the first evening," he said. "It was crazy, I tell you, simply crazy. Policemen all over the Ring, mobs of people fouling up traffic and making it almost impossible to drive up to the foyer. And the clothes! The jewels! Mautner-Markhof's wife. . . ." And he launched into a reverent description of one of Austria's richest beer-brewing families.

The conversation continued, and it turned out that the cab driver was an ardent opera fan.

"Fidelio was all right," he went on. "I heard it a week later with my wife, way up in the gallery. Of course it was all so exciting that you didn't really mind about Mödl—she's not really a first-class Leonore," he added thoughtfully, skirting a fat blue Mercedes. I asked him what else he had seen. Apparently he had already gone to four performances.

"Wozzeck," he said, meditatively, as we turned up the Hietzinger-Hauptstrasse, in the quiet western part of the city where I live. "Now that's a difficult piece for us conservative Viennese. But my wife and I thought it was a wonderful production. I don't understand all that . . . all that new business . . . that. . . ."

"Atonality?" I put in.

"Is that what it's called? Well, whatever it is, it's difficult. But my wife and I are going back to see *Woz*zeck again." he added, as we pulled up in front of my apartment house.

"You have to hear music like that many times before you can understand it properly," he concluded. I thought to myself: this is the kind of thing that's always happening to other people—Viennese taxi drivers talking about Wozeeck.

Improbable events and improbable conversations are, however, typical of Vienna's musical life. After twelve years in Austria, nothing—either past or present—surprises me. Recently the Viennese papers were full of just such an unlikely story. The other day, it seemed, a dashing young Viennese with a curious past (including a prison sentence for rather "gray dealings" just after the war) went up to a tall, *Continued on page 160* 

At Perchtoldsdorf, not far from Vienna, the garden where Hugo Wolf wrote some of his most beautiful songs still flourishes. And in the suburb of Heiligenstadt the courtyard of Beethoven's house is not a museum at all: the Viennese go there on long summer evenings to sit under the tall trees, to drink the new wine and sing soft, sentimental songs . . . and to dream.









At left, the so-called Pasqualati House (named for the Emperor's private physician), where Beethoven had a flat on the top floor—shown in the photograph above—for some ten years, from 1804 to 1815. Below, the Beethoven House in Heiligenstadt, showing the big double doors that open to the courtyard we picture on the facing page.



# flittermice and Merry Widows

# by JOSEPH WECHSBERG

Austria's liveliest export, for a century, has been operetta, inimitably flavored by the gay city on the Danube.

WHEN A SPECIAL BRAND of entertainment has produced world-wide smash hits for over a hundred years, it's time to take notice. Ever since the night in 1860 when an eighteen-year-old composer named Karl Millöcker made his Vienna debut with *Das Pensionat*, millions of theatregoers have continued to be enchanted by the musical shows that go under the generic title of Viennese operetta.

All these people can't be wrong. The best Viennese operettas have been impervious to the finicky changes of popular taste. Today they are appreciated by fastidious connoisseurs and they have not lost their popular appeal. Longevity, if nothing else, creates respectability.

Das Pensionat itself is forgotten-as are most of the seven hundred Viennese operettas written since-but at least a dozen have proved indestructible: Johann Strauss's Fledermans and Gypsy Baron, Millöcker's Beggar Student and Gasparone, Suppé's Boccacio, Richard Heuberger's The Opera Ball, Lehár's Merry Widow and Land of Smiles, Oscar Straus's Waltz Dream and Chocolate Soldier, Leo Fall's Dollar Princess, Emmerich Kalman's Countess Maritza.

Viennese operetta did not spring full-grown. It evolved --slowly and tortuously. It was a mixture of various elements which baffled the critics who didn't know where to file it. Comic opera? Singspiel? Musical comedy? The Viennese critic Eduard Hanslick took a dim view of it, but then he didn't like Meistersinger either. Many operettas failed because they were too highbrow for Vienna's petit bourgeois audiences and too lowbrow for the small group of musical snobs. The greatest Viennese operetta, Die Fledermaus, even baffled the local income tax collectors. In Vienna, where operettas are taxed more highly than operas on the debatable theory that operettas are "luxury" and opera "culture," the authorities ruled in the Twenties that Fledermans was an operetta. This decidedly miffed the Staatsoper management, where Fledermaus had been conducted by Mahler, Weingartner, Walter, and other accredited opera specialists who called it a "comic opera." Happily, everybody agreed that it was a masterpiece.

Viennese operetta never pretended to be Art, though the greatest operettas have outlived a good many "serious" works; and it never tried to compete with grand opera, comedy, drama, or the revue. Its aim was simple and straight: all good operettas from Millöcker to Robert Stolz were written to entertain. Kalman, who thought a lot about his medium, wrote, "With an opera or symphony you can pretend to create an 'important' work. But a simple operetta melody must have a genuine spark



HIGH FIDELITY MACAZINE

or it will not catch on. Maybe one **page** of a Liszt score is worth more than all my operettas but, after all, there are so many people who want a little escape and fun at the theatre. . . ."

In Vienna an evening's perfect entertainment had to include laughter and tears, melody and dance, heartbreak and hoopla. Operetta offered all that, and a lot more. Its libretto was a mixture of romantic nonsense and preposterous intrigue, a well-conceived hoax that, by unspoken agreement between authors and public, no one took seriously. Plausibility was neither expected nor provided. Around nine-thirty, at the end of the second act, the love affair between Hero and Heroine was on the rocks, and ladies of the audience were crying. On first nights librettists and composers would anxiously watch the audience from their boxes. They knew that if tears weren't shed at certain climaxes, the operetta was a flop. But there were nuances in weeping, as in everything else in Vienna. Obvious methods of tearjerking were taboo and might backfire. There had to be just the right air of sentimentality, as light and fluffy as a well-beaten crown of Schlagobers topping your afternoon coffee. In the end the Schlagobers melted into the coffee-and the tears dissolved into happiness.

The finest operettas were written by men who had the Austrian genius for ignoring life's minor troubles by escaping into a pleasant haze of melody and song, women and romance. For two hours the little shopkeeper's wife was able to escape into a never-never world of dashing hussars and lovely princesses. Since it was a foregone conclusion that He would get Her in the end, it was a pleasure to cry.

And there had to be comedy, too, to please the male animal in the audience. The humor was the responsibility of the buffo and the souhrette and it was not oversubtle; but in the classic Viennese operetta it was also never off-color and never gauche. A Berlin critic wrote, "What people want is lots of Paris dresses, beautiful women, frivolity, and legs, legs, legs!" Maybe the Berliners were satisfied with that but the Viennese wanted more; they wanted sentiment and laughter at the same time. The humor might be created by a character or a situation or by both, as in the third act of *Fledermaus*. The immortal antics of Frosch, the prison warden, have delighted generations of operetta fans. (From Frosch's time, it has been an unwritten law to put the great scene of comic relief early in the last act, when it's getting late and the audience might begin to get tired.)

The most important element, however, was the music itself—the sort of music that goes from heart to heart and makes you happy or sad or both at the same time (which is the best), genuine melody, singable tunes that are hummed as people walk out of the theatre, Music That Does Something to You. The perfect Viennese operetta makes people happy, moves them to tears, wraps them up in tuneful melody, exciting dances, colorful costumes, and pleasant concern about the fate of Him and Her. That is a complicated recipe and few have been able to follow it. A good many composers have tried and failed—perhaps because they didn't know the shortcut to people's basic emotions.

This mixture-as-before is not exactly a Viennese invention. It was first created to near-perfection in Paris by Jacques Offenbach, the son of a Jewish cantor in Cologne. Offenbach, a brilliant amalgam of Rhenish exuberance and French *esprit*, took over a small theatre in Paris, the "Bonbonnière." and in 1858 produced with sensational success his *Orphée aux Enfers* and later *La belle Hélène*. His operettas were masterpieces of musical parody and topical persiflage, full of wit and insinuation. A charming but merciless critic of the Second Empire, he had respect neither for the gods on Olympus nor the Emperor in the Tuileries Palace. No one ever admitted that Menelaus was a caricature of Napoleon III and that La belle Hélène was the Empress Eugenie—but everybody sensed it.

Offenbach had great success in Vienna, where audiences loved his music and didn't understand his innuendo. The Viennese have always been more susceptible to charm and schmalz than to wit and irony. In Paris, Offenbach's public were the sophisticated upper-middle classes and the aristocrats, who smiled slyly at his popical innuendo. In Vienna the Spiessburger like their operettas filled with make-believe.

Orphée aux Enfers was performed at the Theater an der Wien in 1860, the year of Millöcker's first local success. At that time Franz von Suppé—who came from a Belgian family, was born in Italy, and considered himself an Austrian—had begun to work on Die schöne Galathée.



## Viennese Operetta on Discs

- Emmerich Kalman: Countess Maritea. Pallesche, Richter, Ritzman, Westmayer, Zorn: Radio Leipzig Symphony Orchestra, Kegel, cond. (Urania B 238, Two LP).
- Franz Lehár: Count of Luxembourg (excerpts). Zurich Tonhalle Orchestra, Reinshagen, cond. (London 5352, LP).
- Franz Lehár: Giudina. Dickie, Gueden, Loose, Kmentt; Vienna State Opera Chorus and Orchestra, Moralt, cond. (London A 4333, Three LP; OSA 1301, Three SD).
- Franz Lehár: Land of Smiles. Gedda, Kmentt, Kraus, Kunz, Loose, Nattonk, Schwarzkopf; Philharmonia Orchestra and Chorus, Ackermann, cond. (Angel 3507 B/L, Two LP).
- Franz Lehár: The Merry Widow. Dönch, Grunden, Gueden, Kmentt, Loose; Vienna State Opera Chorus and Orchestra, Stolz, cond. (London A 4233, Two LP; OSA 1205, Two SD). Gedda, Kraus, Kunz, Loose, Niessner, Schmidinger, Schwarzkopf; Philharmonia Orchestra and Chorus, Ackermann, cond. (Angel 3501 B/L, Two LP).
- Franz Lehár: *Paganini* (excerpts), Vienna Light Opera Company, Sandauer, cond. (Epic LC 3130, LP).
- Karl Millöcker: The Beggar Student. Anday, Bierbach, Christ, Dönch, Jaresch, Kaufmann, Lipp, Preger, Rethy, Sallaba, Wächter; Vienna Volksoper Chorus and Orchestra, Paulik, cond. (Vanguard 474/75, Two LP).
- Oscar Seraus: The Chocolate Soldier. Merrill, Palmer, Stevens; Orchestra (RCA Victor LOP 6005, Two LP; LSO 6005, Two SD).
- Oscar Straus: A Wales Dream. Vienna Light Opera Co., Straus, cond. (Period 1903, LP),
- Johann Strauss: Die Fledermauss Dermota, Gueden, Jaresch, Lipp, Patzak, Preger,

Proell, Wagner; Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus, Krauss, cond. (London A-4207, Two LP). Boheim, Christ, Dönch, Gedda, Krebs, Kunz, Majkut, Martini, Schwarzkopf, Streich; Philharmonia Orchestra and Chorus, Von Karajan, cond. (Angel 3539 B/L, Two LP). Kullman, Pons, Tucker, Welitch; Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and Chorus, Ormandy, cond. (Columbia 3SL 108, Two LP).

- Johann Strauss: The Gypsy Baron. Gedda, Köth, Kunz, Schwarzkopf; Philharmonia Orchestra and Chorus, Ackermann, cond. (Angel 3566-B/L, Two LP). Anday, Bierbach, Dönch, Jaresch, Leuerenz, Loose, Patzak, Preger, Proell, Zadek; Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus, Krauss, cond. (London A 4208, Two LP). Fez, Kmentt, Kunz, Loose, Preger, Rössl-Majdan, Schreyer, Spani, Wächter: Chorus and Orchestra of the Vienna State Opera, Paulik, cond. (Vanguard 486/7, Two LP).
- Johann Strauss: One Night in Venice. Gedda, Kunz, Loose, Schwarzkopf: Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus, Ackermann, cond. (Angel 3530 B/L, Two LP).
- Johann Strauss: *Thousand and One Nights*. Groh, Seegers: Radio Berlin Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, Dobrindt, cond. (Urania 203, Two LP).
- Johann Strauss: Wiener Blut. Gedda, Kunz, Schwarzkopf; Philharmonia Orchestra and Chorus, Ackermann, cond. (Angel 3519 3S/L, Two LP).
- Franz von Suppé: *Die schöne Galathée*. Kmentt, Roon; Vienna State Opera Orchestra and Chorus, Paulik, cond. (Urania 7167, LP);

Suppé, Millöcker, and Johann Strauss the younger became the heroes of the Golden Epoch of Viennese operetta. Strauss was the last of the three to take to writing operettas. The "waltz king" of Vienna, the celebrated *kaiserlich-königliche Hofball-Musikdirektor*, had another domain: the ballroom. He knew nothing about the stage, had no idea of plot and libretto—and perhaps he was afraid of the sustained effort of writing a lengthy score: it wasn't like jotting down the *Blue Danube* waltz, which he'd finished in a few hours.

The notion that he too might compose operetta was in part the result of a fortunate meeting with Offenbach when both of them were writing special waltzes for the press ball of the Concordia. (Strauss's contribution was *Morgenblatter—Morning News*—which has survived Offenbach's *Abendblatter—Evening News*.) One day during lunch at the Goldenes Lamm, Offenbach insisted, "My dear Strauss, you've got to write an operettal" But it was really his first wife, the singer Jenny Treffz, who convinced him he could do it. She made him sit down one afternoon in the dark, empty auditorium of the Theater an der Wien, and asked the orchestra to play a couple of her husband's waltzes so that he could hear "how they sounded in a theatre."

They sounded so good that Strauss wrote his first operetta, Indigo and the Forty Robbers. It was a flop. It seems that there were more writers involved in its libretto than in a Hollywood extravaganza. People said "Indigo" was by Strauss and the "forty robbers" were the librettists who had stolen from the whole of world literature. But the music was beautiful, and the operetta became a posthumous success Conjunced on page 151



Ever since tape made it possible for the recording studio to go to the artist, reversing old procedures, Vienna has been the happy hunting ground of independent record companies,

Y FIRST CONTACT with the recording world in VL Vienna was a rather curious one. Late one evening in the Spring of 1950, when I was a cub reporter for the American-sponsored Wiener Kurier, I had been sent on some dreary assignment in the British district above the Schwarzenbergplatz (it was then called Stalinplatz), and was walking home along the Stadtpark and up past the Konzerthaus, that monstrously ugly pile of stone that constitutes one of Vienna's three principal musical establishments. It was about two in the morning, and I noticed with some surprise that the lights in the building were still on. Just as I went past, the sleepy porter was opening the main doors, and out of the cavernous depths poured a line of exhausted-looking men, their eyes bleary with fatigue. Some of them had swollen lips; almost all carried musical instruments. They said good-by to each other and went off in various directions. The last two men out shook hands with the porter, crossed his palm with silver (or rather aluminum, since this was in the days when the Austrian schilling was still rather shaky), and went off to an automobile, talking English. I caught the words "next session" and "knock off the finale." As the porter was locking the door after them, I pushed my nose through the gap and asked him what it was all about.

"Recordings," he said. "It's the only time when they can get that many wind players together."

"When who can get that many players together for what?" I asked him, not much wiser. "American recording company. Mozart wind-band music," he said rather curtly, and closed the door.

In the Autumn of 1949 and all through 1950 and 1951, it was nothing out of the ordinary in Vienna for Mozart serenades to be recorded at two o'clock in the morning, or Strauss waltzes before breakfast. The city was witnessing one of the most interesting phases of its many-sided musical history: the invasion of the independent recording company from America. Unlike most invasions, however, this one was most welcome to the Viennese; at a time when the economic situation was still precarious, it brought work to every musician in Vienna who could fiddle his way professionally through a classical score. An official at the Austrian National Bank estimates that the total sum of money brought into Austria by recording companies from 1949 to 1952 was well over ten million schillings, which is a lot of money in anybody's currency. (The official rate of exchange is twenty-five schillings to one American dollar; in those days, however, the black market rate made the dollar worth considerably more.)

The sudden emergence of the name "Vienna" on the disc labels of the smaller American recording companies was by no means accidental. Several factors contributed to make Vienna a mecca for the "Independents," among which one of the most important was the use of tape. During the war, the Germans perfected magnetic tape



Musicians in winter coats gather in an unbeated ball for one of Vienna's first postwar recording sessions for an American company. Conditions have changed somewhat since then, and today Paul Badura-Skoda and Joerg Demus record in comfort in lightweight suits, while conductor Kurt Redel sports a sweater. Recording costs are still lower than in the U.S.A.



to an extent where it was superior to any previous recording medium (e.g., wax masters, and so forth) in fidelity of sound and in technical range. By means of tape, small companies could, for the first time in history, easily record a whole symphony in three hours. The possibility of correcting a bad spot in an otherwise flawless take was patently revolutionary. Furthermore, recording costs in Vienna were ridiculously low. Small companies could afford to record chamber music in America (or in England), but the cost of recording a full orchestra at home was beyond their means. Symphonic music was, of course, Vienna's principal commodity, and it was one sold cheap.

Vienna was, and is, blessed with a number of orchestras, most of which played a part in the activities of American recording companies.

Perhaps best known was the Vienna Philharmonic, which had done so much to spread the capital's musical fame throughout the world. Before the war, the name "Vienna" meant those delicious Bruno Walter recordings of Haydn and Mozart for HMV (Victor); it meant the Weingartner Beethoven Symphonics; it also came to mean Furtwängler and Herbert von Karajan. In a way, the small American companies were trading on this reputation when they came to Vienna to make their first records. The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra was then under exclusive contract to EMI (the records appeared on the Columbia label), and only the Haydn Society managed to get permission to use it, for recordings of The Creation and The Seasons. Subscquently, the Vienna Philharmonic went to Deccaand by extension to RCA Victor - under whose exclusive patronage it has remained ever since.

The Vienna State Opera Orchestra is a body of nearly 150 members, of whom over a hundred are also members of the Vienna Philharmonic. In the first years after the war, it was possible to get round EMI's exclusive contract by hiring individual members of the Vienna Philharmonic and attaching to this pickup group the hame "Vienna State Opera." Many United States record buyers are under the misapprehension that all records issued under the name of the Vienna State Opera Orchestra are really made by the Vienna Philharmonic. (Actually, more of them-at least in the past few years-have been made by the Volksoper Orchestra, which, though it is part of the Vienna State Opera, has no connection with the Philharmonic.) There are, in fact, comparatively few "Vienna State Opera Orchestra" records which are the work of the bona fide Vienna Philharmonic; offhand, the only ones I know are some Telefunken records (Tchaikovsky Serenade, etc.) which have since been withdrawn, one or two early Westminsters, and a few Haydn Society discs (Symphony No. 85 with Baltzer and the Posthorn Serenade with Sternberg).

The "Orchestra in the Volksoper" ("People's Opera") is a body of about eighty men. It is an orchestra that can be made into a first-rate symphonic team if given a conductor who knows his business. Almost all Vanguard (Bach Guild) records use this group. The Volksoper has also made many releases for American record clubs, though the name is often changed so as to make it unrecognizable.

The Vienna Symphony Orchestra, with some 125 permanent members, was the impetus for the first recordings made by American companies in 1949. This group not only played the music, but owned a recording studio and a staff of technicians, and was thus able to provide a customer with a package job if he so desired. It also advised on vocal soloists and choits and would engage such soloists if requested.

The "Tonkünstler" Orchestra, almost never using its legitimate name, has made innumerable records for firms such as Remington, and for clubs. It's a second-rate outfit on the whole, but provided with a conductor of the late Fritz Busch's caliber, it can turn out quite a respectable Haydn or Mozart Symphony or provide decent accompaniments for operatic arias, and the like.

The Vienna Chamber Orchestra, with the backbreaking name of "Kammerorchester der Wiener Konzerthausgesellschaft," is (or was) mostly made up of women. It was formerly conducted by Franz Litschauer, and the advantage of using it was that, for the same recording fee as that charged by the Vienna Symphony, the ladies would arrive fully rehearsed. The orchestra consists of strings only, and such wind players as were required for a given session were borrowed from the Vienna Symphony or State Opera Orchestras.

In the spring of 1950, the Vienna Symphony signed an exclusive contract with Philips. This meant that the name "Vienna Symphony" could no longer be used by other companies, though United States makers were free to record with the orchestra if they invented a fictitious name for it. The fertile imagination of many firms got rhem into trouble; SPA thought up the delightful "Vienna State Philharmonia Orch.," which the Vienna Philharmonic made them change. Vox's "Pro Musica Orchestra, Vienna' is composed entirely of Vienna Symphony Orchestra members. This juggling with names had a rather demoralizing effect on some companies. Certain United States record clubs deliberately mixed up Dutch, German, Austrian, and Italian orchestras with five or six conductors. I remember, for instance, being played one American record-club disc listed as by a Dutch orchestra and a German conductor; in fact it was made by Hans Swarowsky and the Volksoper Orchestra. In the long run, it does not matter very much by whom the inferior records were made; but the historian will have quite a time sorting out all the spurious names.

In any case, the prolific recording of Viennese orchestras—under whatever names—was too great an economic advantage to be given up by reason of such small difficultics as what to call the performing group. In compiling the following data 1 am much indebted to Herr Josef Duron of the Vienna Symphony, who placed at my disposal the bills for a number of recording sessions made from the Fall of 1949 through the next few years. When the Haydn Society arrived in Vienna about ten years ago, they were alone on the scene except for Telefunken and, of course, EMI. In those days the Vienna Symphony charged 38 schillings per man per hour (abour \$1.50), and the Tonkünstler the rock-bottom fee of \$1.00 per man per hour. The accounts of the Vienna Symphony show that the Mariazellermesse, recorded in June 1949, cost the Haydn Society 8,608 schillings (\$344) for the total orchestral fee; per soloist they paid an almost incredibly low 500 schillings (\$20)-and that included. Walter Berry, who has since become a State Opera star; the chorus (the Akademic Kammerchor) cost them about \$250 and the conductor (Hans Gillesberger) \$80. Other expenses amounted to some \$180. Thus, the Haydn Society was able to produce a recording of a Haydn Mass for less than \$1,000; an early Haydn Symphony, in those days, could be recorded for an average of \$200. George London, Lisa Della Casa, Elisabeth Höngen, and Horst Taubinann got what was then considered the staggeringly large fee of 4,000 schillings each for singing the Haydn Nelson Mass; but with three full sessions, the orchestra cost only 13,210 schillings (just over \$500). The economics of being able to do large-scale choral works, symphonies, and operas at these low prices made it possible for Westminster, the Havdn Society, Vox, the Bach Guild (Vanguard), Concert Hall, the American Recording Communed on page 157

Hermann Scherchen, conductor, discusses a score with harpsichordist George Malcohn and a member of the Vienna State Opera Orchestra. Over a hundred members of this group also belong to the Vienna Philbarmonic, which has led many music lovers to believe that all State Opera recordings are made by the Philbarmonic. In fact, several have been made by the Volksoper {or People's Opera} Orchestra, a group of some eighty men that forms part of the State Opera but has no connection with the Philbarmonic. Many of its recordings go to U. S. record clubs under a fictitious name.



# HOW TO BUY **A STEREO TUNER**

# by CHARLES FOWLER

DOMEONE SENT US a clipping recently in which credit for the invention of stereophonic high fidelity was given to a man who got the idea after listening to his wife on one side and his mother-in-law on the other, both telling him the same thing at the same time. With but slight modification, this will serve as a definition of what we mean by a stereo tuner: it is one which can receive FM on one side and AM on the other, simultaneously.

The last word is important. There are plenty of tuners available that are FM-AM units but which can receive only one at a time. A stereo unit must be, in effect, two separate tuners, separately tunable by means of two tuning knobs. That is the easiest identification characteristic: two separate tuning knobs. There will also be two separate dial pointers. Two tuning scales, however, are not an identification characteristic; two are needed for any FM-AM tuner.

Actually, stereo broadcasting takes several forms these days. Most common is the arrangement utilizing an FM transmitting facility for one channel and an AM transmitter for the second. These may be two halves of the same station, as is the case in New York with broadcasts from WQXR or in Boston from WCRB. Or two independent stations may form a coöperative arrangement for the broadcast. The tuners discussed in this article are intended for the reception of such broadcasts.

(Incidentally, a stereo FM-AM tuner may be used to receive two entirely different programs. For example, one channel of the stereo setup might be tuned, for family listening, to a local good-music station. The other channel could tune rock 'n' roll for the kids and be piped, through the separate amplifier, to the rumpus room or some other part of the house-preferably as far away from civilized society as possible.)

On the other hand, there are other combinations of transmitting facilities which are occasionally used for stereo broadcasts. For example, two FM stations may work together or, rarely, a TV transmitter may be used in conjunction with either an AM or FM station. An

FM-AM stereo tuner cannot be used for both halves of an FM-FM transmission though it can, of course, pick up one of the FM stations. Nor will it work for TV, except that some FM tuners can get down to the sound part of the Channel 6 signal.

Although FM multiplexing is still officially in an experimental stage, several stations are transmitting stereo material regularly by this means. Since the Federal Communications Commission has not yet decided which one of twenty-odd multiplexing techniques will be adopted as final, manufacturers are moving slowly. There are multiplex adapters on the market, and some tuner manufacturers have left space on the tuner chassis for such an adapter. Most manufacturers have provided some method for adding a multiplex adapter, and a few have made it possible to switch into the multiplex mode of operation by means of a control on the front panel.

There is no significant technical reason why a stereo tuner, on one chassis, should be any hetter than two

#### NOTES

- Local/distance switch on AM A
- Local/distance switch on FM
- C Local/distance switch affects both AM and FM
- AM sensitivity continuously variable D
- Has adjustable Dynamic Sideband Regulation E
- Hush or squeich circuit can be defeated
- G Hush or squelch circuit continuously variable
- Low-impedance antenna connection for coaxial cable
- Has tuning indicator or eye Has volume or level controls on front panel
- ĸ Price as kit Space provided on chassis for multiplex adapter E.
- Has tuning meter M
- AFC is continuously variable
- 0 **Omits AFC**
- Phase reverse provided P
- AM bandwidth odjustable for broad/narrow Q
- AM bandwidth adjustable for broad/medium/narrow
- Has log scale
- Price wired at factory W

A typical stereo tuner. Two distinguishing characteristics are: separate tuning knobs and separate dial pointers, for FM and AM.



Some of the many features found on modern stereo tuners include—reading in the usual order—variable AM bandwidth, variable squelch or hush circuitry, and provision for operation as a multiplex receiver. The next three buttons select AM, FM, or off; the slide switch to the right is the AFC control.

МАКЕ	MODEL	PRICE	CASE	SENSI- TIVITY	TUNE	LOG	NOTES
Ampex	503	249.50	+	3.0			Q
Arkay	STIL	K 49.95	+	4.0		V	N; Q; W \$74.50
Bell	3070 6070 2222	139.95 189.95 109.95		6.0 1.1 6.0	l M	V V V	Q
Bogen	TC322 ST442 ST662	109.50 149.50 189.50	+++	3.0 2.0 1.5	M	V V	H
DeWald	NIOOOB	99.95		3.0		V	
Fisher	101R	229.50	+	0.75	1	٧	0; Q
Grommes	103GT	189.95	+	1.0	M		Q
Harman-Kardon	T230 ST360	119.95 199.95	+	3.5 0.95	a i	V V	L; Q
Heath	PT1	K 89.50		2.0	M		Q
Knight (Allied)	KN135 KN125 83YX731	79.50 139.50 K 87.50		4.0 2.5 2.5	;	V V	H E; H; R E; Q
Lafayette	LT77 KT500	74.50 K 74.50		1.5 1.0	M 1	٧	J J; W \$124.50
Madison Fielding	380	160.00	+	2.0	1		J
Pilot	580 680	179.50 219.50		1.5 1.0	l M	V V	H F; H; Q
Sargent-Rayment	SR1000	184.50		0.85	4		Q
Scott	330D	224.95	+	2.0	М	V	0; P; R
Sherwood	52200	179.50	+	0.95	1		G; L; Q
Stromberg-Carlson	SR445	129.95	+	2.0	1		A; B

separate tuners. A stereo unit will be more convenient to install; its controls will be centralized and designed specifically for stereo operation. Problems of hum, which might be encountered when two separate units are interconnected, will not exist. The cost to you will be lower; only one power supply is necessary, instead of two, and certain production economies can be effected.

In this review, only stereo tuners are included. Monophonic FM-AM tuners, and mono or stereo tuners combined on one chassis with preamp-control or power amplifier functions, are not covered. Stereo "combos" will be checked out next month.

# T.

L he table presents basic features of stereo tuners, such as make, model number, and price. Some makers charge extra for a case; this is indicated with a + sign.

Sensitivity of the FM section is the only technical specification listed, and we have included it more or less from force of habit. Sensitivity is important, and it is a significant measure. But it used to have more significance when variation from one model to another was so much greater than it now is. The narrowing of the range today is a tribute to engineering progress.

The sensitivity figure states the amount of FM signal, in microvolts, needed to effect a 20-db reduction in noise. Imagine, if you will, that you have adjusted an FM tuner so that it is precisely on the frequency of a transmitter that is about to come on the air. If the volume control is turned up, you will hear a certain amount of noise-from cars, lights, one thing and another. When the transmitter is turned on, and before the announcer speaks, the level of this background noise will drop substantially-probably to complete silence. This is FM quieting. The amount of quieting is dependent on the strength of the signal reaching the receiver. A typical graph will show that a signal of, for instance, 2.0 microvolts will lower the noise by 20 db. A signal of 3.0 microvolts would then quiet by 30 db; beyond a certain point, the line on the graph reaches a plateau at which no more quieting can be achieved (or is necessary). A signal of 20 microvolts would, in our example, put the line on the plateau with 40 db or more of quicting.

It is obvious that signal strength will decrease as the distance between transmitter and receiver increases. Hence a highly sensitive tuner is advisable in remote or fringe locations. Elsewhere, any modern, well-engineered stereo tuner will have more than adequate sensitivity.

The next column in the table shows whether or not the tuner incorporates a tuning indicator or meter. A meter, or an eye or indicator device of some sort, is not a necessity, but precise tuning always helps the fidelity of a tuner, and a meter or indicator makes precision easier to achieve. There is less need for such precision if the tuner incorporates . . .

Automatic Frequency Control, which is an electronic circuit designed to compensate for sloppy tuning! It will also compensate for a slight shifting in tuning components while the set warms up—drift.

The AFC circuit simply centers, electronically, the tuning over a strong signal. It almost guarantees correct tuning, and is a feature on almost every tuner in the list. Also, manufacturers' specifications indicate that in every case it can be defeated when desired, by a frontpanel control. Why defeat AFC? Because it automatically selects a strong station. If you want to tune in a weak station right next to a strong station, AFC may make it impossible; the AFC circuit will pull the tuner over to the stronger station. Therefore it should be defeatable, particularly in areas where weak stations are very close to strong ones.

The desirability of a logging scale is a matter of receiver location and dial design. Some FM dials have a fairly finely divided megacycle scale. Others simply put a figure at 96 mc, another at 98, and so on. In a metropolitan area where perhaps half a dozen strong signals are all that will be tuned to regularly, such a marking arrangement will be adequate. But in medium fringe areas along the East coast it may be possible to tune in forty to sixty stations. Under crowded conditions of this nature, it is next to impossible to go back to a station without a finely divided logging scale for guidance.

Beyond this . . . there is a column of "Notes," and here are indicated some of the many features which may be included on tuners. Let's take them alphabetically: A: Local/distance switch—this is a good idea for people who live near powerful AM or FM transmitters. Many tuners incorporate automatic volume control devices (such as AGC, Automatic Gain Control), but there is some danger that an overly strong signal may produce distortion or create spurious images. The latter is an occasional problem for oversensitive FM tuners; the same strong station may appear in two or three spots on the dial.

B and C: See above.

D: Same as a switch, except continuously variable. The effect is much like that of a volume control.

E: DSR is described by the manufacturer as a method of adjusting the modulation of an FM carrier to compensate for errors in this adjustment at the transmitter.

F and G: There are two basic types of FM circuits, the ratio detector and the so-called Armstrong circuit. Thousands of words have been *Continued on page 165*


EN ROUTE HOME from a late-summer holiday in France, we tarried for a few days in Holland to attend a recording session by the Concertgebouw Orchestra and renew acquaintances with our friends at Philips Phonographic Industries.

The Concertgebouw Orchestra is passing through some difficult days just now. Since its founding in the 1880s it has had only three permanent conductors: Willem Kes, Willem Mengelberg, and Eduard van Beinum. The latter's sudden death last spring cast the orchestra somewhat adrift, for no official heir apparent was waiting ready in the wings to take over. Piet Heuwekemeyer, erstwhile violinist in the Concertgebouw Orchestra and now its manager, told us that Van Beinum's successor would not be named until October or November 1960. Until then, a number of guest conductors will preside. Heuwekemeyer strongly intimated that the orchestra's artistic direction would henceforth devolve upon two regular coconductors. The Concertgebouw's wide-ranging repertoire and arduous schedule (at least 150 concerts per year) are more, it is felt, than any one conductor can comfortably handle,

Although no official announcement will be forthcoming for almost a year, it would seem reasonable to suspect that the choice of coconductors may ultimately fall on the two musicians who have already been engaged for the Concertgebouw's nine-week American tour in the spring of 1961: German-born Eugen Jochum, 57, and Dutch-born Bernard Haitink, 31. Jochum has a solid reputation in Europe as an interpreter of the Bach-to-Bruckner repertoire and is familiar in countries he has never visited by virtue of many recordings, Haitink, by contrast, is almost unknown outside the Netherlands; yet he is nevertheless the leading contender for the Concertgebouw post. The orchestra has always been directed by a native son, and Haitink seems everywhere considered Holland's most talented young conductor.

Unfortunately, we had no chance to hear Bernard Haitink in action, though we did have a pleasant talk with him at his home in Laren, a suburb of Amsterdam much favored by painters, writers, and musicians. Despite his current guest engagements and his future prospects with the Concertgebouw Orchestra, Haitink's chief present devotion is his own orchestra, the Radio Philharmonic, of which he has been permanent conductor for the past two years. This ensemble works for Holland's four broadcasting companies, gives its own public concert series, and regularly tours various European countries. Sometimes the Radio Philharmonic Orchestra plays as many as three different concerts a week. Needless to say, Bernard Haitink does not conduct every program, but the over-all musical direction of the orchestra is his sole responsibility.



Recording session in preparation.

Haitink got his start, in the classic manner, by substituting for an ailing colleague. In 1956 the Italian conductor Carlo Maria Giulini fell ill shortly before a scheduled performance in Amsterdam of the Cherubini Requiem. Haitink, who had previously conducted the work in-Utrecht, was asked to take over. Duringone of the rehearsals, Eduard van Beinum wandered into the auditorium of the. Concertgebouw and watched young Haitink at work. A close relationship soon sprang up between the two musicians. Van Beinum gave him no formal lessons in conducting, but he was-says Hairink-"extremely helpful." Last year, when a bout of ill health caused Van Beinum to curtail his appearances in Los Angeles, it was Haitink whom he sent for to fill out the engagement.

In one respect Bernard Haitink feels himself less fortunately situated than either Mengelberg or Van Beinum. "A conductor," he told us, "should lead the fight for new music. He must be a spokesman for contemporary composers in whom he passionately believes. Mengelberg fought for Strauss and Mahler, Van Beinum for Bartók. These campaigns provided a focus for their careers. I spend hours of every week going through new music, looking for someone whom I can fight for. I'm afraid I haven't found him yet. I keep up with all the latest developments in serial music. It is interesting, to be sure, but I'm not at all convinced I want to fight for Mr. Stockhausen er Mr. Henze, Still, am I to spend my life playing what every other conductor in the world plays?"

San Franciscans will be able to hear

Continued on page \$5

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Bernard Haitink this coming spring, when he guest-conducts their orchestra. Meanwhile, the rest of us can sample his work with the Concertgebouw Orchestra on Epic (i.e., Philips) records. First release will probably be the Dvořák Second Symphony, recorded this September.

#### sources

ANOTHER DVORAK SYMPHONY was being taped in the Concertgebouw when we paid our visit to Anisterdamthe New World Symphony, under Antal Dorati's direction. The occasion provided us with our first glimpse of the Concertgebouw, a square, spacious auditorium ornately decorated, and our first opportunity to watch Philips' chief recording director, Jaap van Ginneken, at work. Van Ginneken (pronounce the "G" as if it were an "H") is an awesomely ambidextrous man. Combining the talents of professional sound engineer and professional musician, he sets up microphones himself, handles all controls at the master console, monitors every "take" for musical imbalances and imprecisions, confers directly with the conductor during sessions and postsession playbacks, and finally edits the master tapes. These tasks are customarily divided between two men: an engineer responsible for electronics and a recording director responsible for music. Van Ginneken does it all himself-not because Philips is short of competent personnel but because he feels this is the only way in which he can work at full efficiency.



A dreamlike office at Baarn, Holland.

"When I came to Philips as their first recording director," he told us, "it was on condition that I could operate in this way. I had been trained as a musician at the conservatory and for six years worked as a conductor with the Dutch radio system and composed music in my spare time. Then I became a producer of radio programs, and for another six years I handled the knobs in the control room. During the war, when it was impossible for me to work, I wrote a book on the future of music in an age of electronics. I do not believe that electronics and music should be divorced. As a musician, I have an intuitive feeling for microphone placement and balancing which I could never communicate fully to another person. The minute you turn the controls over to a technical man, you lose something."

At Concertgebouw sessions, Van Ginneken works in the checkroom and communicates with the conductor by telephone. Standing behind the control console, he uses his left hand to turn knobs and his right hand to turn and annotate the pages of an orchestral score. Often he would break into the middle of a passage with a request for the conductor to begin again. "Most conductors," he explained, "are so used to hearing music from the podium that they don't understand what is needed for proper reproduction in the living room. My job is not to tamper with a musician's style but to tell him within that style what he should do." Dorati seemed to take none of this amiss: indeed, at lunch afterwards, he went out of his way to praise the meticulous care for detail and apparent unconcern for costs that prevail at Philips recording sessions.

#### energy

PHILIPS Phonographic Industries has its headquarters in Baarn, a town 23 miles east of Amsterdam and as dreamlike a place to work as we have ever seen. We drove along its quiet streets, paved with red bricks and lined with old trees, and saw no houses-only villas, palatial and sturdy, with beautifully tended lawns and gardens. Philips' offices occupy one such villa, the "Hoog Wolde," to which a modern wing has been added. The setting is so spacious, the offices so light and airy, that the place has been nicknamed "The Sanatorium." Elsewhere in Baarn is the pressing plant, whence records are shipped throughout the world. We found it almost incredibly neat and clean and soothing. If you envisage factories as ipso facto dank, dirty, and noisy, come to Baarn and forever hold your peace.



Scenes at the Philips plant. At left: minute faults found in positive "mother" matrix can be corrected with aid of engraving tool under the microscope. At right: press operator trims edges of record, inspects it visually {and sometimes aurally} and slips it into inner sleeve.

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reviewed by RAVL AFFELDER NATHAN BRODER O. B. BRUMMELL R. D. DARRELL RAY ERICSON ALFRED FRANKENSTEIN JOHN F. INDCOX ROBERT CHARLES MARSH CONRAD L. OSBORNE JOHN S. WILSON

## Records in Review



by CONRAD L. OSBORNE



For Angel's Newest Lucia . . .

#### La Callas Controlled and Calculating

#### In a Reading Invincibly Right

IF THE UBIQUITOUS REPORT Of Maria Callas' own request for another crack at recording Lucia is true, it substantiates a small theory of mine regarding La Callas, a theory lent further weight by her work on the present Angel recording. The theory runs something like this: Maria Callas, the soprano who exists in the scribblings of publicists, program annotators, and magazine scature writers, is a very different singer from Maria Callas. the soprano who appears on some opera and concert stages and who can be heard on many recordings. The fictional image is of a fiery, abandoned actress, gifted with a voice remarkable for its size and range, if not for its beauty; the woman I have observed is a controlled, conscious actress, who by the most ingenious calculations elicits astounding results from a voice only moderate in size and practical range.

Mine. Callas provides many thrilling moments, but close listening reveals that these moments do not generally occur at the tradi-

tional high points of a work, and are not usually produced by either the range or the power of her voice. In fact, she frequently falls short at precisely those places where we expect to be swept off our feet. She is not, for example, very exciting in the climactic passages of a Puccini opera, because her voice simply is not large enough or warm enough to dominate the orchestra. In Lucia, she misses some of the juiciest opportunities because she cannot hit a high D natural with the steadiness and clarity that should be among the coloratura's basic assets. In short, the Callas instrument, whether classified as dramatic, spinto, or coloratura, suffers from one or two elementary failings, causing her to disappoint us just when we are prepared to fall completely under her spell.

On the other hand, she surprises us by executing beautifully countless bars we had given up for lost, by lending point and meaning to passages we had learned to disregard—in other words, by doing exactly those things we have come not to expect of a prima donna. And all of this is achieved, not through fire or abandonment, but by the most painstaking attention to note values, vowel shadings, dynamic markings, ornamentation, etc. It is this devilish precision—emotional as well as musical—that accounts, I think, for the unique atmosphere of a Callas performance. It may also explain, in part, the incredible critical and popular attention devoted to miniscule details of her singing and acting—the interesting fetishism concerning her use of the hands, for example.

So far as the new Lucia is concerned, there is no point at all in comparing Callas' work with that of Pons or Peters; it would be like comparing Dr. Kinsey's work with that of D. H. Lawrence—same subject, but different approaches towards different ends. There may be a purpose served, though. in noting the features of the present Callas interpreta

tion as opposed to her own earlier one. There is an important vocal difference: the peculiar "hooded" quality of the voice is much more in evidence on the new recording, and with it comes a more thoroughly "covered" approach. Consequently, the voice is a bit less open, a bit less powerful, and the very high tones are less rousing than formerly. Much of the harshness has been eliminated, however, and the strong throb that afflicts her upper register is less obtrusive. The line of "Regnaua nel silenzio" is even more carefully and subtly embroidered than before, and the runs, trills, and diminuendos throughout the score are even more perfectly executed. Except for an excruciating wobble on B flat in the Mad Scene, which I take is intended as a trill, and a couple of thin notes at the conclusion of the two sections of this scene, that entire number simply could not be better. And there are so many long stretches that are musically and psychologically right that it is impossible to begrudge her the high, hard one.

Next to the singing of Mme. Callas, the conducting of Tullio Serafin is the most interesting aspect of this performance. The Donizetti and early Verdi operas are generally assigned to hacks who drive their way metronomically through the scores; and when they are assigned to first-line conductors, these gentlemen aften averlook the necessity of giving a clear beat. Maestro

Serafin combines a firm beat with enough elasticity to allow his singers elbowroom. The choruses in particular (and the Philharmonia Chorus is a fine one) bounce along with a wonderful zest and lightness.

As for the rest of the cast, Ferruccio Tagliavini's appearance on a new recording calls for comment, inasmuch as this tenorwho was once rated along with Caruso, Gigli, and other luminaries-has been toiling in relatively unimportant houses lately. On the whole, I am surprised to find him singing this well. Not that there is nothing wrong with his performance: he treats us to a fair dose of the sterile pianissimo with which he used to slip through large hunks of the lyric repertoire: the higher tones, as of yore, are rather steely and tight; and he still cannot encounter words like "sangue," "guerra," or simply "no!" without resorting to barking. Nonetheless, his voice sounds pleasant much of the time. Piero Cappuccilli is a warm, smooth baritone, very like our old friend Enzo Sordello (anathema sit!), he of the longheld high note. He does not quite have the poise to blend well with Callas in the secondact duct, but he does a straightforward unobjectionable job-and sad as it is to say, his is the best Ashton on discs. Bernard Ladysz, the Raimondo, has a black bass of good quality, and must be excellent as, say, Baron Ochs: but the combination of his pronounced Slavic accent and somewhat

unwieldy production make his Raimondo into a sort of benchcent Fafner. The two supporting tenors are barely adequate; moreover. Normanno's opening solo is drowned by the orchestra. This may be part of new stereo opera house perspective, but since [ regard a recording as the only time I shall ever get to hear poor Normanno, I feel a bit cheated at the effect. Margreta Elkins, the mezzo who sings Alisa, has a round, firm tone, and it is a pleasure to hear her few lines given respectable treatment.

The sound is extremely clear and wellbalanced. Some "moving about" of the principals is done during the Wedding Scene and Raimondo's narrative, but the real advantage of stereo here is in placing the chorus in three-dimensional alignment.

There is room enough for reservation concerning this performance, but I think that in sum it is the best Lucia on records. Mme. Callas has done everyone, herself included, a favor in re-recording it.

#### DONIZETTI: Lucia di Lammermoor

Maria Callas (s), Lucia: Margreta Elkins (ms), Alisa; Ferruccio Tagliavini (t), Edgardo; Lenard del Ferro (t), Arturo; Renzo Casellato (t), Normanno: Piero Cappuccilli (b), Lord Enrico: Bernard Ladysz (bs), Raimondo. Philharmonia ANGEL 3601 B/L. Two LP. \$10.96.
ANGEL 3601 B/L. Two SD. \$12.96.

#### **by ALFRED FRANKENSTEIN**

# **Everest Presents Carlos Chávez:** The Composer Conducts Three Symphonies

#### In Their First Stereo Recordings

MASTERPIECE can breed other master-A pieces when the time is ripe, and no man can tell what strange and distant echoes a work of genius may arouse. At least one of Carlos Chávez's compositions on this new disc from Everest may be a case in point. In 1913 Igor Stravinsky unlocked the world of the primitive in his Sacre du Printemps; twenty years later the music of Latin America came into its own. In Mexico the Sacre struck new fire just as the intellectual renaissance fanned by the revolution of the 1920s reached its height. The most enduring

monument to its influence in Latin America is Chávez's Sinfonia India, which has become the musical symbol of Mexico as the murals of Diego Rivera have become the symbols of Mexico in the plastic arts. The Sinfonia India joined the world repertoire almost immediately after its first performance, in 1936; it has been played everywhere, and, what is more important, has been repeated everywhere; now it comes out in its first stercophonic recording under the composer's own direction.

It does not diminish the stature of Riveral



to point out that he was indebted to Picasso,

and it only intensifies the significance of the

Sinfonia India to point out that it could not

have existed if Stravinsky's great ballet had

The work is based on five Mexican Indian

melodies, four of them employing gapped

scales of one kind or another and one using a

gamut of only three notes. These five tunes

are deployed in a single-movement sym-

phony of extraordinary rhythmic complex-

ity, blazing color, and monumental sinew. It

handles the normal orchestral forces with

not previously been composed.

proper heroic accent, but its timbre is suffused throughout with the pounding of drums, the crackling of raps and clappers, the shrilling of whistles, and the thin, edgy piping of flutes and clarinets transformed for the moment into Indian reeds. It is a symphony from which sentimentality and condescension alike are banished. Although it is derived from folk themes of the present day, it also evokes ancient Mexico in the tragic, fanatical intensity of its rhythms and in its adorament of a grandly simple outline with an infinitely complex surface tracery. This rich surface texture is particularly well caught in stereo; no previous recording has been able to come to grips with it.

Along with the Sinfonia India, Chávez provides here his Sinfonia de Antigona and his Sinfonia Romantica.

The Antigona was written in 1932 and is listed as the first symphony of Chavez. It. was originally composed as incidental music to the Amigone of Sophocles as "contracted" for modern performance by Jean Cocteau. It is also a symphony in one movement, but it is totally different in character from the Sinfonia India. Everything is spare, reserved, and large in gesture. The orchestra as a whole has the resonance of a gong. The themes are modal, and, as the composer informs us, the harmonic and rhythmic practices employed here are derived from ancient Greek musical theory. The piece has a wonderfully archaic feeling about it; it compresses the sense of the Greek tragedy into ten immensely eloquent minutes, but its stature is less than that of the Sinfonia India, for the Sinfonia India is one of the key works of our century.

Everybody on this side of the Atlantic wrote one-movement symphonies in the 1930s. Today Chávez can write a threemovement symphony that fills an entire record side and even be paid for doing so. The Sinfonia Romantica was commissioned by the Louisville Orchestra in 1952. Unlike the India and the Antigona, it has no dramatic or evocative target, and its title is an afterthought. Except for a suggestion of a Spanish-Mexican march tune in its finale, it is devoid of folk color, but the treatment of its materials, the construction of its climaxes, and its entire communication of masculine verve and life is in the same tradition as the other works.

The recording is superb in both versions, thanks to excellent engineering and to the magnificent response of the Stadium Symphony Orchestra of New York to the composer's direction, but, for reasons indicated above, the stereophonic edition is preferable. Chávez, of course, has had vast experience as a conductor and is the final authority on the interpretation of his own works.

#### CHAVEZ: Sinfonía India; Sinfonía de Antigona; Sinfonía Romantica

Stadium Symphony Orchestra of New York, Carlos Chávez, cond.

EVEREST LPBR 6029. LP. \$4.98.
EVEREST SDBR 3029. SD. \$5.98.



HANDN'S The Seasons, his "other" oratorio, has never been as popular as The Creation. Its neglect is probably due in part to reports about Haydn's own indifference to it: he is said not to have relished writing music imitating frogs, and other such "Frenchified trash." And in part it may be due to a disinclination on the part of conductors to undertake the labor involved in preparing a long secular work on a subject that has been out of style since the eighteenth century. But whatever the reasons, they dwindle into insignificance when one hears the music, particularly in so warm and loving a performance as this new Capitol disc provides.

For this is the work of a great master, dealing, to be sure, with everyday things, but lavishing upon them inventive powers and an imaginative craftsmanship sharpened and mellowed by a lifetime of successful creativity. Some of the choruses are very beautiful, others impress by their power. The hunting chorus in Autumn is the culmination of all the music written about the chase in the eighteenth century; and the spinning song and chorus in Winter left its mark on many similar musical scenes composed in the nineteenth century. The solo vocal numbers vary from operatic, Italianate arias to songs of a folklike cast but of elevated feeling, like some of the music in The Magic Flute. That opera, in fact, composed ten years earlier, sets the tone for much of the nonrepresentational music in this oratorio, and the duct "You beauties of the town" in Autumn sounds as though it might have been patterned after Papageno's "Ein Mädchen oder Weibchen." The commentators frequently speak of Haydn's simplicity and naiveté in this music. Let us not be deceived. The sixty-eight-year-old composer, admired throughout Europe and with two successful trips to England under his belt, was no artless provincial. He deploys his folklike material with enormous skill. Even the instrumental tone painting-of a thunderstorm, of splashing fishes, swarming bees, fluttering birds, even the croaking frogs that were supposed to have so much pained him-is finely

Haydn's *Seasons* . . . Sir Thomas and All In Very Top Form

by NATHAN BRODER

integrated into the musical context. Haydn's "frisking lambkins" are a delight each time we encounter them, whereas Stranss's far more realistic bleating sheep are no longer very interesting after the second time. And the country folk in the drinking chorus here, making merry and dancing to their bucolic instruments, are, musically speaking, a very sophisticated peasantry indeed.

Beecham seems to me to be at the top of his form in this presentation. Aside from a cut in the overture to Spring and another in the aforementioned duct, there is no tampering with the printed score. Here are reunited the qualities that won Sir Thomas his large and faithful following: penetration to the spirit of the music, sensitive line, superb balance, and constant vitality, in tranquil as well as in animated passages. He is aided by an excellent chorus, rather large-sounding but flexible and possessed of lovely tone. Of the soloists Michael Langdon, the bass, has a well-focused voice of pleasing quality and spins out long phrases in a single breath. The same is true of Alexander Young, the tenor, whose air "Here stands the wand'rer now." in Winter, is especially nicely done. Elsie Morison is the least satisfactory of the three. Although she sings her cavatina "Light and life," in Winter, beautifully, elsewhere she is sometimes not very secure technically, her diction is not as clear as that of the others. and she lacks the bravura required in the air "So reviving to the senses," in Summer.

The sound in general is clean, full, and spacious, though usually without obvious separation. In the bandsomely illustrated booklet is the English text, by Dennis Arundell, sung here, a version considerably closer to the German text set by Haydn than is the English translation that is usually printed.

#### HAYDN: The Seasons

Elsie Morison, soprano; Alexander Young, tenor; Michael Langdon, bass; Beecham Choral Society; Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Sir Thomas Beecham, cond.

• CAPITOL SGCR 7184. Three SD. \$17.94.



#### In a Commemorative Album

#### **Capitol Pays Tribute to Thirty Years**

#### Of the Art of Nathan Milstein

Two DAYS after Christmas in 1947, 1 had an appointment with Nathan Milstein to supervise his recording of the Beethoven Spring Sonata. As irony would have it, that was the day when New York was just beginning to shovel itself out from under one of the worst blizzards in its history. The only means of transportation was by foot or subway, yet the violinist and his sonata partner, Artur Balsam, arrived in good time. As they thawed their icy hands before attempting to play, Milstein told us of his adventures the previous afternoon.

During the height of the storm, he had taken a bow to a violin maker on 57th Street to have it rehaired. To pass the time until the bow was ready, he had walked up the street and dropped into Carnegie Hall to catch part of the regular Friday afternoon concert by the New York Philharmonic, at which one of his colleagues was playing the Beethoven Violin Concerto. It was this performance that Milstein wanted to talk about. Everyone else in New York was busy relating his experiences in the Great Snow, but Milstein was completely engrossed in his account of the concert, one of the greatest performances of the Beethoven Concerto he had ever heard. We listened to the shower of praise-and after that got down to the business of recording the sonata.

This incident of nearly twelve years back came to mind as I listened to his new recording of the selfsame sonata, this time with Rudolf Firkusny as the collaborating pianist. Milstein's unstinted praise of another artist was an example of his great humility. And his ultimate refusal to permit the release of the earlier sonata recording-which had seemed to me an excellent performance -because it failed to come up to his uncompromisingly high standards was an example of the ultimate artistic integrity that has made him a leader among the world's violinists and has kept him at the top for years.

The pièce de résistance of this new Capitol album entitled "The Art of Milstein"-issued to commemorate the thirtieth anni-

versary of the violinist's American debut, in 1929, with Stokowski and the Philadelphia Orchestra-is, of course, the Tchaikovsky Concerto. This is the third time the violinist has essayed this work on records, and it is by far the best. He displays brilliant technique throughout, yet technique is never exploited for its own sake but always subjugated to the demands of the music. The violin tone is exquisite, and has been just as exquisitely reproduced.

With the Tchaikovsky Concerto, there is always the problem of cuts. On records, only Grumiaux has played it complete. If memory serves me correctly, both in concert and on his earlier discs Milstein made more cuts than he does here. He offers the first two movements in their entirety, and the third movement has only the brief excisions made by most violinists and, I believe, first sanctioned by Milstein's teacher, Leopold Auer.

For me, the high point of this performance is the Canzonetta. Unlike almost every other violinist, Milstein follows the composer's instructions and keeps his mute on throughout the movement. The effect is most beguiling. Besides, he gives it an exceptionally expressive interpretation, precisely phrased and played with great intensity of feeling, coupled with considerable restraint. This is a difficult feat, carried off here with tremendous effectiveness.

As in nearly all of Milstein's concerto recordings for Capitol, he is supported by William Steinberg and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. The support is a trifle pedestrian in the first movement, but the conductor catches the spirit of the soloist's interpretation in the remaining two sections. The orchestral articulation is excellent all the way through. Furthermore, the concerto has been treated to some very clear, well-defined sound. The stereo separation is good if not outstanding, and the soloist is well set off from the orchestra at the center of the stage.

Both Milstein and Firkusny give a careful, serious account of the Beethoven Sonata. This is the first time these two artists have appeared together on records, yet they form a first-rate sonata team. In the sterco version the piano is well reproduced, but the violin is a bit too close to the microphones, resulting in some overmodulation and imbalance. In the shorter pieces in the set-music which, though not all written after 1900, is by composers who lived in the twentieth century-Milstein's tone comes through with warmth and smoothness, while Leon Pommers' piano is well focused. Here, too, the performances are all marked by that impeccable taste and finesse with which Milstein invests all works of this sort.

Thirty years of public acclaim and artistic growth is a long time. It took several years for Milstein really to establish his reputation in this country, hut once he became gencrally known, his fame grew by leaps and bounds. His artistry, high in the beginning. has never stopped growing. Capitol has seen to it that he has committed to microgroove nearly all the standard nineteenthcentury concertos, several Beethoven and Mozart sonatas, and-possibly his greatest achievement on discs-all of the Bach Sonatas and Partitas for Unaccompanied Violin. With this new album we experience again sounds that are always rich in texture, warm in intensity, and perfectly balanced in musicianship. Nathan Milstein and Capitol deserve our gratitude.

#### NATHAN MILSTEIN: "The Art of Milstein'

Tchaikovsky: Concerto for Violin and Orchestra, in D. Op. 35. Beethoven: Sonata for Violin and Piano, No. 5. in F. Op. 24 ("Spring"). Szymanowski: La Fontaine d'Arethuse. Dehussy: Minstrels. Fauré: Après un rêve. Pizzetti: Canto No. 3. Sarasate: Introduction and Tarantella.

Nathan Milstein, violin; Rudolf Firkusny, piano (in the Beethoven): Leon Pommers, plano (in the short pieces): Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, William Steinberg, cond. (in the Tchaikovsky).
CAPITOL PBR 8502. Two LP, 59.98.
CAPITOL SPBR 8502. Two SD, 511.98.



Rysanek and Warren (tieless) talk it over.

#### Verdi's Macbeth: An Early Masterpiece Impressively Revived

#### in RCA Victor's Stereo Recording of the Metropolitan Production

#### by CONRAD L. OSBORNE

I DARE SAY that at any time during the 1940s, a suggestion for a Met production of any of Verdi's pre-*Rigoletto* works would scarcely have been taken seriously. But within the last three years, we have had both *Ernani* and *Macbeth*, the latter now chosen by RCA Victor for one of its "Selected by the Metropolitan Opera" packages. It is fitting that *Macbeth* should be the first of the ynung Verdi's operas to be accorded a major modern recording effort, since it was a production of this work, in Germany back in the Twenties, that started the early-Verdi revival movement.

In a sense, Macbeth is not early Verdi at all, which perhaps explains why it triumphed (it is back in the Met repertory this season) where Ernani failed. The first version dates from 1847; chronologically, it was preceded by Auila and followed by I Masnadieri. The revision, written for the Théâtre Lyrique of Paris, was completed in 1865, which places it between the first scorings of La Forza del destino and Don Carlos. One does not have to be thoroughly familiar with the early version to realize how extensive Verdi's changes must have been. True, Verdi was inspired by the subject from the outset, and his melodic gift found freer expression here than in any other opera before Rigoletto; but Auila, written only a year earlier, is a genuinely miserable opera. Those familiar with the later works, Forza and Don Carlos, will notice the subtle, dark shadings in orchestration and the wonderful variety in the accompaniments, in common with nearly all of Verdi's post-Traviata wurk. They will also feel at home with the exciting Battle Fugue, new in the second version. Where they will mark a foreign element is in the nature of the melodies themselves, and in the form taken by their development.

It is here that Macbeth runs into some difficulty, best demonstrated by the unsolved problem of the Witches' treatment. In each of the scenes of prophecy, the instrumental introductions and interludes are magnificently to the point, thanks largely to the Verdi of 1865. But (to take a closer look at the first scene) the mood is utterly wrecked when the hags launch into their first set number, "M'e frullata nel pensier." It is slowly restored by the actual prophecy and the carefully set recitative which follows, and is maintained throughout the messengers' chorus and the fine duet for Macbeth and Banquo, "Due vaticini compiuti or sono," only to be violated in the stretta, another concerted number for the Witches. It is not that these are bad choruses. They are good choruses, but they belong in the salon of Flora Bervoix, not in the antechamber of the nether regions. Similarly, the final hymn of victory creates a feeling of banality and bombast, and this is entirely due to the pucrile nature of the theme itself.

Having registered these complaints, I must allow that my impression is still that *Macbeth* is an opera of true greatness. The characters of Macbeth and his Lady are tellingly rendered. A few bars of introduction to the second scene tell us that Verdi knows his heroine intimately, and his mastery of characterization shows in a dozen ways—the perturbed little figure which underlines the first section of "La luce langue," the ostentatious glitter of the Brindisi, and finally the whole Sleepwalking Scene, as penetrating and mournful as any in Italian opera. Of course, even the Verdi of the revised Macbeth was not quite the Verdi of Otello, as a comparison of the Dagger Soliloquy ("Mi si affaccia un pugnal?") with the Moor's "Dio! Mi polevi scagliar" will show; nevertheless, Macbeth's guilt, as well as bis dependence on Lady Macbeth, is beautifully illustrated in the whispered duets of the Murder Scene and the terrified outbursts and demented wanderings of the Banquet Scene. His music at the end has the noble, virile line required to give him tragic stature (which is fortunate, since "Fling out the banners on the castle walls," etc. becomes "Prodi all'armi" in Piave's libretto, and only a Verdi could compensate for that). Banquo and Macduff have just one aria apiece, but each is an effective number, sufficient to establish the character's place in the drama.

The recording is the Met production down to the smallest detail, with every stage movement mirrored by the stereo directional effect. Leonard Warren's interpretation of the title role is, I think, more impressive on records than it is in the opera house. He is not a visually convincing Macbeth; more importantly, much of his best work is done at a level lower than mezzo-forte, and was at least in part wasted in the huge Met auditorium-it was often unclear just what effect he was trying to achieve. The recording brings us every nuance of his characterization, and a knowing, brilliantly executed job it is. In recent seasons I have heard an increasing shakiness in Warren's voice, particularly in declamatory passages, and a certain "locked" effect which has robbed the upper-middle register of some of its old volume and ring, but the first problem is minimized and the second

eliminated completely on this recording. His voice retains its plump sound and remarkable capacity for tonal shading, and I very much doubt that any other baritone now singing could hold a candle to him in this role.

Mme. Rysanck, on the other hand, was somewhat more magnetic at the Metropolitan than on these discs. The fact that her voice can soar out above full chorus and orchestra counts for relatively little on a recording, even in stereo, and the rather undeveloped state of her low voice is not disguised by the engineers. In the main, though, her work is extremely impressive. Her dark, dramatic voice is commanding yet flexible enough for the runs and flourishes of this high lying role, and she modulates her tone in sensitive fashion for the Sleepwalking Scene. Hines is a rich-sounding Banquo, and Bergonzi brings a fine flow to "Ah, la paterna mano."

Leinsdorf gives the music good impetus and considerable expansion, and the Met orchestra has seldom sounded this good. The chorus is incisive in attack and well balanced, but those Witches are needlessly offensive, being forced to sing with a nasal, infantile sound and to cackle embarrassingly. This is supposed to be a drama, not a Hallowe'en pageant. The sound, as I have indicated, is outstanding for directionality, and is also reasonably clear and tonally faithful. The treble highs, however, bring with them a slight, but annoying, bleat. The package is another of Victor's Conspicuous Consumption items, handsome and impractical.

#### VERDI: Macbeth

Leonie Rysanek (s), Lady Macbeth: Emilia Cundari (s). A Bloody Child: Mildred Allen (s), A Crowned Child: Carlotta Ordassy (s), Ladyin-Attendance: Carlo Bergonzi (t), Macduff; William Olvis (t). Malcolin; Leonard Warren (b). Macbeth: Calvin Marsh (b). A Warrior: Osic Hawkins (b). A Murderer: Jerome Hines (bs), Banquo: Gerhard Pechner (bs), A Physician: Harold Sternberg (bs). A Manservant. Metropolitan Opera Chorus and Orchestra, Etich Leinsdorf. cond.

• RCA VICTOR LSC 6147. Three SD. \$17.94.

#### CLASSICAL

#### ALBENIZ: "Spanish Dances"

Orquesta Lirica Audio Museum (Madrid), José Ohneclo, cond. • TELEFUNKEN TC 8027. LP. \$1.98.

Unfailingly lyric and pleasing, these works fall in the middle ground between light music and more serious fare. As realized in the agreeably idiomatic manner of this Spanish orchestra, they can be recommended for those moments when music is desired as a tranquilizer rather than a R.C.M. stimulant.

#### **BACH:** Arias

Bach Aria Group, William H. Scheide, cond.

DECCA DL 9405. LP. \$4.98.

• • DECCA DL 79405. SD. \$5.98.

The reappearance of the Bach Aria Group on records after a long absence is an occasion for cheers, Seldom do artists of this caliber, instrumental as well as vocal, address themselves to the performance of Bach cantatas. Equally rare on records, and especially striking, is the dedication apparent in these performances. The power and skill of Eileen Farrell, the rich tones of Jan Peerce, the mellow voices of Carol Smith and Norman Farrow are all wholly engaged in the transmission of Bach's musical message.

As usual with Mr. Scheide's programs, this one is carefully chosen to provide variety of color and mood. There are two arias for soprano (the exulting "Mein gläubiges Herz" from Cantata 68 and the beautiful "Gott versorget alles Leben' from Cantata 187), one for alto (the lovely melodic curve of "Wenn kommt der Tag" from Cantata 70), two for tenor (the considerably embellished "Ich traue seiner Gnaden" from Cantata 97 and the lighthearted "Jesus nimmt die Sünder an" from Cantata 113), one for bass ("Ja, ja, ich halte Jesum feste" from Cantata 157, a little operatic scene, in which the repetition of the aria is three times

interrupted by recitative), and two ducts ("Zweig' und Aeste" for alto and tenor, from Cantata 205 and "Gott, du hast es wohl gefüget" for soprano and bass, from Cantata 63). Mr. Scheide's defense of the piano as continuo instrument is not very convincing, but it would be hard, I think, to find the spirit of Bach's music more faithfully conveyed on records than it is here. N.B.

BACH: Brandenburg Concertos: No. 3, in G, S. 1048; No. 4, in G, S. 1049. Suite No. 2, in B minor, S. 1067

David Oistrakh, violin; Alexander Kor-neyev, Naum Zeidel, flutes; Moscow Chamber Orchestra, Rudolf Barshai, cond.

MONITOR MC 2037. LP. \$4.98.

These, the first Soviet Russian performances of any of Bach's purely orchestral works to come our way on records, are far superior to most of the previous Bach recordings from the same source. In style, in technique, and in recording they are first-rate. In the Brandenburg No. 4 the opening movement is taken at a rather lively pace, which makes the thirty-second-note figures in the solo violin very fast indeed, but they roll out effortlessly from under Oistrakh's bow. He is not especially favored by conductor or recording engineer; he is simply one voice in a trio, but the tone of this voice has a beauty rare in recorded performances of the work. The performance of No. 3 is almost as good, though Barshai plays only the two slow chords instead of a cadenza and takes the finale a shade too speedily. If Korneyev usually plays as he does here, he would be an adormnent to any major orchestra. His tone is round, his phrasing musicianly, his technique more than adequate, and his breathing inaudible. N.B.

BACH: Concerto for Violin and Strings, in E, S. 1042; Partita for Unaccompanied Violin, No. 3, in E, S. 1006

Alan Loveday, violin; Royal Danish Orchestra, George Hurst, cond.

• FORUM F 70009. LP. \$1.98.

Alan Loveday is a young New Zealander who studied and lives in England. To judge by this disc, he is an excellent violinist, with an attractive tone, generally good intonation, and a serviceable technique. The Concerto is well performed, although there is no continuo instrument, and the Partita, aside from a bit of sentimentalizing towards the end of the Gavotte, proceeds in smooth and lively fashion. The sound here is live and free from distortion. N.B.

#### BEETHOVEN: Mass in D, Op. 123 ("Missa Solemnis")

Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, soprano; Christa Ludwig, mezzo; Nicolai Gedda, tenor; Nicola Zaccaria, bass. Chorus of the Society of Friends of Music (Vienna); Philharmonia Orchestra, Herbert von Karajan, cond.

• • ANGEL S 3595 B/L. Two SD. \$12.96.

The present Angel recording of Beethoven's Missa Solemnis, under the direction of Herbert von Karajan, is the tenth edition of this work to be available in the United States or Western Europe in the three decades of electrical recording, the fifth version in current American catalogue listings, and the second appenrance of the work in stereo.

One might say of it, in brief, that it is a moving, interesting, and effectively realized performance, unfortunately none too well recorded. But this description really leaves us nowhere, since every edition of the Missa Solemnis has been seriously flawed in one way or another. We will continue to listen to this music anyhow, trusting that-especially with stereo-someone, sooner or later, is going to do justice to the score both interpretatively and sonically. Until then we must decide which failings are least incompatible with a continuing realization that this is probably the greatest of all settings of the Mass, providing a succession of those unique musical achievements which rank Beethoven above all

Continued on page 84

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HERBERT Cello Concerto; PETER Sinfonia. Miquelle, Eastman-Rochester Orchestra, Hanson. SR90163



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other composers of the nineteenth-and possibly every other-century.

To date, the two great recorded performances of the Missa Solemnis were those of Klemperer and Toscanini. As distinct from each other musically as their conductors were distinct in temperament, heritage, and point of view, these editions nonetheless captured great achievements in musicianship. In both cases the recording was confined in sound and otherwise flawed, but to the imaginative listener it could, under optimum conditions, present a vivid impression of the original.

The initial stereo set, originally issued as a Concert Hall tape and then successfully revamped for its current disc appearance on Urania, offered the first approximate likeness of the score as it is heard in concert. It had its oddities such as the placement of the soloists but the sonic picture was closer to reality than any we had known before. Unfortunately the performance under Walter Goehr's direction was not a great one.

Karajan is reported to have waited some years before committing the Missa Solemnis to records. His performance reflects careful preparation not only of himself but his forces, and is surely worthy of "the General Musical Director of Europe." His own strongest characteristics as a musician, already well established in our experience of his earlier work, are dominant here, and they serve to add dramatic intensity to the spiritual intensity of Beethoven's writing. In those sections in which the recording seems best to serve the music, the Agnus Dei for example, this is a performance of exceptional beauty, distinguished for the strength of its architecture and the miraculous sonorities Karajan secures by the blending of organ, instrumental, and vocal lines. (Karajan's solo quartet is one of the best ever heard in this work.) Were it all of this quality, one could gladly hail this version as the Missa Solemnis we have all been waiting to hear.

Unfortunately, the quality is not at all even. Recorded in what I should judge to be the European equivalent of Madison Square Garden, the master tapes apparently provide a mixture of sound from two sets of microphones, one set placed near the stage for solo voices and the solo violin of the Benedictus, and another placed up near the roof for the big choral and orchestral passages. The effect is rather like having a good balcony seat from which you can swoop down over the stage for a more intimate account of the proceedings. Yet, ironically, once you become accustomed to the fact that your perspective is that of someone flapping around the hall on batlike wings, you become irritated only when the approach of a really loud passage drives. you up under the roof.

Close to the stage, you receive relatively precise stereo information, conveying a good likeness of the orchestra and solo sources, but the chorus always remains distant and, except in its quiet passages, blurred with hall resonances. In the distant position, you are mainly conscious of the size and very long reverberation period of the hall, and some of the climactic passages are (for me, anyway) ruined by the echo and blast which distort the sound before it ever reaches the microphones. The extremes of the frequency range, essential to any true high-fidelity sound, are, of course, the most perishable part of such a scrambled passage.

Under these circumstances the obvious thing to say is that Karajan should ask for an opportunity to re-record this work under more favorable circumstances. He and his musical colleagues have provided the quality the public has a right to demand, but the engineers have failed to do their part. There are many things here that make these records worth having in spite of sonic deficiencies, but the consumer should be aware that his highest expectations will not be met. He has a right to his disappointment. After all, more difficult works than the Missa Solemnis have been recorded-and with hrilliant effect. R.C.M.

#### BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 3, in E flat, Op. 55 ("Eroica")

Hamburg State Philharmonie Orchestra, Joseph Keilberth, cond.

• • TELEFUNKEN TCS 18003. SD. \$2.98.

Keilberth's approach to this score and the recent Scherchen edition can be taken as the practical limits of alternative interpretative approaches to this music. The Scherchen is very fast, very intense, sharply accented in line, creating its heroic drama through action and vitality. To Keilberth a long line, sustained in the gradual unfolding of big, powerful phrases and unfailing melodic in character, provides the key to the heroism Beethoven wished to represent.

Scherchen gets all the first movement (including the repeat) and the whole of the funeral march on one side. Keilberth omits the repeat and only completes the introductory section of the second movement before the record must be turned over.

The measure of a performance lies not merely in the interpretative point of view and the consistency with which it is realized in details as well as larger outlines; it depends also on the power of the conception to seize the listener's attention and sustain it. My own reaction was that, although completely different in orientation, this *Eroica* was quite as interesting as Scherchen's, and that both were more interesting than the majority of the safely orthodox readings which defend a middle ground long acknowledged as the common property of all who wish to claim its sanctuary.

In this Keilberth reading one finds many things recalling the great experience the *Eroica* could be under the baton of Wilhelm Furtwängler; and although Keilberth is too good a musician to need to go in for conscious borrowing, the association indicates the impact this performance can have on those who see the work in this light.

The recording is spacious and pleasingly directional. R.C.M.

BEETHOVEN: Symphonies: No. 8, in F, Op. 93; No. 1, in C, Op. 21

Hamburg State Philharmonic Orchestra, Joseph Keilberth, cond.

• • TELEFUNKEN TCS 18004. SD. \$2.98.

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 8, in F, Op. 93

{Schubert: Symphony No. 8, in B minor ("Unfinished")

Hamburg State Philharmonic Orchestra (in the Beethoven); Bamberg Symphony Orchestra (in the Schubert); Joseph Keilberth, cond.

• TELEFUNKEN TCS 8010. LP. \$1.98.

All three performances are convincing examples of fine German musicianship and well-trained ensembles. The First is the best of the lot, indeed, one of the most effective statements of that work we have, with particularly good stereo recording to add to its appeal. The Eighth is about a step behind, chiefly due to its less refined sonics, but Keilberth observes the important repeat in the first movement and is bested only by Klemperer and Walter in the stereo field. In the monophonic coupling with the Unfinished we have, however, a disc that is undoubtedly a best buy in its price range. R.C.M.

#### BOCCHERINI: Concerto for Cello and Orchestra, in B flat

Haydn: Concerto for Cello and Orchestra, in D, Op. 101

Janos Starker, cello; Philharmonia Orchestra, Carlo Maria Giulini, cond. • • ANGEL S 35725. SD. \$5.98.

Although the authenticity of these two concertos has always been in doubt, the question of authorship is of small importance. They remain the finest classical concertos in the all-too-limited repertoire for the instrument. Starker employs the usual Griitzmacher edition of the Boccherini, but it is impossible to ascertain what version he uses of the Haydn. The album notes mention Gevaert, but the ex-

Continued on page 86

tended version of the first movement is

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The late Eduard van Beinum.

closer to the original edition used by Feuermann in his old and still admirable recording for Columbia. In both concertos Starker has, unquestionably, inserted some changes of his own, including all the cadenzas. In any case, he performs both works in masterful fashion, while Giulini and the orchestra support him with precision and finesse. The stereo sound is well dispersed, though the cello tone is not quite as bright as it has been on some other Starker releases. P.A.

#### BRAHMS: Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, No. 2, in B flat, Op. 83

Artur Rubinstein, piano; RCA Victor Symphony Orchestra, Josef Krips, cond. • RCA VICTOR LM 2296. LP. \$4.98. • RCA VICTOR LSC 2296. SD. \$5.98.

What a satisfactory recording this is! With his technical command, his evershining tone, his unforced yet elegant phrasing, Rubinstein reduces this grandiose, complex concerto to a work of sweet reasonableness. There may be nothing special in this approach—not the demonic energy of a Serkin, the febrile intensity of a Horowitz, the massive simplicity of a Backhaus; but its serene beauty in sound and shape provides—and I can only repeat—the most satisfactory of recordings, if not the one with the greatest excitement or impact.

The recording surpasses in every way the one previously made by Mr. Rubinstein, with Charles Munch and the Boston Symphony: the piano and orchestra are heard more distinctly, so that subtleties in both cases are more apparent; the soloist gives a more rangy, flexible performance, more deliberate in the slow passages, more vigorous in the fast; and Josef Krips has a more vital conception of the orchestral score than did Munch. Some listeners may find in the new monophonic release too much prominence given to the piano at some slight expense to the orchestra when both are going full tilt, but this criticism does not hold for the stereo version, where every sound is transcendently clear in Victor's best new engineering style. R.E.

BRAHMS: Overtures: Academic Festival, Op. 80; Tragic, Op. 81. Variations on a Theme by Haydn, Op. 56a

Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra, Eduard van Beinum, cond.

• EPIC LC 3586. LP. \$4.98.

One of the most notable qualities of the late Eduard van Beimun's conducting was the sanity of his interpretations. These Brahms performances are more or less typical of his work. This is especially true of the Haydn Variations, beautifully proportioned and set forth. Much the same characteristics imbue the Academic Festival Overture, though it is delivered in a more rousing fashion. Only the Tragic Overture seems a little too deliberate, with an over-all tempo just slow enough to cause the music to drag from time to time. As might be expected from the Concertgebouw, the orchestral execution is superb, while the reproduction is clear and well rounded. P.A.

BRAHMS: Symphony No. 4, in E minor, Op. 98

Royal Danish Orchestra, John Frandsen,

• FORUM F 70002. LP. \$1.98:

Philharmonia Orchestra, Otto Klemperer, eoud.

• • ANGEL S 35546. SD. \$5.98.

The Forum recording sounds as if it had been made several years ago. The tonal range is quite limited, especially in the highs. The middle register strongly predominates, with a resulting imbalance that often pushes the middle voices particularly the horns—into an undeserved limelight. This is a pity, for Frandsen's interpretation is marked throughout by fine sense of proportion and good taste.

Stereo really fulfills its function by adding depth, spaciousness, and perspective to Klemperer's noble and eminently alive reading. Moderately distant microphone placement creates the illusion that the listener is seated halfway back in a large concert hall, yet there is no sacrifice of instrumental presence. P.A.

#### CARISSIMI: Oratorios: Judicium extremum; Suscitavit Domínus; Militia est vita hominis

Nino Adami, tenor; Giuliano Ferrein, bass; Polyphonie Chorus of Turin; Angelicum Orchestra (Milan), Aladar Janes, cond.

• WESTMINSTER XWN 18835. LP. \$4.98.

Only the first of these works corresponds, in its text, to any commonly accepted description of an oratorio. The others, though they alternate between solos and choruses, lack the narrative and dramatic qualities characteristic of the genre. Musically, however, all three works are similar in style. The recitative is like that of some of the earliest operas: slow-moving in harmony and generally rather static. Perhaps seventeenth-century players provided more interesting accompaniments than our continuo players can. But in the concerted numbers and choruses the music springs into life. Here Giacomo Carissimi displays power (as in the triple choruses of *The Last Judgment*), invention, and feeling, and makes it quite clear why he was regarded by his contemporaries as one of their greatest masters.

The soloists here do not transcend mere acceptability, but the chorus does well on the whole. Latin text and English translation are provided (the text given for *Militia* is incomplete). Some twenty-four measures are cut off from the end of *Judicium extremum*, and there is some distortion towards the end of *Militia*. N.B.

#### CHAVEZ: Sinfonía India; Sinfonía de Antigona; Sinfonía Romantica

Stadium Symphony Orchestra of New York, Carlos Chávez, cond.

Evenest LPBR 6029. LP. \$4.98.
 Evenest SDBR 3029. SD. \$5.98.

For review of this recording, see p. 78.

CHOPIN: Ballades: No. 1, in G minor, Op. 23; No. 2, in F, Op. 38; No. 3, in A flat, Op. 47; No. 4, in F minor, Op. 52; Andante Spianato and Grande Polonaise brillante, in E flat, Op. 22

Gary Graffman, piano.

- RCA VICTOR LM 2304. LP. \$4.98.
- RCA VICTOR LSC 2304. SD. \$5.98.

Since Mr. Graffman is such a gifted, intelligent, and musically conscientious pianist, it becomes a regrettable task to put this recording down as largely a failure. (It does not help to point out that no one on LP discs has had equal success with all four Ballades.) He is at his best here when his outstanding virtuosity is brought into play, and there are stunning moments in the second and fourth Ballades. But the careful phrasing, clean texture, even the proper stressing of inner voices, suggest an efficiency at odds with the poetic nature of the music. Because it depends more than the others on a superior technique, the fourth Ballade comes off best. The Polonaise gets the finest performance of all, with a delightfully crisp rhythm and some lovely handling of the florid lines above it. The piano tone is a pure one, never hard but having a certain coldness. The monophonic release conveys this sound naturally, but the stereo version gives it an unwarranted penetrating quality. R.E.

DEBUSSY: Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune; La Mer

Ravel: Daphnis et Chloë: Symphonic Suite No. 2

Philadelphia Orchestra, Eugene Ormandy, cond.

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The Debussy Prélude and Ravel Suite are the latest remakes of two longtime Ormandy favorites (most recently coupled in a 1956 LP, ML 5112, with the Debussy Nocturnes), here played more

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VIENNA PHILHARMONIC FESTIVAL, Herbert von Karajan conducting. A magnificent four-record commemorative album specially recorded by the celebrated orchestra and conductor to mark their triumphant 1959 world tour. Record I: Mozart Symphony in g, K550; Haydn Symphony in D, No. 104. Record II: Beethoven Symphony No. 7. Record III: Brahms Symphony No. 1. Record IV: The Vienna of Johann Strauss. The gift-type album includes a 28-page book, gravure-printed in Italy, containing full-color plates of famous paintings, 70 photographs, the history of orchestra and conductor, and six delightful essays by Joseph Wechsberg.

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sumptuously and recorded more thrillingly than ever before. La Mer, apparently an Ormandy discographic first, also reveals the Philadelphians and the Columbia engineers at the top of their form; pure and powerful in monophony, lumioous and overwhelming in stereo. Yet, except perhaps in the sure-fire Daphnis et Chloë Suite (which lacks only the electrifying excitement unique to Koussevitzky), I'm sure that these performances can never fully satisfy listeners familiar with more idiomatic Gallic and authentically impressionistic interpretations. This species of concert hall realism captures everything except the music's essential magic, and in La Mer in particular Ormandy's vehemence rudely rips the seamless fabric into jagged tatters. But what glorious sound to intoxicate those who do not insist on stylistic sense as well! RDD

#### DONIZETTI: Lucia di Lammermoor

Maria Callas (s), Lucia; Margreta Elkins (ms), Alisa; Ferruccio Tagliavini (t), Edgardo; Lenard del Ferro (t), Arturo; Renzo Casellato (t), Normanno; Piero Cappuccilli (b), Lord Eurico; Bernard Ladysz (hs), Raimondo. Philharmonia Chorus and Orchestra, Tullio Serafin, cond.

ANGEL 3601 B/L. Two LP. \$10.96.
 ANGEL S 3601 B/L. Two SD. \$12.96.

For review of this album, see p. 77.

#### FRANCK: Symphony in D minor

New York Philharmonic, Leonard Berustein, cond.

• COLUMBIA ML 5391. LP. \$4.98.

• • COLUMBIA MS 6072. SD. \$5.98.

Bernstein's treatment is not the traditional Franck Symphony reading, but at many points his interpretation contributes to what is a very alive and dramatic account of this noble work. The Philharmonic plays here in top form, and Columbia's reproduction, both in monophonic and nicely pinpointed stereo, is bright and clearly defined. P.A.

FRANCK: Variations symphoniques— See D'Indy: Symphonic sur un chant montagnard français, Op. 25.

GERSHWIN: An American in Paris; Rhapsody in Blue

Joyce Hatto, piano (in the Rhapsody); Hamburg Pro Musica, George Byrd, cond.

• FORUM F 70008. LP. \$1.98.

The young American conductor George Byrd has some very musicianly ideas about An American in Paris, which he puts across rather convincingly. There may be a few retards and alterations of phrases here and there, but the essential Americanism of the score remains intact. The same applies to Byrd's joint efforts with Joyce Hatto in the Rhapsody in Blue, though this work could profit by a little more jazzlike freedom. Forum's surfaces are beautifully silent, but its reproduction is not up to present highfidelity standards; many of the upper frequencies and all the heavier passages are marred by considerable distortion. P.A.

#### GILBERT and SULLIVAN: H.M.S. Pinafore (or The Lass That Loved a Sailor)

Elsie Morison (s), Josephine; Marjorie Thomas (c), Hebe; Monica Sinclair (c), Little Buttercup; Richard Lewis (t), Ralph Rackstraw; George Baker (b), The Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph Porter, K. C. B.; John Cameron (b), Captain Coreoran; Owen Brannigan (bs), Dick Deadeye. Glyndebourne Festival Chorus, Peter Gellhorn, chorus master; Pro Arte Orchestra, Sir Malcolm Sargent, cond.

ANGEL 3589 B/L. Two SD. \$12.96.

After two well-sung, but otherwise undistinguished, performances of The Mikado and The Condoliers, Angel's resident Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company now come up with a zestful and stylish performance of Sullivan's breezy nautical opera, H. M. S. Pinafore. Where the earlier recordings tended to sound almost oratorical, this new venture really begins to sound like a D'Oyly Carte performance. Some of the credit, at least, must go to the appearance in this cast of that veteran singer George Baker. Though never a member of the D'Oyly Carte Company, Baker is an illustrious Savoyard, at least by association. His very phonogenic voice graced all the early recordings of the Savoy operas, issued by H. M. V., from the 1917 version of The Mikado on. It could well be that he has transmitted to the present group some of his own considerable knowledge of how these operas are most effectively performed. Certainly his own performance here, in the role of Sir Joseph Porter, is outstanding-full of wry humor, crisp and biting, with an undercurrent of kindliness always evident. And for a man of seventy-four, it is remarkably well sung.

But the singing throughout this per-



Sargent conducts a buoyant Pinafore.

formance is pure joy, so much so that it seems invidious to single out any particular member of the cast. Yet the Ralph Rackstraw of Richard Lewis and the Josephine of Elsie Morison are both so good that they deserve special commendation. Monica Sinclair's voice sounds a trifle young and light for Little Buttercup, and I confess I found her "I'm Called Little Buttercup" rather dull; but as the opera progresses there is noticeable improvement, and in the end she won me over. Sargent leads a very buoyant performance, and one played with considerable grace by the Pro Arte Orchestra. And although the warm and brilliantly dispersed stereo sound fails to suggest much illusion of stage movement, I didn't find that lack much of a drawback. J.F.I.

- HAYDN: Concerto for Cello and Orchestra, in D, Op. 101—See Boccherini: Concerto far Cello and Orchestra, in B flat.
- HAYDN: Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra, in E flat
- Mozart: Concerto for Flute and Orchestra, No. 2, in D, K. 314
- Schumann: Adagio and Allegro for Horn, in A flat, Op. 70 (orch. Ansermet)

Paolo Longinotti, trumpet; André Pepin, flute; Edmond Leloir, horn; Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Ernest Ansermet, cond.

• • LONDON CS 6091. SD. \$4.98.

The idea of coupling three concertos for instruments that are rarely heard in these roles proves to be an attractive one, making a delightfully unhackneyed addition to the stereo catalogue.

The best-known score of the three is probably the Haydn, written for the classical E flat trumpet's home key, and sounding here very much as if it were being played on that instrument rather than the familiar B flat trumpet of today. The performance is one of burnished elegance, providing fine contrast to the distinctive romantic flavor of the lovely and too nearly unknown—Schumann, which Ansermet has orchestrated with a real flair for the style. The Mozart is up against heavier competition, but this remains an appealing performance.

The soloists, whom I take to be principals from the orchestra, and the conductor seem in every case to collaborate on the best of terms, and the engineering is first-class. R.C.M.

#### HAYDN: The Seasons

Elsie Morison, soprano; Alexander Young, tenor; Michael Langdon, bass; Beecham Choral Society; Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Sir Thomas Beecham, cond. • CAPITOL SGCR 7184. Three SD. \$17.94.

For review of this album, see p. 79.

D'INDY: Symphonie sur un chant montagnard français, Op. 25

Franck: Variations symphoniques

Robert Casadesus, piano; Philadelphia Orchestra, Eugene Ormandy, cond. • Columbia ML 5388. LP. \$4.98.

COLUMBIA MS 6070. SD. \$5.98.

Preëminent in the interpretation of this literature, Robert Casadesus does not disappoint here. Between his limpid, aristo-

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Stereo album numbers are shown. For monophonic versions, omit S.

cratic fingerwork and the gorgeous sound of the Philadelphia Orchestra, both works are as well performed as they are likely to he on records. With a style characterized by a certain detachment, this pianist also invests his playing with a vigor and momentum that keeps the music from lapsing into cloying sentiment. The D'Indy symphony is particularly rewarding for two reasons: the piano is properly placed among the orchestral forces, not obtruding like a solo instrument but precisely blended in the tonal fabric as a supplemental color; and Ormandy is at his best in giving a highly nuanced, glowingly colored reading of the score. Both monophonic and stereo releases are praiseworthy, but the concert-hall, three-dimensional sound Columbia now gives its stereo discs makes the latter version outstanding. RE

#### LASSUS: Sacred and Secular Works

#### Dessoff Choirs, Paul Boepple, cond.

- FANTASY 5006. LP. \$4.98.
- • FANTASY 8015. SD. \$5.98.

Mr. Boepple has brought together here a magnificent program, which shows Lassus' mastery in various styles of Renaissance composition-the Latin motet, the German Lied, sacred and secular, the French chanson, and the Italian madrigal. Here are the powerful Timor et tremor and the grand De profundis-the sixth of the seven great Penitential Psalms; here the lovely Bon jour mon coeur, the exquisite La Nuit froide et sombre, with its sad first strophe and lively second. But there is no space to itemize; each of the sixteen pieces on the dise displays in worthy fashion some aspect of Lassus' protean genius.

The Dessoff Choirs seem rather large for this type of music, and the soundparticularly of the sopranos-is not as round or as warm as in some other choruses, but the balances are good and the singers' enthusiasm infectious. Sung by many voices, the secular pieces lose their intimacy and become rather impersonal. This danger was foreseen by Mr. Boepple, who writes disarmingly that he could not resist including such pieces "because we felt we could communicate our strong feeling for their beauty to our audience. On the first side of the stereo version there is some distortion; it is not present on the other side or in any part of the monophonic recording. N.B.

LECOCQ: La Fille de Mme. Angot (arr. Jacob)—See Walton: Façade: Orchestral Suites.

#### LISZT: Concertos for Piano und Orchestra: No. 1, in E flat; No. 2, in A

Philippe Entremont, piano; Philadelphia Orchestra, Eugene Ormandy, cond. • COLUMBIA ML 5389. LP. \$4.98.

COLUMBIA MS 6071. SD. \$5.98.

Cobomina 110 0071. 3D. 93.90

Mr. Entremont has a brilliant, lithe style that gives a lot of dash and sparkle to these two war horses. Not that he cannot turn a pretty melody with loving care, but he seems happiest when he can unleash his swiftly flying fingers in glittering passagework. The contribution of Ormandy and his Philadelphians is so good as almost to dominate the proceedings; I do not know any other orchestral accompaniments in these concertos that have so much verve and flair, and the engineering is faultless, in respective ways, in both versions. Taking everything into consideration, this is the best available pressing of this concerto coupling. R.E.

LISZT: Etudes d'éxécution transcendante: No. 5, Feux follets; No. 11, Harmonies du Soir. Valses oubliées: No. 1, in F sharp; No. 2, in A flat Schubert: Moments musicaux, Op. 94: No. 1, in C. Impromptus, Op. 90: No. 2, in E flat; No. 4, in A flat

Sviatoslav Richter, piano.

• COLUMBIA ML 5396. LP. \$4.98.

The stylistic gap between Schubert and Liszt is wide, so that it is astonishing when a pianist plays both as well as Richter does here. There are superior Schubert interpreters, it is true, but none plays Liszt this well.

The hauntingly beautiful tone, the singing melodies, the chords melting almost imperceptibly into each other, the uninterrupted single rise and fall of sound that characterize *Harmonies du Soir* make this a truly memorable performance. *Feux follets* is a miracle of gossamer tracery and deftness, so controlled that the pace can be slackened effortlessly for a tiny rubato. The two *Valses oubliées*, among Liszt's most at-



Richter: "None plays Liszt this well."

tractive works, are played with great refinement, emphasizing most discerningly the nostalgic element.

In playing Schubert, Richter avoids subtleties and depth probings; he states the music plainly, with simplicity and again with delicacy and refinement. For the *Moment musical* and the Impromptu No. 4 he works precisely within a small dynamic range. Only in the Impromptu No. 2 does he let loose on a scale too big for the music.

This recording was made during a re-

cital in Sofia, Bulgaria, on February 25, 1958, and it has the expected virtues and faults. The former include the unique tension in a public performance where an artist of this stature is concerned; the faults comprise the uneven balance of tone, considerable audience coughing and rustling, a piano tone that grows tinny when it gets loud, and some surface noise. But the Soviet artist's playing can always be heard clearly, and that is all that matters. R.E.

#### MASSENET: Manon (excerpts)

Je suis encore tout étourdie; Voyons, Manon, plus de chimères; Duo de la lettre; Adieu, notre petite table; Le rève: Suis-je gentille ainsi?; Obéissons quand leur voix appelle; Duo de Saint-Sulpice; A nous les amours et les roses.

Ninon Vallin, soprano; Miguel Villabella, tenor; Orchestra.

• PATHE PCX 5002. LP. \$5.95.

Those who do not care to buy the only complete Manon now on the market (with Monteux and De los Angeles), or who wish to supplement that version with some characteristic excerpts, will do well to investigate this collection, rendered by an exemplary Manon and a worthy Des Grieux. Vallin has a few bad moments (in coloratura and staccato work), but by and large she sings with appealing tone and musual comprehen-sion of the character; "Voyons, Manon" and "Adieu, notre petite table" are particularly outstanding. Miguel Villabella's contributions are excellent, and it's too bad that "Fuyez, douce image" and the final duct could not have been included. The orchestral sound is faded, and there are one or two frightful, if momentary, slips in speed in the transfers. C.L.O.

- MOZART: Concerto for Flute and Orchestra, No. 2, in D, K. 314—See Haydn: Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra, in E flat.
- MUSSORGSKY: Pictures from an Exhibition
- Rimsky-Korsakov: Capriccio espagnot, Op. 34

New York Philbarmonic, Leonard Bernstein, cond.

- COLUMBIA ML 5401. LP. \$4.98.
- • COLUMBIA MS 6080. SD. \$5.98.

While Bernstein misses no opportunities to make the Mussorgsky-Ravel Pictures as vivid as possible, his reading is most notable for the cohesion he gives to a many-segmented work and the supple beauty he brings to the phrasing, particularly where the melodies are extended. He cannot be outdone here, but where the *Capricelo espagnol* is concerned, he has a master in Kiril Kondrashin, whose recent recording for Victor has more flamboyance without losing shape.

Columbia's stereo sound for both works is not as hair-raisingly larger than life as Victor's is for the Reiner version of *Pictures* and for the above-mentioned Kondrashin recording, but it is still superbly clear and considerably more nat-

ural. The orchestra seems more of a totality, as it is in a concert hall, with the instrumental sounds decently spaced rather than strikingly separated. Still, when Mr. Bernstein got to the Great Gate of Kiev it would have been nice if Columbia had let go with the decibels for a more rousing climax, after the Victor fashion. Columbia's excellent monophonic disc unfortunately sounds tame after the stereo version. R.E.

#### **RACHMANINOFF:** Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, No. 2, in C minor, Op. 18

Tchaikovsky: Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, No. 1, in B flat minor, Op.

Felicja Blumental, piano; Orchestra of the Musikgesellschaft of Vienna, Michael Gielen, cond.

Vox PL 11500. LP. \$1.98.
Vox STPL 511500. Two SD. \$2.98 each.

Felicja Blumental here gives a passionate headlong performance that is not unattractive, but the playing otherwise is no more than competent. In the monophonic edition, the piano has a highly resonant sound characteristic of Vox, but the orchestra sounds beautifully transparent and homogenous. Over an hour's playing time is available on this disc at an extremely low price. A casual listener could do a lot worse for more money.

In the stereo version, which gives an entire disc to each concerto, the piano sound comes from the far right at con-cert stage distance. The orchestra is spaced out to the extreme and seemingly at a lesser distance from the auditor, so that one is startled by woodwinds barking right beside one while the piano echoes resoundingly far off. If the orchestral sound ever jelled, the stereo effect would be remarkable-but it never does. R.E.

#### **RAVEL:** Daphnis et Chloë: Symphonic Suite No. 2-See Debussy: Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune; La Mer.

- RIMSKY-KORSAKOV: Capriccio espagnol, Op. 34-See Mussorgsky: Pictures from an Exhibition.
- SCHUBERT: Moments musicoux, Op. 94: No. 1, in C. Impromptus, Op. 90:



Monteux makes Sibelius debut on discs,

No. 2, in E flat; No. 4, in A flat-See Liszt: Etudes d'éxécution transcendante.

SCHUBERT: Symphony No. 8, in B minor ("Unfinished")-See Beethoven: Symphony No. 8, in F, Op. 93.

#### SCHUBERT: Symphony No. 9, in C

Boston Symphony Orchestra, Charles Munch, cond.

 RCA VICTOR LM 2344. LP. \$4.98. RCA VICTOR LSC 2344. SD. \$5.98.

There are times, particularly in the opening and closing movements of this symphony, when Munch treats Schubert with the fire and brimstone that should be reserved for Tchaikovsky, and his reading in general is almost completely devoid of lyricism. Still and all, this music does call for a certain amount of forcefulness in its presentation, and the Bostonians play with lots of bite and spirit. All this has been stunningly reproduced in truly top-quality monophonic and stereo versions, the latter being among the most realistic orchestral recordings to come from RCA Victor thus far.

- SCHUMANN: Adagio and Allegro for Horn, in A flat, Op. 70 (orch. Ansermet)-See Haydn: Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra, in E flat.
- SCHUMANN: Carnaval, Op. 9; Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, in A minor, Op. 54

Sergio Fiorentino, piano; Hamburg Pro Musica, Erich Riede, cond. (in the Concerto).

· FORUM F 70007. LP. \$1.98.

Sergio Fiorentino is a highly interesting newcomer to American records, who would make more of an impression if he were not represented by two works already recorded many times-and more beautifully. His tone is a little hard, his style occasionally brittle, but he has his own intelligent ideas about using rhythm, accent, and phrasing to point up the musical characterizations in the Carnaval. His playing is less individual in the Concerto, hut it still maintains a personal sensitivity, and the tone, cushioned by the orchestra, sounds more mellow. The orchestra, able enough, sometimes makes inclegant sounds and the instruments are not in tune all of the time. The engi-R.E. neering is satisfactory.

SIBELIUS: Symphony No. 2, in D, Op. 43

London Symphony Orchestra, Pierre Monteux, cond.

• RCA VICTOR LM 2342. LP. \$4.98. RCA VICTOR LSC 2342. SD. \$5.98.

As far as I can ascertain, this is the very first Sibelius recording ever made by Pierro Montoux. Eighty-four may be a triffe late in life for most conductors to attack the Finnish master's music for the first time, but not for the perennially young Frenchman. Though this may be his Sibelius debut on dises, he must surely have presented some Sibelius music in the concert hall. His account of this dramatic and often majestic score is meaty and most satisfying. If you like your Sibelius broad and spacious, warm and songful, Monteux is your man. He has the London Symphony performing at its very best, too. Furthermore, the engineers have turned in a top-flight job in both versions; in stereo, the reproduction has depth, direction, and transparency. PA

#### TCHAIKOVSKY: Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, No. 1, in B flat minor, Op. 23

Eugene Istomin, piano; Philadelphia Orchestra, Eugene Ormandy, cond.

• COLUMBIA ML 5399. LP. \$4.98.

COLUMBIA MS 6079. SD. \$5.98.

Temperamentally, Istomin is not the ideal interpreter for this concerto, but he is such a fine pianist that it is fascinating to see what he does with it. In the first movement his big, solid tone, his deliberate, thoughtful manner, and the placement of the plano well to the fore in this recording create a massive effect. The slow movement begins neither andantino nor semplice, as marked, but for most of the way the exactitude of Istomin's treatment of the double notes, the staccatos, the off-beat chords is refreshing. So is the unforced swiftness of the scherzo section, with a delicious waltz rhythm in the middle. Musical precision is also the hallmark of the last movement, where so many pianists scramble notes for the sake of speed and effect. Brio, momentum, and dynamic contrast in greater quantities are needed to make this performance equal to the best, but a reading of this integrity is welcome among the surfeit of superficial ones. Conductor, orchestra, and engineers cannot be faulted in any way for their part in the production. R.E.

- TCHAIKOVSKY: Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, No. 1, in B flat minor, Op. 23-See Rachmaninoff: Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, No. 2, in C minor, Op. 18.
- TELEMANN: Concertos: for Four Violins, in D; for Flute, Oboe d'Amore, Viola d'Amore, and Strings, in E; for Three Obocs, Three Violins, and Continuo, in B flot; for Recorder, Flute, and Strings, in E minor

Soloists; Kammermusikkreis Emil Seiler. ARCHIVE ARC 3109. LP. \$5.98.

TELEMANN: Concertos: for Trumpet and Strings, in D; for Trumpet, Tico Oboes, and Continuo, in D. Quartets: for Flute, Oboe, Violin, and Continuo, in G; for Recorder, Oboe, Violin, and Continuo, in G

Adolf Scherbaum, tnumpet; Heinz Nordbruch, Heinz Schwesinger, oboes; Bach-Orchester Hamburg, Robert Stehli, cond.

Continued on page 94

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Georg Philipp Telemann, who was born four years before Bach and outlived him by seventeen, turned out a vast amount of music, including, it is said, some three thousand cantatas. Only a tiny proportion of it ever achieved publication, but the list of Telemann works on records is growing nicely. The eight compositions in the present group reveal some characteristic traits-a lightness of touch that aligns him with the more progressive spirits of his time, a delight in all sorts of instrumental combinations, a mastery of counterpoint when he feels like featuring that technique, and a fondness for the rhythms and accents of peasant dances.

The E minor Concerto is an especially attractive work, with a deeper undercurrent of feeling than the others. Its opening Largo has some harmonic progressions of an almost Bachian intensity; it is followed by a gay Allegro of transparent contrapuntal texture, another Largo, which begins like Handel's Where'er you walk" and continues in that lyric vein, and a final Presto whose drone-bass passages evoke a country festival. Most of the other works have their special points of interest, like the highly spiced Polish dance rhythms in the finale of the E major Concerto, or the brilliant writing, especially for the oboe, in the Flute Quartet; only the trumpet concertos seem routine. Performance and recording are first-class. N.B.

#### **VERDI:** Macheth

Leonie Rysanek (s), Lady Macbeth; Emilia Cundari (s), A Bloody Child; Mildred Allen (s), A Crowned Child; Carlotta Ordassy (s), Lady-in-Attend-ance; Carlo Bergonzi (t), Macduff; William Olvis (t), Malcolm; Leonard Warren (b), Macbeth; Calvin Marsh (b), A Warrior; Osie Hawkins (b), A Murderer; Jerome Hines (hs), Banquo; Gerhard Pechnet (bs), A Physician; Harold Stern-berg (bs), A Manservant. Metropolitan Chorus and Orchestra, Erich Leinsdorf, cond.

• RCA VICTOR LSC 6147. Three SD. \$17.94.

For review of this album, see p. 81.

#### **VIVALDI:** Concertos

Concertos: in G, for Strings and Continuo, P. 143; in B flat, for Violin, Cello, Strings, and Continuo, P. 388; in C minor for Strings and Continuo, P. 427; in C minor, for Cello, Strings, and Continuo, P. 434; in A minor, for Two Violins, Strings, and Continuo, Op. 3, No. 8.

I Musici.

• EPIC LC 3565. LP. \$4.98.

The only work new to microgroove on this disc is P. 427. It is a fine orchestral concerto: the first movement has a singing pathos and a delicate ending; the Largo is based on the same thematic material; and the finale is a fugue, not

as common a type of writing in Vivaldi's works as might be supposed. This and the other concertos are all performed with the Musici's customary vivacity, and the sound is first-rate. Also customary with this group is the timidity of the harpsichord, which often cannot be heard at N.B. all here.

#### WAGNER: Parsifal: Good Friday Spell; Symphonic Synthesis of Act III (arr. Stokowski)

Houston Symphony Orchestra, Leopold Stokowski, cond. • Evenest LPBR 6031. LP. \$4.98.

• EVEREST SDBR 3031. SD. \$5.98.

In his sensuous unfolding of the music from this "consecrational festival stage drama," as Wagner called it, Stokowski leans toward the profane rather than the sacred. As he revels in the sounds, he often draws out phrases to inordinate lengths; but if your taste is for warm, sonorous Wagner, these rich-toned performances may please you. The only thing unlikely to please is the sound of the electronic chimes; their artificiality spoils the entire grand effect in the transformation music of the synthesis (in his earlier recording, made many years ago for RCA Victor, Stokowski used standard tubular chimes). This synthesis, by the way, is compounded of important passages from the end of the first scene of Act III, the transformation music to the second scene, and excerpts from the final moments of the music-drama.

Aside from a small amount of distortion in heavy climaxes, the monophonic recording is very good; but stereo is better able to transmit the big sonorities called for by the conductor. The advantages of the two-channel medium are emphasized at the very outset of the synthesis by the entrance of the brasses, which seem to emanate from the rear of the stage, And if Stokowski had only used real chimes, they, 'too, could have provided some big sonic moments. P.A.

WALTON: Façude: Orchestral Suites ¡Lecocq: La Fille de Mme. Angot (arr. Tacob)

Royal Opera House Orchestra, Covent Garden, Anatole Fistoulari, cond. • RCA VICTOR LM 2285. LP. \$4.98.

• RCA VICTOR LSC 2285. SD. \$5.98.

In its original version, a set of poems by Edith Sitwell recited to the accompaniment of music for a handful of instruments, Façade is a major achievement and one of the key works in modern British music. (London and Columbia both have editions in the catalogue.) Walton later made a transcription of some of the Façade pieces for symphony orchestra; that version, also available in several recordings, is amosing but far less good. Finally, Frederick Ashton se-lected some of the picces, in their sym-phonic dress, to provide the score for a ballet. It is this which is recorded here. There are ten pieces all told, arranged in

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THE ONLY MAJOR VIOLINIST ENTIRELY TRAINED IN THIS COUNTRY, ISAAC STERN HAS FEW PEERS AMONG MUSIC MAKERS, VIOLINISTS OR OTHER-WISE. HE HAS BEEN APPLAUDED ON FIVE CONTINENTS FOR HIS BIG SUMPTUOUS TONE, HIS FIERY TECHNIQUE, HIS COMPLETE GRASP OF THE EN-TIRE VIOLIN REPERTOIRE – BAROQUE, CLASSICAL, ROMANTIC AND MODERN. HE HAS CHOSEN TO RECORD HIS ART EXCLUSIVELY FOR COLUMBIA RECORDS. A BELECTED ISAAC STERN DISCOGRAPHY

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BARTÓK : Concerto for Violin-with Leonard Bernstein conducting the New York Philharmonic. NL 5283 MS 6002\*

\*Stereo

MOZART: Concerto No. 3 in G Major for Violin and Orchestra, K. 216 - NAYDN: Concerto No. 1 in C Major for Violin and String Orchestra—with the Columbia String Orchestra, Alexander Zakin, cemballst. ML 5248

PROKOFIEV: Violin Concertos Nos. 1 in D Major and 2 in G Minor-with the New York Philharmonic,

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MASTERWORKS



sequence for balletic purposes-which is not necessarily the best for musical purposes, and they are played as ballet music, which is to say with swoopier upbeats and heavier downbeats than are absolutely necessary. The recording is nice and the whole thing passes, but is not very important.

Mamzelle Angot, the ballet suite arranged by Gordon Jacob from the score of Charles Lecoco's comic opera, is a masterly example of mineteenth-century French light music-fluffy, chic, tune-ful, cynical, bright, ending with a vertiginous cancan. Its performance and recording here are as perfect as the delicious score itself. A.F.

#### **RECITALS AND** MISCELLANY

#### AMBROSIAN CHANTS

Choir of the Polifonica Ambrosiana, Mons. Giuseppe Biella, cond. • Vox DL 343: Three LP. \$25.

In the early centuries of Western Christendom local churches often established their own rites, including collections of liturgical music. Of these only the Ambrosian music of the Church of Milan has held its own against the Gregorian music that Rome decreed should be universally used. Fragments of other collections exist, while the known music of the Mozarabic rites in Spain indicates a third "musical dialect" together with those of Rome and Milan.

By its name, Ambrosian music honors the great Church Father who was Bishop of Milan from 374 till his death in 397. Among other things, St. Ambrose introduced into liturgical music of the Western Church the use of hymnody and antiphonal psalmody in public worship. These involve extended singing by the congregation, and, so it is said, the momentous innovations came as a result of his seeking ways to interest attendant crowds when he was in a state of siege in a basilica in 386.

Ambrosian and Gregorian styles interacted, apparently, in succeeding centu-ries, and they are basically similar. Certainly, the nonspecialist will find little that is unique in listening to these records. Students of plain song, however, will find fascinating the freer Ambrosian use of modes, cadences, melismas, intervallic leaps. This freedom has given Ambrosian chant a lower status than the more stylistically contained Gregorian music, in the view of many musicians. In any case, there are many brief touches that stand out in the excerpts on these records-the curving descent of an Amen, the "gentle" preparation of a chant ending as the final note is approached deviously in a winding phrase, the Oriental effect-eloquent and mesmeric-of elaborately filigreed Alleluias.

The sampling of the chants in this set is comprehensive, the performance by a choir of men and women wholly satis-

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MISCHA

with Vienna State Opera Orch., Golschmann cond, KHACHATURIAN: VIOLIN CONCERTO, SAINT-SAENS: INTRODUCTION AND RONDO CAPRIC-CIOSO, VRS-1049 (Stereolab VSO-2037) MENDELSSOHN: VIOLIN CONCERTO, LALO: SYMPHONIE ESPAGNOLE. VRS-1050 (Stereolab VSD-2047)

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VIVALDI: THE FOUR SEASONS. BG-564 (Stereolab BGS-5001)

ELMAN

VLADIMIR GOLSCHMANN conducting the Vienna State Opera Orch. TCHAIKOVSKY: SYMPHONY NO. 6, "PATHETIQUE." Vanguard Demonstration Special. SRV-112 \$1.98 (Stereolab SRV-112 SD \$2.98)

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#### ODETTA

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#### CAROL CHANNING

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factory, barring an occasional engagingly human variation in attack. The style is more straightforward, less subtle and exquisite, than that of the famous Solesmes Abbey monks in their recording of Gregorian chant.

This first recording of Ambrosian chants has been issued by Vox with appropriate splendor in a limited edition of five hundred. The three discs come in a beautiful white album accompanied by a lengthy booklet prepared by Monsig. Ernesto Moneta Caglio. Included in it are a description of the chants' origins and an analysis of each excerpt-both sections given in English, French, and Italian; the Latin texts; and some reproduction in color and black and white of the illuminated manuscripts of the music. Published in Italy, the English text has some oddities, and the references to excerpts by disc and band number are confusing and at least on one occasion, wrong. But these are minor matters in an unusually handsome presentation. R.E.

#### ALCEO GALLIERA: "Italian Opera Intermezzos"

Catalani: Loreley: Danza delle ondine; La Wally: Preludes, Acts III & IV. Zandonai: Giulietta e Romeo: Intermezzo. Wolf-Ferrari: I Gioielli della Madonna: Serenata. Pick-Mangiagalli: Notturno Romantico: Waltz. Mascagni: Guglielmo Ratcliff: Sogno; Le Maschere: Overture.

Philharmonic Orchestra, Alceo Galliera, concl.

• • ANGEL S 35483. SD. \$5.98.

The Catalani compositions arc of the most interest here, especially the selections from La Wally-both are hauntingly sad, and the second surges to a fine climax. Catalani, spurned by his contemporaries and all but ignored by posterity, probably deserves a lengthier hearing. The familiar Gioielli della Madonna intermezzo is always enjoyable, and Pick-Mangiagalli's waltz is exhilarating. Mascagni's contributions are inoffensive but undistinguished, and Zandonai's piece is an exercise in sustained pounding-long, loud, and futile, but will be cherished by anyone who regards his stereo system as an instrument of retaliation.

Everything is played in fittingly splashy fashion by the Philharmonia under Galliera, and the orchestra's plush sound is well served by rich, well-balanced stereo. The review copy had a slight surface hiss, disturbing only in very subdued moments, of which there are precious few. C.L.O.

#### JAIME LAREDO: Recilal

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Continued on page 100

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Jaime Laredo, violin; Vladimir Sokoloff, piano.

• BCA VICTOR LM 2373. LP. \$4.98. • RCA VICTOR LSC 2373. SD. \$5.98.

At eighteen, Jaime Laredo is the youngest artist ever to win the Queen Elisabeth of Belgium competition. Shortly after this young Bolivian violinist's victory last May, RCA Victor signed him to a recording contract. If one is to judge from his debut disc, here is a real find, an important new artist. His technique is absolutely flawless, and he has an uousually big, fully rounded, pleasing tone. Even more unusual in one so young, he has a fine sense of interpretative style, a style adaptable to Vivaldi or Falla. Perhaps all his admirable qualifies are summed up in the dazzling but always musicianly performance of the Carmen Fantaisic. Vladimir Sokoloff provides steady, tasteful accompaniments, and the recording is clear and well balanced. There is, however, no reason for issuing a stereo edition of music for violin and piano only. The difference between the stereo and mono versions is just about nil. Laredo, however, is an up-and-coming fiddler worth hearing. PA.

#### NATHAN MILSTEIN: "The Art of Milstein"

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For review of this album, see page 80.

#### NEW YORK PRO MUSICA: Elizabethan and Jacobean Ayres, Madrigals, and Dances

New York Pro Musica, Noah Greenberg, cond.

- DECCA DL 9406. LP. \$4.98.
- • DECCA DL 79406. SD. \$5.98.

An attractive collection, which combines well-known pieces, such as Dowland's great Flow my teares, with relatively unfamiliar ones like Captain Tobias Hume's song in praise of tobacco, Gibbons' London Street Cries, and three charming dances by Coperario. Mr. Greenberg has ordered them with a keen car for contrast and variety, and he has been bold enough to employ instrumental accompaniment for most of the "balletts" and other polyphonic vocal pieces, which are usually performed a cappella nowadays. His procedure not only is historically justifiable but renders some of the pieces even more enjoyable than they would be without the instruments. These last comprise recorders, viols, and harpsichord, but no lute-a puzzling omission in a collection that includes three pieces by Dowland, one of the greatest lutanists of his time.

Other composers represented here are Morley, Byrd, Robert Jones, John Farm-er, and Campian (or Campion); there are also the anonymous Woodycock, played here by a bass viol, and three pieces from the Mulliner Book. All are satisfactorily performed and well recorded, the monophonic version being perhaps as pleasing as the stereo, except in Morley's Phillis, I faine would die now, where the two-channel version effective-ly juxtaposes the two "quiers" of per-NR formers.

#### MADO ROBIN: "Airs de Coloratur"

Thomas: Mignon: Je suis Titania. Massé: Les Noces de Jeannette: Au bord du chemin. Gounod: Roméo et Juliette: Ah! Je veux vivre dans le rêve. Offenbach: Les Contes d'Hoffmann: Les oiseaux dans la charmille. Massenet: Manon: Suisje gentille ainsi? Rossini: La Danza. Benedict: La Gitane et l'oiseau: Charmant oiseau, ta cage est d'or. David: La perle du Brésil: Charmant oiseau qui sous l'ombrage. Pestalozza: Ciribiribin. Delibes: Les filles de Cadix: Trois garcons, trois fillettes. Ponce: Estrellita.

Mado Robin, soprano; Orchestre du Théâtre National de l'Opéra de Paris, Pierre Dervaux, concl. • PATHE DTX 276. LP. \$5.95.

This is a disc that has you scurrying to the pitchpipe in disbelief, then setting the needle back a few grooves to make sure you heard aright. Of course, Mlle.

Continued on page 102

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Robin is not precisely a stranger to LP collectors, but it is this record that establishes the authenticity of her talent. Although it is probably ungracious to take even the smallest exception to such a virtuoso display, I must admit that a certain excitement is missing from her singing: after all, what terror can even the most exacting vehicle hold for a soprano who trafficks in G sharps above high C, and who chooses to practice her messa di voce on high D?

But if the delicious apprehension which usually accompanies a coloratura recital is absent, what a pleasure it is to hear a voice that can soar into the highest regions without thinning and becoming wirv and that can make the turns in the upper-middle range sound like music, and not like a gargling session. Robin's tone is beautiful and strong from top to bottom. She can expand, diminish, and trill at least as high as the E flat in altissimo-a sure sign of real vocal freedom. The high G sharps and, in one case, A natural, are clear and attractive, firmly connected to the rest of the voice, and in no way freakish. Unless Pathé has evolved a new and highly deceptive recording technique, one is hearing here a magnificent, perfectly controlled instrument, of the sort one imagines the legendary nineteenth-century divas to have possessed.

As for the music, the standard showpieces certainly require no comment. The operetta selections are all engaging *oiscau*-numbers, one indistinguishable from another. Such music, combined with such faultless singing, makes for unalloyed pleasure. The orchestral accompaniments are adequate, the sound topnotch. C.L.O.

#### RICHARD TAUBER: "Richard Tauber Chante . . ."

Lehár: Frasquita: Serenade; Friederike: O Mädchen, mein Mädchen; Paganini: Girls Were Made to Love and Kiss; Die Lustige Witve: Waltz Song; You Are My Heart's Delight; Röslein auf der Heiden; The Czarevitch: Wolgalied. Lockton: Vienna. City of My Dreams. Schubert: Ständchen.

Richard Tauber, tenor; Orchestra. • ODEON OD 1022, 10-inch. LP. \$2.98.

This is typical Tauber material, largely kitsch, replete with trenulous violins, balalaikas, and the great tenor's usual blend of rich lyric tone, unparalleled rhythmic flair, ravishing pianissimos, and constricted high tones here and there. It is no wonder that two full generations placed him immediately beneath God. Several of the numbers are trotted forth shamelessly in outrageous English (including Vienna, City of My Dreams and You Are My Heart's Delight: these are not Tauber's best recordings of these songs). The music has a definite charm, and Tauber's way with it is irresistible. With the exception of the unspeakable version of Schubert's Ständchen, any one of these selections is well worth the price of this little ten-incher. The sound is listenable, with some scratch in spots, and the transfers are accurate. C.L.O.

#### FOLK MUSIC

THE YEAN'S FINEST single recording of folk music to date is, in my opinion, Warner Brothers' Sun's Gonna Shine (B 1251, LP; BS 1251, SD). In a wellchosen collection of ballads, Ehnerlee Thomas, of San Francisco's Gateway Singers, displays a burnished contralto of deep emotional power that can, however, turn light and gay whenever her material demands. Stylistically, she follows a pure melodic line, scorning all mannerisms, all affectations. This simplicity-combined with her ability to project a mood-shapes lovely, moving renditions of Turtle Doce, Ribbon Bow, and All the Pretty Little Horses. Miss Thomas' insight and trained voice unlock new beauties in the songs she has chosen. As far as sound goes, I myself prefer the monophonic version.

A great American poet and folk song collector, Carl Sandburg, returns to the record scene with Columbia's Flat Rock



Elmerlee Thomas and Gateway Singers.

Ballads (ML5339, LP), taped at his North Carolina hmue. At eighty-one, Sandburg has a voice still soft, intense, flexible, and-magically-fresh, particularly in Wanderin' and Careless Love.

Another noted collector, Alan Lomax, appears to advantage as a singer on Tradition's Texas Folk Songs (TLP 1029, LP). Lomax's somewhat tentative, Texasaccented voice adapts well to these unvarnished cowhoy ballads. His singing of Doney Gal, to an inspired harmonica accompaniment by John Cole, is, for example, a haunting echo of loneliness. Lomax also teams with Peggy Seeger and Guy Carawan on Kapp's Folk Song Saturday Night (KL 1110, LP). In solos, duets, and trios, the three singers present an earthy cross section of the American folk heritage in performances that are short on polish but long on authenticity.

After a period of shifting personnel and descents into-save the mark-comic patter, the famous Weavers have at last returned to their specialty, singing folk songs better than any other quarter in the country. In addition to a wide range of home-grown ballads infused with their usual personalized twist, the ensemble offers on Vanguard's Travelling on with the Weavers (VRS 9043, LP; VSD 2022, SD) songs from Chile, Yugoslavia, Africa, and Spain. The mono edition is cleaner and crisper than its stereo counterpart.

Countertenor Alfred Deller has a soaring voice that is perfectly secure in a startlingly high register. Since much preeighteenth-century traditional material was first sung by countertenors, Deller's appeal is particularly in the older songs. His Anglo-American program on Western Wind (Vanguard VRS 1031, LP; VSD 2014, SD) spans the centuries as well as the seas, showing the singer at his plangent best. Avoid the noisy sterce edition in favor of the monophonic.

While sonically not among the cleanest Westminster discs, Folk Songs from Erin (WF 12025, LP) gives us a superb recital of ballads in English and Gaelic by Deirdre O'Callaghan, who accompanies herself on the harp. Miss O'Callaghan's voice, light and rather delicate, captures all the shifting moods and emotional nuances of her enchanting songs. I particularly admired her Shiul Aroon and The Spinning Wheel.

Monitor's Songs of Old Russia (MP 560, LP) are sung, by a dazzling array of Soviet vocalists, with the florid orchestration and operatic approach favored in the U.S.S.R. The songs seem to thrive on such treatment, and the translucent tenor of the famous Sergei Lemeshev—who sings five of them—is a joy to the ear. Technieally, the recording compares favorably with the Western mean.

with the Western mean. On the ethnic front, Indian folklorist. Deben Bhattacharya has recorded for Westminster-under UNESCO auspices -A Gypsy Festical (WF 12030, LP), a documentary of the annual gypsy gathering at Les Saintes Maries de la Mer in France. In addition to flamencolike cantes and guitar improvisations as impassioned as they are unpolished, Bhattacharya has caught key parts of the accompanying religious ceremonies and the gypsies' entre-eux entertainments. A stuming record of its kind, with annotation that throws a good deal of light on gypsy origins.

Finally, on the farthest edge of respectability looms "country music." Folklorists generally decry these hillbilly songs because they are composed in cold blood, exploited to a fare-thee-well, and are painfully contemporary. But, like it or not, the barbarisms of Educated Mama and Your Cheatin' Heart do express a valid aspect of present-day American folk culture-or lack of it. Veteran "Grand Ol' Opry" star Ernest Tubb's Decca pressing, The Importance of Being Ernest (DL 8834, LP)-Stop spinning in that grave, Oscar!-is a palatable-even enjoyableexcursion through the world of honkytonks, neon-bubbled jukeboxes, and whining sorrow. For implacable aficionados, RCA Victor has released Train Whistle Blues (LPM 1640, LP), a creditable repressing of the songs of Jimmie Rodgers, twenty-six years dead, who fathered the genre.

EDWARD L. RANDAL

Reviews continued on page 105

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#### Here at Home

"Once Around the Clock with Patricia Scot." Patricia Scot; Creed Taylor Orchestra. ABC-Paramount ABC 301, \$3.98 (LP).

I can't decide whether to categorize Patricia Scot as club, pop, or jazz singer-there are traces of all three here-but I can tell you that she is an exciting artist, with an individuality of style quite unusual these days. Occasionally one detects a very slight similarity to Lena Horne, but otherwise this is pure Scot. She is a singer of remarkable versatility, and her program has been carefully chosen to exploit every facet of her talent. She can make a jump version of Romberg's usually sedate Just Once Around the Clock positively tingle with excitement, yet just as easily wring the last moan from Coward's Mad About the Boy. She can summon up a sexy, come-hither voice for Do It Again, yet be equally at home (oh, so very much at home) in her own song Let's Sit Down and Talk It Over. Maybe there's some song she couldn't handle-after all there are only twelve here-but I can't imagine what it might be. With the small Creed Taylor group, in unusual Bob Kenyon arrangements, providing quality support, this is something of a triumph for a new artist.

"The Great Sound of Les Elgart." Les Elgart and His Orchestra. Columbia CL 1350, \$3.98 (LP).

Familiar as most of the numbers may be in this Elgart program, they seem to take on new freshness when decked out in the provocative arrangements that the leader has concocted. Here once more are the unusual instrumental voicings that are Elgart's specialty, here too the fat growling brass, the sweet smooth-toned reeds, carefully blended into a homogeneous musical whole. Here also is that big, solid beat that helps make this such an excellent dance program. The sound is, as the title says, "Great, and Columbia's engineers, who always seem to be in top form at Elgart sessions, have captured the full-blown orchestral image to absolute perfection.

"A Night in Venice." Original cast record-

ing of the Michael Todd 1952 Production. Everest SDBR 3028, \$5.95 (SD). With nature, and Robert Moses, obligingly contributing half of the necessary

Venetian atmosphere, in the form of a huge lagoon, Mike Todd's choice of A Night in Venice to open the Marine Theatre at Jones Beach in 1952 was almost inevitable. Producers are seldom offered such cooperation, and 'Todd was certainly too astute a showman to pass it up. Although hardly in the same league with Die Fledermaus or Der Zigeunerbaron, this merry operetta has a goodly share of ear-catching tunes, most in the best Viennese tradition but some liberally splashed with an Italian coloration. If the entire score lacks the cohesion of its companion works, put this down to the fact that it is a composite score from a number of sources, and one rather hastily thrown together.

This performance, by the original 1952 cast specially reassembled for the recording, offers a bluff, good-natured account of the music. The gentlemen sound virile—and occasionally bemused (not particularly surprising in view of the numerous involvements of the libretto). The ladies, thank heaven, do not sound overarch (a distressing aspect of so many versions), nor do they overdo the high spirits. The singing is generally agreeable, although only Laurel Hurley



Les Elgart of the big, solid beat.

and Thomas Hayward turn in outstanding performances. Though I think some of the orchestral work sounds rough, Thomas Martin keeps the work moving at a most sensible pace; and even if Everest's stereo doesn't manage to convey much of the animated stage action, the sound is extremely good.

"Till the End of Time." Florian Zabach, violin; Orchestra. Mercury SR 60084, \$4.98 (SD).

Even though most of the arrangements appear to have come straight out of Mantovani's book, you would have to go back to the great days of Joe Venuti or Eddie South to recall such a fiddler in the pop field. Like his famous predecessors, Zabach can literally make his instrument talk, whether he's suggesting the oldster singing When Your Hair Has Turned to Silver or a French chanteuse singing I Married an Angel. His classical background comes to the fore in a concertolike arrangement of the title number, and a polite jazz touch is introduced into both Ain't Misbehavin' and I Can't Give You Anything but Love. There is, thank goodness, a minimum of trickery in his performances, and what little is introduced is invariably in good taste. The stereo sound suffers from overwide separation, with soloist and rhythm section in right speaker, the main string orchestra in left, and little sound emerging from center.

"The Gershwin Years." Richard Hayes; Paula Stewart; Lynn Roberts; Chorus and Orchestra, George Bassman, cond. Decca DXZ 160, \$13.98 (Three LP); Decca DXSZ 7160, \$16.98 (Three SD).

Decca's tribute to the genius that was Gershwin is the most comprehensive survey of his show and film scores ever committed to records. In quantity of material it completely overshadows both the old RCA Victor album (reissued on RCA Camden CAL 177) and the fine tworecord set released by Walden (Walden 302/3). But in quality, in the fine art of presenting Gershwin songs as they should be sung, it is decidedly inferior to both the carlier issues. Where Camden and Walden made use of vocalists with at-tractive voices and sound theatrical know-how, Decca has relied on two ladies who appear to be lost in a medium completely unfamiliar to them. Nor are their voices attractive enough to make up for the deficiency of style. Richard Hayes is much better, but there are times when he too sounds a little uneasy in the songs assigned him. I found the orchestral arrangements rather puzzling. They start off quite promisingly, particularly in the 1916 rag Rialto Ripples, but quickly take on too modern a style, and certainly do nothing to suggest the zippy rhythms of Gershwin's music in the mid-Twenties.

Decca offers a fine example of wellbalanced, broad-range sound in the stereo version, which is considerably superior to its monophonic counterpart. The three records are housed in a box-type album,

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"The Flirty Thirties." Lew Raymond and His Orchestra. Mayfair 9654S, \$2.98 (SD).

As many listeners will have discovered, a number of small companies are now issuing a stereo product that compares favorably with that of the higher-priced labels. Among the former is Mayfair, which appears to be an affiliate of Tops Records. Here ten old favorites from the Thirties make up an attractive program of dance music. You may feel that the Three Little Fishes or The Music Goes 'Round and 'Round are hardly worth reviving, but this still leaves you with eight solid hits, neatly arranged and played with a good deal of bounce. The stereo sound is clean and realistic, of excellent depth and good directionality. In addition, Mayfair is using pure vinylite, with resultant very quiet surfaces. All told, this is quite a bargain.

"Como Swings." Perry Como; Ray Charles Singers; Mitchell Ayres's Orchestra. RCA Victor LPM 2010, \$3.98 (LP); RCA Victor LSP 2010, \$4.98 (SD).

By ordinary standards this record would be considered a rather mildly swinging affair, but coming from the usually unruffled Como it could be called "Wild, man, wild." Actually, listening closely, I found the Como style was still pretty relaxed and that most of the excitement was generated by Mitchell Ayres's arrangements. One thing in its favor, apart from Como's subdued animation, is the complete absence of the usual saccharine numbers Como thrives on. It will he up to his many admirers to give their approval to the switch. A good mono recording is hopelessly outclassed by the spectacular stereo version.

"Imported Carr, American Gas." Carole Carr; Orchestra, Warren Barker and Pete King, conds. Warner Bros. WS 1316, \$4.98 (SD).

This newly arrived English singer has already been dubbed, by some bright Hollywood lad, as the girl with "The Pure Cashmere Voice." I'll concede that the voice is pleasantly warm, but it definitely isn't woolly. Furthermore, it is vibrant and expressive, and Miss Carr is obviously a singer who knows just what she wants to do with a song and how best to do it. Unfortunately, 1 don't think this program is designed to display her at her best. The special material numbers are well enough handled, but they are a little too "special," and it strikes me that the bop chorus in *Come Runnin'* is definitely not in her line. She has, however, the benefit of excellent arrangements by the two conductors, plus fine Warner Brothers stereo sound. Her next record should be worth waiting for.

"Romance à la Mood." Pierre Chaille and The Grande Orchestre. ABC-Paramount ABC 280, \$3.98 (LP).

What distinguishes this dise from so many similarly styled recordings is the inclusion of some once-popular, now almost forgotten items such as The Love Nest, Dancing Tambourine, I've Got Rings on My Fingers, and A Shine on Your Shoes. Chaille goes in for extremely lush arrangements, and for optimum effect uses an orchestra of more than fifty musicians. The Continental touch is applied to good purpose, and most of these American numbers sound surprisingly fresh and attractive. The sound is powerful, but on the whole not unpleasantly so.

"All the King's Songs." Teddi King; Orchestra, Lew Douglas and Johnny Richards, conds. Coral 57278, \$3.98 (LP); Coral 757278, \$4.98 (SD).

Teddi King, who came out of Boston with an enviable reputation as a jazz singer, now appears on her fourth-and decidedly her best-record as a pops singer. In striking contrast to current singers who try to impress the listener by practically deafening him, Miss King uses her small, sweet voice with discretion and makes her effects by understatement. There is still strong evidence of her feeling for jazz in several of these songs. And this feeling is accentualed when she is backed by Charlie Shavers' trumpet, Jimmy Cleveland's trombone, and Phil Bodner's clarinet. Elsewhere the string backgrounds by Johnny Richards gracefully complement Miss King's warm singing. Although all these songs are closely associated with male singers, there is nothing at all incongruous in Miss King appropriating them, pro tem, and making them her own.

#### "Way Out Far." The Lewis Sisters. Liberty LST 7128, \$4.98 (SD).

None of your old-fashioned two-part harmony for the Lewis Sisters, a pair of vocalists who have set out to exploit every known and unknown vocal combination. They run the scale from outright dissonance to harmony so close that it is barely distinguishable from the sound produced by a single voice. It's all extremely complicated, puzzling-and dare one say it-odd-ball. It is also completely fascinating. To appreciate entirely the subtle interweaving of vocal sounds calls for a good deal of concentration. If you can manage that, I think you will be well rewarded. The imagination displayed by the singers is well matched

Continued on page 108

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by that of the admirable small group of supporting musicians.

"My Heart Sings." Paul Anka; Orchestra, Don Costa, cond. ABC-Paramount ABC 296, \$3.98 (LP).

There are about three numbers on Paul Anka's program that are sung with all the dramatic fervor that has endeared this young Canadian singer to the hearts of American teen-agers. So far, so good. When he attempts to tackle more sophisticated Pavisian songs, however, he comes a cropper. There is neither subtlety nor shading in his delivery of these numbers; and if the lyries mean anything at all to him, you would never know what. Surrounding him with a choir and adding one or two orchestral gimmicks hasn't helped much.

"Melis at Midnight." José Melis, His Piano and Strings. Seeco CELP 4140, \$4.98 (SD).

Backed by a group of string players, José Melis-musical director and pianist for Jack Paar-runs through a fine program of selections that range from the delicate *Lilacs in the Rain* to the exciting *Cuban Concerto*. Between these two extremes are some deft performances of pleasant background-music standards. The only trouble is that Mr. Melis' playing is too good to be comfortably ignored as unobtrusive background. I suggest that you don't wait until midnight to put this on your machine. Stereo sound, as such, is perfectly satisfactory, but there is an occasional unpleasant edge to the strings.

JOHN F. INDCOX



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#### Foreign Flavor

"Solo Flamenco ... The Fabulous Sabicas." Sabicas, guitar. ABC-Paramount ABC 304, \$3.98 (LP).

The gypsy genius for flamenco flickers through Sabicas' recital of ten of his own compositions in classical flamenco molds: stately soleáres, heartbroken siguiriyas, a bouncy zambra. Sabicas' technique defies description. His sure fingers shape and reshape chords with incredible swiftness: what emerges is a kind of breathtaking chromatic cascade always controlled but always emotionally supple. A blazing performance by a great guitarist. ABC's sound is as pure as Sabicas' art.

"Piaf." Edith Piaf; Robert Chauvigny and His Orchestra. Capitol T 10210, \$3.98 (LP).

It is now twelve years since Edith Piaf, tiny and unbeautiful, burst upon the American scene with songs such as Les Trois Cloches and La Vie en Rose. Her voice is an extraordinary combination of sweetness and toughness. No one can limn the lovelorn whore more effectively than she; no one can capture the heart-break of everyday life more movingly. And her versatility continues to surprise: you will not soon forget her hair-raising treatment of the marchlike Les Grognards on this release, or her bittersweet La Foule. Piaf, a torcher who generates light as well as heat, reputedly receives \$1,000 a performance. By this measure, as well as any other, Capitol's brilliantly engineered disc is a rare bargain.

"Gigi." Original French Version. Maurice Chevalier, Sacha Distel, Marie-France,

Jane Marken. Orchestra, Paul Baron, cond. Columbia WL 158, \$4.98 (LP). Even in French-or, perhaps, even better in French-Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe's songs for Gigi impress one as superlative musical comedy. Chevalier is the whole show here, with his insouciant decadence delicately enhanced by the droll overtones of the French idiom. Sacha Distel is a properly baffled nephew, Marie-France a charming Gigi, and Paul Baron's work hubbles like champagne-and not the California variety.

<sup>d</sup>Blood Wedding Suite." Vicente Comez, guitar. Decca DL 8918, \$3.98 (LP); DL 78918, \$5.98 (SD).

Vicente Gomez, a madrileño who plays a lithe-fingered, golden-toned guitar, has composed the music for several Hollywood films. Here, in an obvious labor of love, he has written a suite based upon Federico García Lorca's darkling play Blood Wedding. In this death-shadowed drama, centered upon a rural blood fend, Lorca probes the Spanish obsessions with fecundity and honor. Gomez's somber, intensely Spanish score echoes the brooding lyricism of Lorca's tragedy, and the composer plays it with skill and economy. The lone guitar, with its hints of cante

Continued on page 110


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jondo, conveys perfectly the play's aura of doom, vengeance, and ultimate futility. Comez fills out the overside with sevcral short compositions of his own as well as works of Sor, Tarrega, and his West Coast colleague, Victor Young. Lustrous sound.

### "The Swinging Leny Eversong." Leny Eversong; Pierre Dorsey and His Or-

chestra. Seeco CELP 435, \$3.98 (LP). Big sound, big songs, and a big woman with a big voice make-you guessed ita big record. Brazilian Leny Eversong, a 280-pound bleached blonde, sings here in four languages. Her voice-deep, rich, powerful-swings in a subtle approximation of jazz that imparts new colors and new depths to international hits like Granada, Fascination, and In My Soli-tude. While superficially the two have little in common, I think that admirers of Mahalia Jackson would readily appreciate the Eversong style. Lucid, wellbalanced engineering. Audition this one: you won't regret it.

"Continental Visa Renewed." Raoul Meynard and His Orchestra. Warner Bros. WS 1320, \$4.98 (SD).

Once again Meynard displays his ability to impart a new flavor to seasoned international staples. Although his arrangements are as ornate as the genre seems to demand, Meynard focuses attention upon hoth the melody and spirit of a song. He offers nothing profound, but his music is eminently listenable, particularly in the full, three-dimensional sweep of Warner Brothers' stereo.

### "Latin Love." Bob Bain, guitar. Capitol T 1201, \$3.98 (LP).

A tour de force for Boh Bain who, by the process of multiple recording, strums twoguitar versions of standard Latin favorites -Bésame Mucho, Perfidia, Brazil, etc. Refreshingly enough, Bain concentrates upon melody and subtle harmony; while he by no means ignores rhythm, he does not subordinate every other musical value to it. In these days when every Mudcat Band north of Yucatan whips these songs into a cha-cha-cha frenzy, Bain's lyrical approach is doubly enjoyable. Clear, close sound.

"Songs of the British Isles." Norman Luboff Choir. Columbia CL 1348, \$3.98 (LP).

Norman Luboff's talented vocal ensemble is Columbia's answer to RCA's Robert Shaw and Capitol's Roger Wagner. Luboff's latest essay-in the realm of English, Scottish, and Welsh ballads-is suave, shimmering, and sumptuously recorded. As with many of this conductor's finest arrangements, several on this release (among them, surprisingly but effectively, The Girl I Left Behind Me) are redolent of a fugitive melancholy that deepens their appeal. The performances are uniformly superior.

"Cavallaro with That Latin Beat." Carmen Cavallaro, piano; instrumental ac-

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HIGH FUELITY MAGAZINE





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NOVEMBER 1959

companiment. Decca DL 8864, \$3.98 (LP).

Backed by a solid-sounding quartet, Carmen Cavallaro caresses the ivories with his habitual good taste. The emphasis here is on variegated Latin rhythms-nothing new, God knows-but Cavallaro takes on the assignment with zest, romping through La Cumparsa, Frenesi, and Green Eyes as though they were as fresh as this morning. A sophisticated pianist, he provides a full measure of entertainment, and Decca's engineers have miked him with crisp clarity.

"Russian Songs and Dances." Chorus of the Volga and Ensemble of Folk Instruments, P. Miloslavov, cond. Monitor MF 319, \$4.98 (LP).

Still another Russian assemblage displays the power and vitality of their Moisheyev and Beryozka cousins. All of the Volga group's choral works have as their subject the great river and its hinterland; all are as deep and rolling as the stream itself. Notably, The Broad Steppe is at once lovely and vigorous, while the chorus' a cappella Song of the Volga Boatmen transforms that chestmit into a magnificent listening experience. The sound is perfectly acceptable, but somewhat brassier than Monitor has heretofore derived from Soviet tapes. Russian and English texts provided.

"Captivation." The Outriggers. Warner Bros. WS 1314, \$4.98 (SD).

- "The 50th State." Charles Bud Dant, His Chorus and Orchestra. Coral CRL 57270, \$3.98 (LP); CRL 757270, \$4.98 (SD). "R.S.V.P." The Invitations; Russ Garcia
- "R.S.V.P." The Invitations; Russ Garcia and His Orchestra. Liberty LST 7117, \$4.98 (SD). "My Hawaii." Ed Kenney; Luther Hen-
- "My Hawaii." Ed Kenney; Luther Henderson and His Orchestra. Columbia CL 1333, \$3.98 (LP).

If Hawaiian statehood has served no other purpose, it has at least given every islander who can carry a tune, sound an A, or scrape a gourd the opportunity to cut a disc for a mainland label. Leading off this month's batch of musical poi are Warner Brothers' Outriggers, a rather conventional, but extremely capable, rhythm and steel guitar combo. Their well-rounded repertory includes Blue Hawaii, The Hukilau Song, and Lovely Hula Hands. Superior sound save for small-scale shattering in the high frequencies.

Also in stereo (as well as monophonic), and more cleanly engineered, is Coral's *The 50th State*. Maestro Dant's choristers do a bouncy job on both *Pagan Love Song* and *Hawaiian War Chant*, but their accents are of Ohio rather than Oahu. Unfortunately, the program features several potboilers—*Hawaii Is the 50th Stars* etc.—that must have been knocked ont in the first twenty minutes of statchood.

Another robust-sounding two-channel disc, Liberty's R.S.V.P., introduces The Invitations, a Hawaiian vocal quintet that, in general, sings with the naïveté of a college group. Occasionally, howeveras in the introduction to Ka Makani Kaili Aloha-they evince a genuine potential. Perhaps the gem of the lot is Colum-

Perhaps the gem of the lot is Columbia's My Hawaii, featuring Ed Kenney, star of Broadway's Flower Drum Song. A native of Hawaii, Kenney intersperses his songs with authentic chants. In true island songs, such as Liliu E and Kalalea, Kenney's flexible baritone and command of the idiom merit a lei, but he becomes downright saccharine in the likes of Sweet Leilani and the ubiquitous Blue Hawaij. Fine, full-bodied sound throughout.

"Folk Songs from the Philippines." Bernabe Roxas Solis and group, featuring Corbelita Astraquillo and A. Caviles,

Jr., soloists. Ultra 334-1, \$4.98 (LP). One defect prevents this record from being outstanding. The songs themselves are little known and stunningly melodic. The Solis Group performs with sure skill, and the soloists-particularly Miss Astraquillo in the haunting Ang Dalagang Bukid-are excellent. An accompanying booklet contains full texts and translations of the songs. All in all, a rare combination of diligence and artistry. However-and this is a king-sized howeverthe engineer has betrayed the entire proceeding: the reproduction is lamentable, with distortion throughout its entire range. Barely tolerable on good equipment, the disc gains acceptability on medium- and low-fi systems, which tend to blur its shortcomings.



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"Not Too Seriously." Mira, accompanying herself on the guitar. Ultra 334-2, \$4.98 (LP).

Mira precedes each of her seventeen ballads (sung in twelve-count themreasonably fluent languages) with a spoken précis of the content. It's a good idea, although the singer tends to overdramatize the import of her material. Unfortunately, Mira's vocal gifts equal neither her linguistic accomplishments nor her diligence as a collector of songs. Her soprano wobbles-sometimes rather badly. Still, her enthusiasm and sincerity along with the outstanding songs she has gathered on this disc-e.g., the Spanish El Vito, the Hebrew Lo Va Yom, the Russian Och Ti Sertze-merit attention. The sound is harsh and lacks definition.

### "Reveillon No Estoril." Line Renaud; Or-

chestra. Pathé ATX 130, \$5.95 (LP). This release, taped during actual performance in Portugal, documents Line Renaud's appearances in Estoril. The French thrush is her usual vivacious self, although her songs-all French, incidentally, despite the album's Portuguese title -are second-rank. There is applause ad nauseam, and Mile. Renaud engages in some odd antics with her audience. Pathé's engineering is excellent, but this disc is limited in appeal (as well as content-a skimpy nine songs). Few beside the vocalist's most ardent aficionados would play it more than once.

O. B. BRUMMELL



"March Steps in Stereo." Warner Brothers Band, Henry Mancini, cond. Warner Bros. WS 1312, \$4.98 (SD)

Bros. WS 1312, \$4.98 (SD). That the versatile Mr. Mancini has not been beguiled by his "Peter Gunn" successes into abandoning his first love, the military band, was indicated just a year ago in his "Sousa in Hi-Fi" program and confirmed now in the present miscellany of favorite American (National Emblem, American Patrol, On the Mall, Marines' Hymn, etc.) and European (Colonel Bogey, Under the Double Eagle, and Entry of the Gladiators) marches. These too are all played with indefatigable vigor, zip, and drive in ultrabrilliant, widespread, and rambunctious stereoism.

"Operatic Highlights for Orchestra, Vol. 5." London Symphony Orchestra, Pierivo Gamba, cond. London CS 6087, \$4.98 (SD).

I lost touch with this series soon after its debut nearly a decade ago, but the latest example gives impressive testimony that its high technical standards are still rigorously maintained in stereo notable for its wide dynamic range, beautifully blended channels, and warm, natural acoustics. The present program also is interesting for its frankly Italianate readings, more fervently emotional than we usually hear, of such war horses as the Traviata Preludes, Cavalleria rusticana Intermezzo, Vespri Siciliani Overture, and Gioconda Dance of the Hours-and for the onetime child-prodigy conductor Pierino Gamba's inclusion of the less familiar melodramatic Cleopatra Overture by Mancinelli and the old-fashioned romantic Notturno by Martucci (although the last-named work is scarcely "operatic" except in its rich songfulness).

### "Persuasive Percussion." Terry Snyder and the All Stars. Command RS 800 SD, \$5.98 (SD).

This new label's debut in the audiophileshowpiece stakes certainly lives up to its name with its arresting black-and-white dotted cover and the bold claims of its album notes for the dynamic channelbalancing and transient-response-checking virtues of its contents. And the fancy Lew Davies novelty arrangements not only effectively exploit the extraordinarily (even in these days) wide dynamic frequency range and marked channel differentiations of the recording, but alsowith the help of dramatic channel switching-do indeed provide useful and rigorous playback system tests.

The performances themselves are mostly overhard and glassily brilliant, but the driving versions of I Surrender Dear, I Love Paris, Tabu, and Japanese Sandman in particular do have considerable zest as

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well as ultrarealistic and transient-rich scratcher, cowbell, drum, marimba, and especially Chinese bell-tree sonics (along with those of a far less attractive accordion, electronic organ, and electronic guitar). Among these infinite varieties of jingle-jangle, the omnivorous sound fancier will certainly find a few new sonic titillations.

"Bahia." Arthur Lyman Ensemble. HIFI Record R 815, \$4.95 (LP); SR 815, \$5.95 (SD).

The fifth in Lyman's best-selling series proves that his particular mine of Hawaiian exoticism is far from exhausted and that his engineers are still discovering new ways to exploit the superb acoustics of the Kaiser Aluminum-Dome auditorium and the transient-rich sonorities of vibes, marimba, bongo drums, etc. Of the dozen present examples, the most captivating are the jangly Jungle Jalopy, glit-tering Maui Chimes, catchy Tropical, and clattering Busy Port, but the eight others all have considerable sonic-if minimal musical-interest, especially in the atmospheric and antiphonal stereo version.

Scots Guards Regimental Band and Massed Pipers: "Hi-Fi in the High-lands"; "Marches for Pipes and Drums." Angel S 35464 (SD); S 35774 (SD); \$5.98 each.

I'm afraid I have to take even the best examples of unleavened bagpiping (and the present one, S 35774, surely tops them all in pipe-and-drum-timbre au-thenticity and expansive out-of-doorsy stereoism) in mercifully limited doses. I can assure non-Sassenach connoisseurs, however, that this disc is the closest home-reproduction yet of the unique Gaelic march music. S 35464, with only four short bands of piping, is more suitable for general recommendation, for although the Regimental Band's present marches are musically less interesting than those in previous Scots Guards releases, there is the irresistible attraction of a splendid Fantasy on Kennedy-Fraser's Songs of the Hebrides, as well as the delight of ringing sonorities captured in stereo even more impressively than in the LP.

"The Golden Touch of Frank Cammarata at the Organ." ABC-Paramount ABC 302, \$3.98 (LP).

For all some seemingly inescapable throb and thud, the tonal qualities of the Conn "Classic" instrument are far less syntheticsounding than most others of their kind. and Cammarata displays a tasteful choice of registrations, exceptionally light touch, virtuosic éclat, and imaginative programing. In addition to the expected pops standards (topped by a frisky Nola and infectiously spirited Miserlou), he brings genuine verve to his ingenious arrangements of the Brahms Fifth Hungarian Dance, Sarasate Zigeunerweisen, and (most effectively of all) a sparkling transcription of the Scherzo from Kabaleysky's Comedians-all of which are cleanly and attractively, if somewhat dryly, recorded.

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NOVEMBER 1959

"Exotica, Vol. 3." Martin Denny Ensemble. Liberty LST 7116, \$4.98 (SD). There is still a good deal of cocktail-hour sentimentality in the latest installment of Denny's "Exotica" series, as well as insensate plugging of jungle effects, but there also is far richer atmospherism in the present Harbor Lights, a glassily piquant Limehouse Blues, racing Congo Train, and the glittering cross-channel antiphonal Caravan. And the markedly stereoistic recording itself is more dazzling and smoothly spread than ever.

"Highland Pageautry." Pipes and Drums and Regimental Band of the Black Watch. RCA Victor LSP 1525, \$4.98 (SD).

Here there is certainly no indication of the brass "veiling" or "ragged edge to the wailing pipes" mentioned in the February 1958 review of the LP of this program. In the comparatively few and brief selections for pipes and drums only, the marked channel separation gives them far better, and more dramatic, tonal authenticity; while the big-band works, and especially the long and well-varied medley of Harry Lander songs, have a fine ringing sonority in extremely broadspread stereoism. The rollicking Wee MacGregor patrol piece, however, is considerably less impressive than in its memorable Scots Guards performance for Angel.

"The Singing Trumpet." Rafael Mendez; Orchestra, Russ Carcia, cond. Decca DL 8869, \$3.98 (LP); DL 78869, \$5.98 (SD).

Devotees of the virtuoso trumpet will delight in a full-length program in which one of its outstanding masters, Rafael Mendez, hogs the spotlight throughout. But neither the pops tunes (Sleepy Lagoon, Body and Soul, etc.) he embellishes here, nor his transcriptions ("Un bel di" from Madama Butterfly, Les Filles de Cadiz, and the Waltz from Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings) are really suitable materials for such unabashed floridity; and his own three pieces in Spanish style are only blandly sentimental when they are not pretentiously showy. But at least the closely miked, strongly stereoistic recording realistically captures the solo in-strument's plangent brilliance and (here) limited coloristic variety. The LP ver-sion is also clean and brilliant, but considerably more constricted sonically.

"German Overtures." Orchestra of the German Municipal Opera, Artur Rother, cond. Telefunken TC 8020, \$1.98 (LP); TCS 18020, \$2.98 (SD).

(LP); ICS 18020, \$2.98 (SD). There is excellent musical value here, especially in the first stereo version of Gluck's *Iphigénie en Aulide* Overture (Wagner concert edition), which is played with nnble dramatic breadth and power, and in the well-controlled and animated performances of Weber's Oberon and Nicolai's Merry Wives of Windsor (the Humperdinck Hänsel und Gretel is rather too stolid for my taste). But the technology is less satisfactory, for in the rather esaggerated and separated stereoism, occasional woodwind soloist spotlighting, and overdry acoustics, the or

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chestral sonics seem thinned out and lacking in depth and warmth; while in monophony the ff high strings are stridently sharp-edged.

"Subliminal Sounds." Leo Diamond and his Orchestra. ABC-Paramount ABC 303, \$3.98 (LP).

The title is apparently metaphorical-or if there is any concealed message here, it's just too subliminal for me to eatch. And "orehestra" too is stretching things a bit since, besides a rhythm section, the ensemble consists mainly of harmonicas and what the notes describe only as "kinstruments" (how many players are actually concerned beyond the multidubbed Mr. Diamond himself is not clear). But at any rate the potentialities of harmonica timbres are exploited and transformed beyond belief-and perhaps need. The tunes are mostly pops standards, but in their present transmogrifications they-and Diamond's own four originals-become true sonic curios.

"Pops Caviar." Boston Pops Orchestra, Arthur Fiedler, cond. RCA Victor LSC 2202, \$5.98 (SD).

Although quite obviously not of the latest vintage, the recording here was considered outstanding when it first appeared monophonically a year and a half ago, and it now benefits considerably, especially in its reverberant big-hall acoustics, from the present unexaggerated stereoism. The performances, however, which alternate violently between overexpressivity and slambang vehemence, do better justice to the Pops Orchestra's bravura than to Rimsky-Korsakov's Russian Easter Overture, and Borodin's In the Steppes of Central Asia, Prince Igor Overture and Poloctsian Dances.

"You Ain't Heard Nothin' Yet!" Warner Bros. XS 1307, \$1.98 (SD).

As befits its Hollywood origins, Warner Brothers' demo-sampler is the brassiest yet. Its introductory "Cavalcade of Sound" enlists no less than four film and TV stars as cross-channel narrators (Efrem Zimbalist, Jr., Roger Smith, James Gardner, and Edd "Kookie" Byrnes) and recounts the history of sound recording from the first "talkie," The Jazz Singer (produced by guess who), to the stereo of today; following which the latter is illustrated without commentary, by some dozen examples of current WB pops releases, all of them recorded with extreme brilliance and channel separation.

"Bouquet." Percy Faith Strings. Columbia CL 1322, \$3.98 (LP). Even in LP, Faith's forty-eight strings

Even in LP, Faith's forty-eight strings (plus harp, piano, guitar, and vibraphone) are Mantovanian-lush in elaborate arrangements of the title piece and eleven other pieces of the same emotional kind. But the whistling high-string fortissimos are often almost too intense for the ultrarich and high-level recording's capacities. I suspect that the simultaneously released stereo version, which I haven't yet heard, probably handles them with less obvious strain.

R. D. DARRELL

JAZZ

"The Birth of Jazz." Folkways FA 2464, \$5.95 (LP).

The fourth volume in Samuel B. Charters' valuable "Music of New Orleans" series is colorful and has its merits hut, because it contains relatively little music, it is not quite up to the level of the first three volumes. This time Charters has attempted to portray the setting in which the carliest forms of jazz were created. Louis Keppard (brother of Freddie) tries to re-create with his voice the way a 1910 New Orleans hand would play Bucket's Got a Hole in It; Charlie Love and Harrison Barnes recall Buddy Bolden and the Bolden band; H. J. Boinsseau describes the early days of Storyville. The only music included is Boiusseau's few rather stumbling piano solos and a rugged, intensely deliberate performance of Maple Leaf Rag by a group which includes Love on trumpet and Emile Barnes on clarinet. A picture emerges from this disc, but it could come as well, or possibly better (barring Maple Leaf Rag and Keppard's ingratiating reminiscence), from a written report of these interviews.

Count Basic and His Orchestra: "Breakfast Dance and Barbecue." Roulette 52028, \$3.98 (LP); S 52028, \$4.98 (SD).

The Basie band, playing at a dance for a convention of disc jockeys, holds to medium, easygoing tempos, skips any effort to bring forward soloists, and concentrates on the present band's superb saxophone section. The result is one of the best discs the band has turned out-relaxed, and full of some of the most stimulating saxophone ensembles recorded in recent years. Even blues shouter Joe Williams sings with some signs of sensitivity.

Buck Clayton and His All-Stars: "Songs for Swingers." Columbia CL 1320,

\$3.98 (LP); CS 8123, \$4.98 (SD). Swing, in its best sense, will apparently be with us at least as long as the Basie Alumni Association lasts. For this generally productive session, Clayton has splendid company: Buddy Tate playing tenor saxophone in a consistently strong, supple, and lifting fashion; Earl Warren, less consistent on alto but, when he is not playing too broadly, showing a hardtoned, driving style that rides with a grace suggestive of Benny Carter; Emmett Berry providing a sharp, edgy transpet contrast to Clayton's muted delicacy; and the lusty trombone of Dickie Wells. Backed by a spirited rhythm section (Al Williams, Gene Ramey, Herbie Lovelle), the group comes out swinging brilliantly on the opening selection, Swinging at the Copper Bar, and maintains a good swinging pace through both sides of the disc.

Eddie Condon and His Chicagoans: "That Toddlin' Town." Warner Bros. W 1315, \$3.98 (LP); WS 1315, \$4.98 (SD).

HIGH FIDELITY MAGAZINE

There are a couple of subtitles on this one-"Chicago Revisited" and "In Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the First Jazz Album Ever Recorded." It is, in effect, a re-creation of a re-creation. In 1939 George Avakian produced for Decca an album by Condon's gang, recalling the records by that group made in the late Twenties and later identified as "Chicago jazz." Now Avakian has produced another album by Condon's gang recalling both events. It boils down to performances of some sturdy tunes notable for Pee Wee Russell's breathy adventurousness in the low, quiet reaches of the clarinet, forthright, slashing tenor saxophone work by Bud Freeman, and Max Kaminsky's clean and insistent trumpet.

### Miles Davis: "Kind of Blue." Columbia CL 1355, \$3.98 (LP); CS 8163, \$4.98 (SD).

The effect of Davis' association with Gil Evans shows strongly in this set. Although Davis plays here with his own sextet and without Evans' arrangements, what we hear is the pure-toned, singing Davis first defined within the guidelines of Evans' arrangements. And while these are Davis' most consistent performances yet put on a single disc, they emphasize the limitations of his present group. Davis has sketched out five attractive pieces which provide good ensemble material leading to appealing solos by himself. Bill Evans occasionally adds further solo interest on piano, but the potential effectiveness of the pieces is invariably dissipated in the course of protracted solos by John Coltrane and Julian Adderley, who move as if by instinct away from the lyricism and strong sense of form that Davis bequeaths to them in his solos.

### Duke Ellington's Orchestra: "Anatomy of a Murder." Columbia CL 1360, \$3.98 (LP); CS 8166, \$4.98 (SD).

Ellington's first film score is also one of the more disciplined of his large-scale efforts. The padding frequently charac-teristic of his longer works is largely absent here-possibly because of the functional nature of the writing (though the functional nature sometimes makes the performances annoyingly fragmentary). There is more strong, dark, singing Ellington here than the Duke has produced in a long time, passages which can stand up with the work of the Ellington band's finest days (the Ellington band must always be considered as one of the essential clements of an Ellington composition). The band rises to the occasion, finding that blend of polish, elegance, and earthiness peculiar to the Duke or playing with a heel-kicking, joyful abandon that no other band has approached. Soloists weave in and out of the proceedings (Johnny Hodges is particularly brilliant in a strong, gutty blues), but here the Duke is not depending on his soloists to carry him. This time he is in complete control.

Duke Ellington and Johnny Hodges: "Back to Back." Verve 8317, \$4.98 (LP).



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ard can listen to this disc with equanimity and even pleasure.

### Wynton Kelly: "Kelly Blue." Riverside 12298, \$4.98 (LP).

Kelly plays piano both as part of a trio and with a sextet on this disc. Because he has a strongly rhythmic attack and an approach that ranges from a wide orchestral use of the keyboard to a Jamallike suggestiveness, his trio selections have both variety and content in greater degrees than those of most of his contemporaries. He emerges equally well from the sextet surroundings, which include strong solos by Nat Adderley on cornet and Benny Golson on tenor saxophone.

### Merle Koch: "Shades of Jelly Roll." Carnival 102, \$4.98 (LP).

Koch is a pianist from the West Coast who was taken to New Orleans by clarinetist Pete Fountain when the latter left Lawrence Welk to return to his home town. Although Jelly Roll Morton is the focal point of this set of soles, there is not much of Morton's style in Koch's playing. He seems to come from that midwestern line of pianists exemplified by Jess Stacy. This style he plays well on its own terms, but in a Morton context it seems pronouncedly uninflected and raggy in contrast to Jelly's more flexible, bluestouched manner. There are suggestions in some of these selections that, given a situation where he does not have to battle as formidable a shadow as Morton's, Koch can be a convincing traditionalist pianist. As it is, he comes a lot closer to the meat of Morton than does Dr. Edmond Souchon, the indefatigable New Orleans jazz buff, who tries to sing four selections.

### Humphrey Lyttelton and His Band "Humph Dedicates." London LL 3132, \$3.98 (LP).

Once the leading figure in the traditional jazz revival in England, trumpeter Humphrey Lyttelton now leads an eightpiece band which is swing-based and rooted in the musical individualities of its own personnel. This disc is not a completcly satisfactory representation of present-day Lyttelton, however, hecause its programing is derivative (it consists of tunes associated with well-known jazz groups-Sleepy Time Down South, For Dancers Only, Marie, etc.) even though the performances are not, and because more than half the selections are per-formed by expanded versions of Lyttelton's regular band. Lyttelton himself appears to have been strongly influenced by the Ellington trumpets (Cootie Williams and Rex Stewart) since he left his Louis Armstrong days behind and he is extremely effective when he is biting and slashing through a mute. However, he has sidemen who are more than a match for him-tenor saxophonist Jimmy Skidmore, who roars exhilaratingly through Marie; Tony Coe, an alto saxophonist who has achieved some suggestion of the floating case of Johnny Hodges; and a brilliantly fluent baritone saxophonist, Joe Temberley. Lyttelton's octet is con-



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sistently stimulating and it is unfortunate that it has to share space on this disc with the far less satisfying larger groups.

Billy Maxted and His Manhattan Jazz Band: "Bourbon Street, Billy and the Blues." Seeco 4380, \$4.98 (SD).

Maxted heads a septet that depends for its material on many of the standbys of traditional jazz, but his group approaches them in a smoother, less ragging fashion than one is accustomed to. He has an engaging trumpeter in Chuck Forsyth and an erratic but interesting clarinetist, Dan Tracey. But I must confess to a built-in prejudice against any record that devotes almost nine minutes to another weary march with The Saints.

### Turk Murphy and His Band: "At the

Round Table." Roulette R 25076, \$3.08 (LP); S 25076, \$4.98 (SD). Murphy's rhythm section may be heavy, but when it gets rolling you really know there's something pushing the band. This disc is made up of the now standard assortment for Murphy of jazz tunes from the Twenties and originals. Bob Helm's clarinet enlivens most of the selections, and a girl vocalist, Pat Yankee, tackles a couple of Bessie Smith numbers with commendable energy and seemingly with an equally commendable lack of illusion that she can hope to copy the Empress of the Blues.

## George Russell and His Orchestra: "New York, N. Y." Decca DL 9216, \$4.98 (LP); 79216, \$5.98 (SD).

The musical portrait of New Yorkwhich almost always emerges as a chromium, sound-track sound with generous helpings of Manhattan Tower and The Sidewalks of New York-is tackled from a new angle by composer-arranger George Russell. He uses three familiar tunes (Manhattan, Autumn in New York, How About You) along with three of his own compositions as the basis for a tour of the city presented in modern jazz terms, a tour guided by a commentary couched in hip terms and briskly delivered by Jon Hendricks. Russell's music is fresh and often diverting, and he gets some excellent solo performances from Bill Evans, Bob Brookmeyer, and John Coltrane. But Russell tends to linger too long over each section, to milk it for more than it is worth. And even though Hendricks gives the commentary needed vitality, it has a narrow and self-conscious outlook.

Teddy Wilson and His Trio: "Gypsy in Jazz." Columbia CL 1352, \$3.98 (LP); CS 8160, \$4.98 (SD).

The life-giving qualities of Teddy Wilson's piano have rarely been better shown off than on this disc where he coaxes some spirit and vitality from the score of Gypsy, a score which seems to be one of Jule Styne's more arid ef-forts. In a signed liner statement, Styne graciously expresses appreciation for what Wilson has done with his tunesand well he might.

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The following reviews are of 4-track 7.5ips stereo tapes in normal reel form.

### COPLAND: Billy the Kid: Ballet Suite: Statements

London Symphony Orchestra, Aaron Copland, cond.

• • Evenest STBR 3015. 37 min. \$7.95.

These performances-first released six months ago in LP and SD pressingsrepresent Aaron Copland's debut as recording conductor, a debut he wisely delayed until he had acquired enough concert experience to join the thin ranks of composers capable of truly definitive editions of their own works. Casual listeners may miss some of the more overt drama of a Bernstein or Gould in the present ballet music, but for real aficionados Copland's reading reveals a piquancy, point, and wealth of inner detail almost exactly comparable to those which make Stravinsky's readings of his works unique and invaluable.

Like Stravinsky, Copland demands recording qualities a bit drier and tauter than usual, less notable for their sheerly sensuous appeal than for their accuracy to every nuance of phrasing and coloration in the score. The recording bere, perhaps even more than the stereo disc, meets the composer's demands completely and convinces attentive listeners that they are hearing exactly what Copland himself heard from the London Symphony players in the recording auditorium. In many other hands or in different sonics, the concise Statements of 1933-35 would surely seem far less individual and more abstract than they do here, where they reveal many little-known aspects of the composer's personality-particularly the brash humor of "Jingo" and somewhat sinister mysticism of "Prophetic."

(A two-track taping of these same performances is available at \$10.95, and sounds almost identical.)

### GERSHWIN: An American in Paris; Rhapsody in Blue

Bert Shefter, piano (in the Rhapsody); Warner Brothers Symphony Orchestra, Ray Heindorf, cond.

· · WARNER BROS. BST 1243. 32 min. \$7.95.

GERSHWIN: Rhapsody in Blue; Song Transcriptions: Someone to Watch Over Me, Liza, Love Walked In, Bidin' My Time, Maybe, I Got Rhythm

Roger Williams, plano; Symphony of the

NOVEMBER 1959

### Reviewed by R. D. DARRELL

Air, Willis Page, cond. (in the Rhapsody); Orchestra, Marty Gold, cond. (in the

Song Transcriptions). • • KAPP KST 41008, 36 min. \$7.95.

Heindorf's American in Paris is a bit slapdash and overexpressive, but his Rhapsody is romantically hish and mannered, with an almost complete lack of individuality in Shefter's highly competent pianism. The prime appeal here lies in the rightly brilliant, strongly stereoistic, and quite closely miked sonics.

The Williams tape, however, is a wholly delightful sleeper-the first recorded performance of the Rhapsody by a popular pianist (other than Gershwin himself) which is entirely free from mannerisms, sentimentality, and overinflation. Williams himself plays with admirable straightforwardness and vivacity, while Willis Page provides a no-less straightforward and sympathetic accompaniment. The recording too, with the soloist well to the right, is notably broadspread, rich, and completely faithful to the beautifully colored tonal qualities of both the soloist and the Symphony of the Air. The smaller orchestra in the song transcriptions is much less distinctive, and Williams (here apparently more nearly centered) chooses far too slow a tempo for my taste in Someone To Watch Over Me. But his Liza, both catchy and dazzlingly virtuosic, his highly original treatment of I Got Rhythm, his nnaccompanied nocturnelike Love Walked In, the lilt of Bidin' My Time, and the dreamy atmosphere of Maybe make this a tape that no Cershwinian can resist.



Shostakovich: a Fifth flawlessly captured.

### SHOSTAKOVICH: Symphony No. 5, in D, Op. 47

Stadium Symphony Orchestra of New York, Leopold Stokowski, cond. • EVEREST STBR 3010. 43 min.

\$7.95.

For all Stokowski's reputation for interpretative eccentricities, he always has played certain scores with scarcely a trace of idiosyncratic quirks, as well as a plenitude of his most characteristic dramatic cloquence. The Shostakovich Fifth is one of these; and although the conductor has had finer orchestras in the past, he gets more out of the Stadium Symphony than anyone else has so far on records (or perhaps off!), in the closest possible duplication of his famous Philadelphian reading which first introduced the Russian composer's finest achievement to American listeners. In the present taping, his performance now is technically as completely satisfying and exciting as it always has been interpretatively. I have seen some criti-cism of the disc version, but whatever justification that may have, it certainly is not applicable here, where the tape's moderate modulation level, wide dynamic and frequency ranges, well-marked yet unexaggerated stereoism, and natural hall reverberance capture flawlessly the dark yet piquant colors, the brilliancy, tremendous low-spectrum power and solidity of this symphonic masterpiece.

### TCHAIKOVSKY: Francesca da Rimini, Op. 32; Hamlet, Overture-Fantasia, Op. 67

Stadium Symphony Orchestra of New York, Leopold Stokowski, cond. • • EVEREST STBR 3011, 42 min. \$7.95.

These performances, reviewed last July in their two-track taping, sound wellnigh identical in four-track form, and 1 repeat my praise for both the remarkably restrained yet powerfully evocative readings and the superbly hig and anthentic sound of the stereo recordings.

"The Broadway Bit." Marty Paich and His Orchestra. Warner Bros. WST 1296, 35 min., \$7.95.

Since the notes provide no personnel information I can only assume that the soloists here are the stars they sound like. Pianist-arranger-leader Paich has

Continued on next page

### TAPE DECK

### Continued from preceding page

mustered a topnotch ensemble that plays with immense gusto. Particularly imaginative are his arrangements of *l've* Grown Accustomed to Her Face, I Love Paris, Lazy Afternoon, and The Surrey with the Fringe on Top. Though all the pieces are pops standards, the treatments are true—and very buoyant—jazz. The recording, extremely brilliant, has channel separation that would surely seem excessive for most types of music, but is surprisingly effective here.

Maurice Chevalier: "Sings Broadway" and "Yesterday and Today." Orchestra, Clenn Osser, cond. M-G-M ST 3738, 26 min., \$7.95, and ST 3702-03 (twinpack), 48 min., \$11.95.

The ageless boulevardier, who can still talk certain songs better than other stars can sing them, followed up his comeback on records with these programs on LP carlier this year. In stereo they bring him even more realistically into one's living room, and it would be quibbling to criticize the excessive channel separation here, with the soloist closely miked on the right in what sounds like an acoustical environment dissimilar to that of Osser's modest but competent accompanying orchestra. And what matter if not all of the dozen Broadway tunes in the shorter reel, and the no less than twentyfour old and new favorites in the "twinpack," are best suited to the Chevalier style, or that he sings only occasionally in French? He is his incomparable self, especially in C'est Magnifique and Do It Again (in ST 3738), Livin' in the Sunlight, Valentine, Hello Beautiful, The Yankee Doodle Boy, Rainbow Round My Shoulder, You Made Me Love You, and many others (in ST 3702-03). That should be more than enough for his innumerable old and many new admirers.

Ella Fitzgerald: "Sings the Irving Berlin Songbook." Paul Weston and His Orchestra. Verve CST4 203 (twin-pack), 89 min., \$11.95.

Another tape bargain, with the longest running time I've yet encountered on any single tape reel, and a wealth of Ella's finest ponjazz performanceswhich often put to shame those of more celebrated pops balladeers by their vocal appeal, clarity of eminciation, rhythmic lilt, and of course the captivating Fitzgerald personality. The thirty-one songs here are somewhat less absorbing to me than those in the Rodgers & Hart Songbook, but I could listen to Ella singing anything. For good measure, she is discreetly yet warmly accompanied and recorded throughout, and although her mike seems fairly close, voice and orchestra are beautifully balanced and integrated.

"Flamenco Fury." José Greco and Company. M-G-M ST 3741, 46 min., \$7.95. The "fury" in the title is slightly misleading, since, for all their verve and excitement, these performances lack the abandoned frenzy of less sophisticated flamenco interpreters, and moreover are most effective in the quieter pieces (like *Cana de los Cabales* and *Filigranes*). What we have here is one of the most persuasive and varied recorded introductions to the gypsy arts of dancing, singing, and guitar playing, a model of stereo effectiveness both in its clean-cut tonal differentiations and in the exceedingly ingenious exploitation of cross-channel antiphonies.

"Gigi," Recording from the sound track of the film. André Previn, cond. M-G-M ST 3641, 30 min., \$7.95.

The blustery overture and hit tunes from the Lerner & Loewe film score have become so familiar since the first LP appearance of this sound-track recording a year and a half ago, and they are moreover so stylistically reminiscent of the authors' My Fair Lady, that it is a pleasant surprise to find how much freshness and charm they acquire in the present taping—a vivid example of big and brilliant, widespread stereoism and of theatrical immediacy and presence.

"Let's Dance." David Carroll and His Orchestra. Mercury STA 60001, 27 min., \$6.95.

A Mercury two-track pops tape success of nearly two years ago, this still commands admiration for its bright and open, though rather light, recording. It also remains a sure best seller by virtue of its toe-tickling vivacity, especially in the title piece,



Ella Fitzgerald, captivating as ever.

Dancing Tambourine, A Gliss to Remember, and the extremely diverting Dixie Down Patrol.

"Paris in Stereo." Raymond Lefèvre and His "Grande" Orchestra. Kapp KT 41009, 30 min., \$7.95.

The orchestra unfortunately just isn't "grande" enough, especially in its string section, to cope successfully with dance versions of Offenbach's *Gaité Parisienne*, *La belle Hélène*, *La Vie Parisienne*, and *Apache Dance*, but its obvious zest (and the playing of the oboe and accordion soloists) are revealed to much better effect in such straight Gallic pops as A Paris, Valentine, and Song from the Moulin Rouge-all captured in clean, bright recording notable for its smooth hlend of markedly differentiated stereo channels.

"Porgy and Bess" Excerpts. Louis Armstrong; Ella Fitzgerald; Orchestra, Russ Garcia, cond. Verve VST4 206 (twinpack), 65 min., \$11.95.

What Ella and Louis do here may not be exactly what Gershwin intended-and it's a bit startling to find the former taking a chorus of I've Got Plenty of Nuttin' as well as the entire Buzzard Song-but the composer himself certainly would agree that the letter of the score is inconsequential without the proper spirit, and that is prodigiously evident in this performance. The long program has a few downs (getting off to a particularly poor start with Garcia's now pretentious, now sentimental Overture) as well as many ups, but at its frequent hest it is incomparable and rises to its peak in the superbly lilting final Oh Lawd, I'm on My Way. Not the least of the delights here is the presence (only too rare in tape releases) of the handsome illustrated booklet of notes accompanying the original disc albums, which (for those who still think tape too costly) are priced at \$9.96 (LP) and \$11.90 (stereo).

"77 Sunset Strip." Orchestra and Chorus, Warren Barker, cond. Warner Bros. WST 1289, 32 min., \$7.95.

A couple of the originals here (especially Late at Bailey's Pad and The Stu Bailey Blues) come off effectively, as do the catchy arrangements of You Took Adcantage of Me and Lover Come Back to Me. Still, having heard the "Peter Gunn" and "More Peter Gunn" recordings, I miss the greater gusto and drive of Mancini's scores and performances. The stereo recording here, however, is brilliant and strong, and many of the settings make clever use of cross-channel-response potentialities.

### "The Trombones, Inc." Warner Bros. WST 1272, 45 min., \$7.95.

I had no qualms about agreeing with John S. Wilson on the West Coast men's victory in this contest and the imaginative excellence of Warren Barker's arrangements (Lassus Trombone and Old Devil Moon in particular), but I still got considerable pleasure from the less spectacular, but to my ears far from "listless," East-Coast ("A"-side) trombonists. This decidedly ingenious program should appeal to many more listeners than trombone specialists alone, although perhaps only the latter can best appreciate the virtues of the strongly stereoistic, bigsound recording in differentiating so lucidly among the various soloists' tonal qualities. Players are identified in the accompanying notes, but to experienced ears these must be nearly superfluous.

"Waltz Masterpieces." Stadium Symphony Orchestra of New York, Raoul

Continued on page 128

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### Continued on page 130

### TAPE DECK

### Continued from page 124

Poliakin, cond. Everest STBR 3025, 38 min., \$7.95.

The recording sounds even better here than in the recently reviewed stereo disc edition-which unfortunately merely exposes more candidly the deficiencies of performance and interpretation: orchestral and acoustical coarseness, as well as the overintensity and heavy-handedness of Poliakin's readings.

- Roger Williams: "Near You." Piano; Orchestra and Chorus, Hal Kanner, cond.
- Kapp KT 41002, 33 min., \$7.95. Roger Williams: "Songs of the Fabulous Forties"; "Songs of the Fabulous Century." Piano; Orchestra, Marty Gold and Hal Kanner, conds. Kapp KT 45003 (twin-pack), 69 min.; KT 45006

(twin-pack), 74 min.; \$11.95 each. If I was ever inclined to brush off Roger Williams as just another of innumerable competent but scarcely distinguished cocktail-hour pianists, his recent Gershwin tape and the present batch of standard song and ballad evocations showed me how much I've been missing and misjudging. Although he is by no means another George Feyer, he has a hardly less winning way both with a good tune and florid pianistic embellishments. Less uncrring in his taste and tempos than Feyer, his prime virtue seems to me to be his powers of consistently maintaining whatever mood he first sets for a song transcription, and he usually picks one that persuasively justifies itself. He restrains his obvious virtuosity from meaningless displays of dexterity, while still bringing notable éclat to his best performances. His small-orchestra accompaniments are generally less imaginative than his own playing, but they too are restrained. And although the frequent deliberate shifts of the solo instrument (from one number to another) between a wellto-the-right and more nearly centered location can be a bit disconcerting, the recording throughout is clean and natural. For the most part Williams provides first-rate musical entertainment, and not infrequently commands the genuine magic of nostalgic sentiment. Even though there are no less than sixty-one transcriptions here (12 in KT 1002, 24 and 25 in the two "twin-packs"), my appetite is only whetted for more.

The following reviews are of 4-track 3.75ips stereo tapes in "cartridge" form.

"Around the World." Frankie Carle and His Orchestra. RCA Victor KPS 3002, 31 min., \$5.95.

Except in the contrastingly slow and lyrical Irish Lullaby, Carle's piano playing bounces emphatically through a lively international program (*Hindustan*, South American Way, Loch Lomond, etc.), to which a rhythm section contributes a heavy, plugging beat and a small ensemble discreetly decorative backgrounds.

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### TAPE DECK

### Continued from page 128

What surprises me is how well the marked stereoism and authentic tonal qualities stand up in a recording which first appeared two full years ago; it even sounds better here than in its original 1957 two-track taping.

Band of the Coldstream Guards, Major Douglas A. Pope, cond. RCA Victor KPS 3003 31 min \$5.95

KPS 3003, 31 min., \$5.95. I commented favorably on the premature release of this 3.75-ips tape last March when I could play it only in a reel transfer; now that I can hear it in cartridge playback, I find that more accurate equalization adds a notably brilliant high end to the stereo spaciousness admired earlier. As a consequence, the sizzling cymbals and plangent brass sonorities of the British Band impressively augment the glitter and bite of Major Pope's rousing performances of A Frangesa, El Abanico, Père de la Victoire, and the Cobenhaunor marches in particular. One of the best of the cartridge releases so far both for sonic-demonstration effectiveness and unrestricted musical appeal.

"Dancing with the Smart Set." Meyer Davis and His Orchestra. RCA Victor KPS 3032, 39 min., \$5.95.

Conventional dance materials, but hardly in the snave society vein one expects from Davis, since the arrangements (of *The Carioca, Waltz at Maxim's,* medleys from Gigi, Okluhoma, Can-Can, etc.) are surprisingly slapdash and both the doggedly brisk performances and strongly stereoistic recording lack any real distinction.

"Georges Feyer Takes You to Rodgers & Hammerstein's 'Oklahoma' and 'South Pacific.'" RCA Victor KPS 3016, 33 min., \$5.95.

The same coupling of familiar hit tunes, with Feyer's pianistic embellishments and rhythm-section accompaniments, was considerably less attractive sonically in last year's stereo disc version than in the separate release on 7.5-ips tapes (APS 145 and BPS 146), but happily the new taping recaptures all the warmth and ringing piano tone of the earlier one. as well as-of course-Feyer's own inimitable vivacity and grace.

"The Descri Song." Giorgio Tozzi, Kathy Barr, et al.; Chorus and Orchestra, Lchman Engel, cond. RCA Victor KPS 4000, 46 min., \$5.95.

The most faded of operettas is odd material indeed for sumptuous stereo recording. It may well delight whatever admirers Romberg's score still commands, but more sophisticated listeners are scarcely likely to be won over by the inflation to wide-screen grandiloquence of the stylistic incongruities between super masculine robustness (of Tozzi and Galjour in particular) and ingénnish warbling (in which Kathy Barr's pleasant small voice is forced into tremulous screams in the climaxes).

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MODEL TR-IAH: Half-track monophonic and skiereo record jalayback with fast loward and rewind functions. Shop, WL 35 lbs. \$14995

TR-TAH SPECIFICATIONS—Frequency response: 7.5 IPS  $\pm 3$  db 40-15,000 cps. 3.75 IPS  $\pm 3$  db 40-10,000 cps. 3.65 IPS  $\pm 3$  db 40-10,000 cps. 3.65 IPS  $\pm 3$  db 40-10,000 cps. 3.65 IPS  $\pm 3$  db 10-10,000 cps. 3.75 IPS  $\pm 3$  db 40-15,000 cps. 3.75 IPS  $\pm 3$  db 40-15,000 cps. 3.75 IPS  $\pm 3$  db 40-10,000 cps. 3.75 IPS \pm 3 db 40-10,000 cps. 3.75 IPS \pm 3.

MODEL TR-IAQ: Ouzrier-Irack monophonic and stereo with record /playback fast forward and rewind functions. \$14,995 Shop, Wt. 35 lbs.

TR-1AC SPECIFICATIONS—Frequency response: 7.5 IPS  $\pm 3$  db 40-15,000 cps. 3.75 IPS  $\pm 3$  db 40-10,000 cos. Signal-lo-noise ratio: 40 db below full output of .75 volis/channel. Harmonic distortion: Less Ihan 2% of full output. Elas erase: 60 ic (outsh-bull oscillator).





### HIGH FIDELITY AM TUNER KIT

#### MODEL BC-1A \$2695

Designed especially for high fidelity applications this AM tuner will give you reception close to FM. A special detector is incorporated and the IF circuits are "broadbanded" for low signal distortion. Sensitivity and selectivity are excellent and quiet performance is assured by high signal-to-noise ratio. All tunable components are prealigned. Your "best buy" in an AM tuner. Shpg. Wt. 9 lbs.



### HIGH FIDELITY FM TUNER KIT

### MODEL FM-3A \$2695

For noise and static-free sound reception, this FM tuner is your least expensive source of high fidelity material. Efficient circuit design features stabilized oscillator circuit to eliminate drift after warm-up and broadband IF circuits for full fidelity with high sensitivity. All tunable components are prealigned and iront end is preassembled. Edge-illuminated slide rule dial is elearly marked and covers complete FM band from \$8 to 108 mc. Shpg. Wt. 8 lbs. Top performance at budget cost!



NOTE THESE OUTSTANDING SPECIFICATIONS: Power Output: 14 walts. Hi-Fi; 12 walts, Professional; 16 walts, Utility. Power Response; ± 1 db from 20 cps to 20 ke at 14 walts output. Totat Harmonic Distortions: less than 1% at 16 walts output using 60 cps and 6 ke signal mixed 4:1 Hum and Molse: mac. ahono input, 47 db below 14 walts; tuner and crystal phono, 63 db below 14 walts.

### World's largest manufacturer of electronic instruments in kit form

HEATH COMPANY Benton Harbor, 40, Michigan

### "UNIVERSAL" HI-FI 12 WATT AMPLIFIER KIT

MODEL UA-1 \$2195

Ideal for stereo or monaural applications. Teamed with the Heathkit WA-P2 preamplifier, the UA-I provides an economical starting point for a hi-fi system. In stereo applications two UA-I's may be used along with the Heathkit SP-2, or your present system may be converted to stereo by adding the UA-I. Harmonic distortion is less than 2% from 20 to 20,000 CPS at full 12 watt output. "On-off" switch located on chassis and an octal plug is also provided to connect preamplifier for remote control operation. Shpg. Wt. 13 lbs.



### 14-WATT HI-FI ECONOMY AMPLIFIER (EA-3)

From HEATHKIT audio labs comes an exciting new kit . . . New Styling, New Features, Brilliant Per-formance! Designed to function as the "heart" of your hi-fi system, the EA-3 combines the preamplifier and amplifier into one compact package. Providing a full 14 watts of high fidelity power, more than adequate for operating the average system, the EA-3 provides all the controls necessary for precise blending of musical reproduction to your individual taste. Clearly marked controls give you finger-tip command of bass and treble "boost" and "cut" action, switch selection of three separate inputs, "on-off" and volume control. A hum balance control is also provided. The convenient neon pilot light on the front panel shows when instrument is on. Styled to blend harmoniously into any room surroundings, the handsome cover is of black vinyl coated steel with gold design and features the new "cycbrow" effect over the front panel to match the other new Heathkit hi-fi instruments. The panel is satin black with brush-gold trim strip, while the control knobs are black

with gold inserts. Shpg. Wt. 15 lbs.

#### CHAIRSIDE ENCLOSURE KIT TRADITIONAL: Model CE-82 (mahogany) CONTEMPORARY: Model CE-82 (birch) Model CE-2M (mahogany)

MODEL CE-2 \$4395

Space saving and attractive, the CE-2 puts control of your entire hi-fi system right at your chairside. Designed to house the Heathkit AM and FM tuners (BC-1A, FM-3A, FM-4), WA-P2 preamplifier, RP-3 record changer, and any of the Heathkit power amplifiers. Supplied in beautiful furniture-grade, vencer-surfaced plywood suitable for the finish of your choice. Shpg. Wt. 46 lbs.



### "EXTRA PERFORMANCE" 55 WATT HI-FI AMPLIFIER KIT

MODEL W7-M \$5495

This hi-fi amplifier represents a remarkable value at less than a dollar a watt. Full audio output and maximum damping is a true 55 watts from 20 to 20,000 CPS with less than 2% total harmonic distortion throughout the entire audio range. Features include level control and "on-off" switch right on the chassis, plus provision for remote control. Filot light on chassis. Modern. functional design. Shpg. Wt. 28 lbs.

### "MASTER CONTROL" PREAMPLIFIER KIT MODEL WA-P2 \$1975

All the controls you need to master a complete high fidelity home music system are incorporated in this versatile instrument. Featuring five switch-selected inputs, each with level control. Provides tape recorder and cathodefollower outputs. Full frequency response is obtained within  $\pm 11/_2$  db from 15 to 35,000 CPS and will do full justice to the finest available program sources. Equalization is provided for LP, RIAA, AES and early 78 records. Dimensions are 125%'' L. x 3%''' H. x 5%'' D. Shpg. Wt. 7 lbs.



### "HEAVY DUTY" 70 WATT HI-FI AMPLIFIER KIT MODEL W6-M \$10995

For real rugged duty called for by advance hi-fi systems or P.A. networks, this high powered amplifier more than fills the bill. Silicon-diode rectifiers are used to assure long life and a heavy duty transformer gives you extremely good power supply regulation. Variable damping control provides optimum performance with any speaker system. Quick change plug selects 4, 8 and 16 ohm or 70 volt output and the correct feedback resistance. Frequency response at 1 watt is  $\pm 1$  db from 5 CPS to 80 kc with controlled HF rolloff above 100 kc. At 70 watts output harmonic distortion is below 2%, 20 to 20.000 CPS and IM distortion below 1% 60 and 6,000 CPS. Hum and noise 88 db below full output. Shpg. Wt. 52 lbs.

### "ADVANCE DESIGN" 25 WATT HI-FI AMPLIFIER KIT

### MODEL W5-M \$5975

Enjoy the distortion-free high fidelity sound reproduction from this outstanding hi-fi amplifier. The W5-M incorporates advanced design features for the super critical listener. Features include specially designed Peerless output transformer and KT66 tubes. The circuit is rated at 25 watts and will follow instantaneous power peaks of a full orchestra up to 42 watts. A "tweeter saver" suppresses high frequency oscillation and a unique balancing circuit facilitates adjustment of output tubes. Frequency response is  $\pm 1$  db from 5 to 160,000 CPS at 1 watt and within  $\pm 2$  db 20 to 20,000 CPS at full 25 watts output. Harmonic distortion is less than 1% at 25 watts and 1M distortion is 1% at 20 watts (60 and 3,000 CPS, 4:1). Hum and noise are 99 db below 25 watts for truly quiet performance. Shpg. Wt. 31 lbs.



### YOU'RE NEVER OUT OF DATE WITH HEATHKITS



Healhkit hi-fi systems are designed for maximum flexibility. Simple conversion from basic to complex systems or from monaural to stereo is easily accomplished by adding to already existing units. Heathkit engineering skill is your guarantee against obsolescence. Expand your hi-fi as your budget permits ... and, if you like, spread the payments over easy monthly installments with the Heath Time Payment Plan.

### GENERAL-PURPOSE 20 WATT AMPLIFIER KIT MODEL A9-C \$350

The model A9-C combines a preamplifier, main amplifier and power supply all on one chassis, providing a compact unit to fill the need for a good amplifier with a moderate cash investment. Features four separate switch-selected inputs. Separate bass and treble tone controls offer 15 db hoost and cut. Covers 20 to 20,000 CPS within  $\pm 1$  db. A fine unit with which to start your own hi-fi system. Shpg. Wt. 23 lbs.

### ELECTRONIC CROSSOVER KIT MODEL XO-1 \$1895

This unique instrument separates high and low frequencies and feeds them through two amplifiers to separate speakers. It is located ahead of the main amplifiers, thus, virtually eliminating IM distortion and matching problems. Crossover frequencies for each channel are at 100, 200, 400, 700, 1200, 2,000 and 3,500 CPS. This unit eliminates the need for conventional crossover circuits and provides amazing versatility at low cost. A unique answer to frequency division problems. Shpg. Wt. 6 lbs.



### 20 WATT HI-FI AMPLIFIER KIT MODEL W4-AM \$3975

This top quality amplifier offers you full fidelity at minimum cost. Features extended frequency response, low distortion and low hum level. Harmonic distortion is less than 1.5% and IM distortion is below 2.7% at full 20 watt output. Frequency response extends from 10 CPS to 100,000 CPS within  $\pm 1$  db at 1 watt. Output transformer tapped at 4, 8 and 16 ohms. Easy to build and a pleasure to use. Shpg. Wt. 28 lbs.







### "BASIC RANGE" HI-FI SPEAKER SYSTEM KIT

MODEL SS-2 \$3995

Legs optional extra. \$4.95

Outstanding performance at modest cost make this speaker system a spectacular buy for any hi-fi enthusiast. The specially designed enclosure and high qulaity 8" mid-range woofer and compressiontype tweeter cover the frequency range of 50 to 12,000 CPS. Crossover circuit is built in with balance control. Impedance is 16 ohms, power rating 25 watts. Cabinet is constructed of veneer-surfaced furniture-grade  $\frac{1}{2}$  plywood suitable for light or dark finish. Shpg. Wt. 26 lbs.

### "RANGE EXTENDING" HI-FI SPEAKER SYSTEM KIT MODEL SS-18 \$9995

Not a complete speaker system in itself, the SS-IB is designed to extend the range of the basic SS-2 (or SS-1) speaker system. Employs a 15" woofer



and a super tweeter to extend overall response from 35 to 16,000 CPS ± 5 db. Crossover circuit is built-in with balance control. Impedance is 16 ohms, power rating 35 watts. Constructed of 3/4" vencer-surfaced plywood suitable for light or dark finish. All parts precut and predrilled for easy assembly. Shpg. W1. 80 lbs.



### "LEGATO" HI-FI SPEAKER SYSTEM KIT MODEL HH-1 \$29996

Words cannot describe the true magnificence of the "Legalo" speaker system . . . it's simply the nearest thing to perfection in reproduced sound yet developed. Perfect balance, precise phasing, and adequate driver design all combine to produce startling real-ism long sought after by the hi-fi perfectionist. Two 15° Altec Lansing low frequency drivers and a specially designed exponential horn with high frequency driver cover 25 to 20,000 CPS. A unique so watts. Cabinet is built in. Impedance is 16 ohms, power rating so watts. Cabinet is constructed of  $\frac{3}{4}$  veneer-surfaced plywood in either African mahogany or imported white birch suitable for the finish of your choice. All parts are precut and predrilled for easy assembly: Shpg. Wt. 195 lbs.

### DIAMOND STYLUS HI-FI PICKUP CARTRIDGE MODEL MF-1

\$2695 Replace your present pickup with the MF-1 and enjoy the fullest fidelity your library of LP's has to offer.

Designed to Heath specifications to offer you one of the finest cartridges available today. Nominally flat response from 20 to 20,000 CPS. Shpg. Wt. 1 lb.

### SPEEDWINDER KIT MODEL SW-1 \$2495

Rewind tape and film at the rate of 1200' in 40 seconds. Saves wear on tape and recorder. Handles up to 101/2" tape reels and 800" reels of 8 or 16 millimeter film. Incorporates automatic shutoff and braking device. Shpg. Wt. 12 lbs.



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The "HOW AND WHY OF HIGH Fi-DELITY", by Milton Sleeper explains what high fidelity is, and how you can Select and plan your own system. This liberally-lilustrated 48-page book tells you the hi-fi story without fancy dechnical jargon or high-sounding terminology. 25c.

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Stereo Amplifier-Preamplifler HF81

HF81 Stereo Amplifier-Preamplifier selects, amplifies, controls any stereo source & feeds it thru sell-contained dual 14W amplifiers to a pair of speakers. Provides 28W monophonically, Ganged level controls, separate balance control, independent bass & treble controls for each channel, Identical Williamson-type, push-pul EL84 power amplifiers. "Excellent" - SATURDAY REVIEW, HI-FI MUSIC AT HOME. "Outstanding quality ... extremely versatile."-ELECTRONICS WORLD LAB-TESTED, Kit \$69.95. Wired \$109.95. Includes cover.

Includes cover. HF85 Steree Preamplifler is a complete, master stereo preamplifier-control unit, self-powered for flexibility & to avoid power-supply problems. Distortion borders on unmeasurable even at high output levels. Level, bass, & treble controls Independent for each channet or ganged for both channels. Inputs for phono, tane head, mike, AM, FM, & FM-multiplex. One each auxiliary A & B input in each channel. Switched-in loudness compensator. "Extreme flexibility ... a bargain."-HI-FI REVIEW. Kit \$39.95. Wired \$64.95. Includes cover.

New HF87 70-Watt Stereo Power Amplifier: Dual 35W power amplifiers of the highest quality. Uses top-quality output transformers for undistorted response across the entire audio range at full power to provide utmost clarity on full orchestra & organ. IM distortion 1% at 70W, harmonic distortion tess than 1% from 20 to 20,000 cps within 1 db of 70W. Ultra-linear connected E134 output stages & surgistor-protected silicon dlode rectifier power supply. Selector switch chooses mono or stereo service: 4, 8, 16, and 32 ohm speaker taps, input level controls; basic sensitivity 0.38 volts. Without exaggeration, one of the very fines! stereo amplifiers available regardless of price. Use with selfpowered stereo preamplifier.control unit (HF85 recommended). Kit \$74.95. Wired \$114.95. HF86 28W Stereo Power Amplifier Kit \$43.95.

Wired \$74.95. FM Tuner HFT90: Prowired, prealigned, lemperature-compensated "front end" is drift-free. Prewired exclusive precision eye-tronic® fraveling tuning indicator. Sensitivity: 1.5 uv for 20 db quieling; 2.5 uv for 30 db quieling, full limiting from 25 uv. IF bandwidth 260 ke at 6 db points. Both cathode follower & FM-multiplex stereo outputs, prevent obsolescence. Very low distortion. "One of the best buys in high fidelity kits." - AUDIOCRAFT. Kit \$39.95". Wired \$55.95". Cover \$3.95. "Less cover, F.E.T. Inct.

New AM Tuner HFT94. Matches HFT90. Selects "h-fl" wide (20c -9 kc @ -3 db) or weakstation marrow (20c -5 kc @ -3 db) bandpass. Tuned RF stage for high selectivity & sensitivity; precision eye-tronic& tuning. Built-in ferrite toop, prealigned RF & IF colls. Sensitivity 3 uv @ 30% mod. for 1.0 V out, 20 db S/N. Very low noise & dislortion. High-Q 10 kc whistle fitter. Kit \$39.55. Wired \$65.95. Incl. Cover & F.E.T.

New AF-4 Stereo Amplifier provides clean 4W per channel or 8W total output, inputs for ceramic/Srystal stereo pick-ups. AM-FM stereo, FM-multi stereo. 6-position stereo/mono selector. Clutch-concentric level & tone controls. Use with a pair of HFS-5 Speaker Systems for good quality, low-cost stereo. Kit \$38,95. Wired \$64.95.

HF12 Mono Integrated Amplifier provides complete "front-ond" facilities and true high fidejity performance. Inputs for phono, tape head, TV, uner and crystal/ceramic cartridge. Preferred variable crossover, feedback type tone control circuit. Highly stabte Williamson-type pover amplifier circuit. Power output: 12W continuous, 25W peak. Kit \$34.95. Wired \$57.95. Includes cover.

New HFS3 3-Way Speaker System Scml-Klt complete with factory-built 34" veneered plywood (4 sides) cabinet. Bellows-suspension, full-inch excursion 12" wooter (22 cps res.). 8" mid-range speaker with high Internal damping cone for smooth response, 31/5" cone tweeter. 21/4 cu. It. ducted-port enclosure. System Q of ½ for smoothest frequency & best transient response. 32-14,000 cps clean, useful resonse. 16 ohms Impedance. HWD: 26/2", 13%", 14%". Unfinished birch \$72.50. Walnut, mahogany or teak \$87.50.

New HFS5 2-Way Speaker System Semi-Kit complete with factory-built ¾" veneered Dlywood (4 Sides) Cabinet. Bellows-suspension, ¾" excur-



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11" x 9", Price \$39,55. LGS-1 Brass Tip Matching 14" Legs - \$3.95. HFS2 Omni-Directional Speaker System (not illus.) HWD, 36", 15¼", 11½", "Eminently musical" - HIGH FIDELITY. "Fine for stereo" - MODERN HI-FI, Completely factory- built. Mahogany or vrainut \$139.95. Blond \$144.95.

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HIGH FIDELITY MAGAZINE

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STANDARDS of measurement of the performance of high-fidelity equipment are gradually being accepted and could become common. Progress is slow; even though the Institute of High Fidelity Manufacturers announced standards for FM tuners many months ago, only a few of the manufacturers who submitted data for our roundup elsewhere in this issue of HIGH FIDELITY used the new sensitivity rating scale. This is to be expected. It takes time to convert. Equipment has to be carefully rechecked. Sales and advertising literature has to be reissued. The large mail-order houses, whose catalogues are so important to many major manufacturers, have to be notified months in advance. Finally, the public has to be educated. It may well be a year before a full-scale conversion can take place.

In the meantime, some salient points to remember are, first, that there are two (or more) methods of measuring performance. Second, that the IHFM has said nothing about performance itself. It has not said that this is good performance, and that, bad. It has simply drawn up methods of measuring distortion and/or performance, and its members have agreed to use those methods. Third, the important thing is—at the moment —to be sure the measurements are comparable. That's why we did not use IHFM sensitivity ratings, even when available, for the stereo tumer article.

Fourth, it should be clear at all times what everyone is talking about. Amplifier power ratings can be confusing because of stereo watts, monophonic watts, and peak watts. Just bear in mind that a stereo power amplifier which delivers, for instance, 12 watts per channel may also be rated as a 24-watt mono amplifier, by combining the two channels. And either the per-channel or combined figure may be doubled to give a reading in peak watts. All this is quite cerrect; no one is being sneaky about anything. They may be a bit conservative. There is considerable listening evidence to prove that two 12-watt channels—in mono and even more so in stereo—sound like more loudness than a single speaker hitched to a 24-watt amplifier.

November · 1959

Finally, attention should be drawn to the fact that the Heath Company has gone so far as to premulgate not only standards of measurement but standards of performance. As readers of advertisements are aware, it has set up three amplifier power ratings: professional, high fidelity, and utility. In each category, five measurements are applied. Three are of harmonic distortion at different frequencies; the fourth is frequency response at specified powers; and the fifth is intermodulation.

It is well worth while to make a careful study of the standards established by Heath, because they emphasize the very important fact that what matters is not how much power an amplifier can deliver, but how clean or distortion-free that power may be. For example, Heath says 3% IM distortion ranks an amplifier in the utility class; 2% is high fidelity (this, by the way, is a commonly accepted level) and 1% is professional. Some typical examples tabulated by Heath reveal that these levels of distortion are reached, by one amplifier, at 19.5, 18.9, and 18.0 watts, respectively, whereas in another amplifier they are reached at 11.6, 5.9, and 3.9 watts.

We would like to commend Heath for its decision. There will be plenty of discussion about the validity of the measurements and standards, and of their relationship to listening pleasure. But the least that can be said is that this company has taken a move in a direction worth following, and that it has publicized a good cause.

Meanderings , RCA Victor has been imbibing 317X, an ingredient that will be used in its discs to reduce static electricity. . . . A well-known department store in Chicago sells "hi fi under-gravel filters." For bird baths! .... More complete info on power amps, described in September: EICO preamps are supplied self-powered only; no need for external power as implied in our comment. Fisher 300 has feature E, which is convenience outlets. . . . Morley Kahn, of H. H. Scott, says separate tene controls are wise in stereo systems, even though identical speakers are used, because room acoustics may unbalance speaker tonality. "For instance," he says, "if one speaker is located near drapes, the other near a fireplace, the speaker near the fireplace will sound shriller." True, too true. But let's not make things so simple. Let's build another fireplace. Stereo, see? CHARLES FOWLER

prepared by Hirsch-Houck Laboratories and the technical staff of High Fidelity



**HF** reports

Most equipment reports appearing in this section are prepared for us by Hirsch-Houck Laboratories, a completely independent organization whose staff was responsible for the original Audio League Reports. Their reports are signed: H. H. Labs. Reports are published exactly as they are received. Neither we nor the manufacturers of the equipment tested are permitted to delete information from or add to the reports, to amend them in any way, or to withhold them from publication. Manufacturers may add a short comment if they wish to do so.

On equipment that demands more subjective appraisals (such as loudspeakers), the reports may be prepared by members of our own staff. Such reports do not carry a signature. The policy concerning report publication and amendment by the manufacturer is the same as that for Hi H. Reports.

### Radio Shack Electrostat 3-Electrostatic Tweeter

SPECIFICATIONS (furnished by manufac(urer): a three-element, single-ended electrostatic tweeter. Frequency range: 5,000 cps to 20,000 cps. Output impedance: 8 or 16 ohms, adjustable. Dispersion: 120 degrees. Polarixing voltage: bull-in, AC supply. Current consumption: negligible, Size: 6 in. high by 12 wide by 4½ deep. Finish: blond or mahogany. Price: \$27.50. DISTRIBUTOR: Radio Shack Corporation, 730 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 17, Mass.

At a glance: Radio Shack's Electrostat 3 will give additional high-end luster to systems with cone tweeters and to single-cone, extended-range loudspeakers.

In detail: The Electrostat 3 is designed as an "add on" speaker for systems that lack crispness and sheen at the very top of the audible spectrum. A relatively small unit, it can be placed on top of a speaker system already installed; and as it comes in a variety of finishes, there is no problem of décor.

It is a three-element tweeter; that is, it has three sound-generating surfaces angled slightly away from each other in something like a semicircle around the front of the unit. Electrostatics often tend to concentrate their sound in a rather narrow beam, but the Radio Shack design helps spread the sound around more evenly in front of the speaker. The Electrostat 3 has a built-in high-pass filter which reduces frequencies below about 5,000 cycles. The use of a regular dividing network (available wired from Radio Shack, for 8- or 16-ohm systems, at \$6.95) provides more flexibility in balancing tweeter and woofer.

This speaker is wired into the system just as any other tweeter would be. It has an input strip very much like the output taps of a power amplifier. A common wire is connected from the dividing network to the *common* lug, and the other wire to the S- or 16-ohm tap, depending upon the impedance of the dividing network. One further step is necessary before the speaker will function. To polarize the electrostatic plates, simply plug into the wall the ordinary household AC plug provided and flip on a switch.

The Electrostat 3 is a fairly crisp-



Radio Shack's 3-element tweeter.

sounding speaker. The level control on the dividing network permits adjusting the level of the woofer (or your present system) to match the output of the tweeter, which is fairly low in efficiency. With the level control full up, the speaker seemed to match my AR-2; with other systems, I had to turn the control back a bit.

The several models that I listened to appeared to have more distortion and to be less smooth than more expensive electrostatic tweeters now on the market. But the Electrostat 3 is only a fraction of the cost of some of these units. For its budget price of \$27.50, it might well be a desirable first step towards improvement.

MANUFACTURER'S COMMENT: Referring to your remarks on the efficiency of the Electrostat 3, it is essential to know that the input circuit to the electrostatic elements is so designed that the load as presented to the amplifier autput terminals is mainly resistive rather than capacitive, even at the highest frequencies. Consequently, the tendency towards disturbing the feedback loop and instability of the am-plifier is minimized. Several imitations of the Electrostat 3, although they showed higher efficiency at the crassover frequency, will overload and upset the feedback loop of even the best amplifiers to the point where the output at the higher frequencies is reduced to a much greater extent than the difference in efficiency at the crossaver frequency. Some of the com-petitive units tested at 20 kc showed an input impedance of 1/10 of that at naminal or crassover frequency. Same, although the manufacturers claimed they would not require a crossover, showed 1/10 of the naminal impedance at 50 cps. The impedance of the Electrostat 3 at any frequency is never lowered by any more than 25% of the nominal or input impedance as marked on its terminal board.

### Marantz Stereo Preamp and Amplifier

SPECIFICATIONS (furnished by manufacturer): The Madel 7 preamplifier is a selfpowered stereo unit providing complete versatility, with selector positions for microphone as well as two separate magnetic phono cartridges and tape head. The mode switch permits paralleling the two halves of a stereo cartridge for monophanic records. Frequency response: ±0.5 db 20 to 20,000 cycles. Noise: 80 db below 10 mv phono input in audible range. Price: \$249.; cobinet \$24.

The Model 5 power amplifier is conservatively rated at 30 watts ultra-linear operation; 60 watts peak. Sensitivity: 1,3 volts for 30 watts output. Frequency response: of 30 watts.  $\pm 0.1$  db 20 to 20,000 cycles. IM distortion: of a typical amplifier, 0.28% at 30 watts. Feedback: 20 db over-all. Hum: 90 db below 30 watts. Price: \$147.; grille, \$7.50, MANU-FACTURER: Marantz Co., 25-14 Broadway, Long Island City 6, N. Y.

At a glance: The Marantz Model 7 Stereo Console, like the original Marantz monophonic control unit, is noteworthy for its extremely low distortion and noise level, and its superior construction.

The Model 5 Power Amplifier, like the well-known 40-watt Marantz power amplifier, has almost unmeasurably low distortion and noise levels, very conservative power ratings, and a caliber of construction which suggests that it can operate almost indefinitely without needing replacement or major service.

In detail: The Marantz Model 7 Stereo Console, although it has practically every operating feature which might be desired in a stereo control unit, is straightforward and casy to operate.

On the left side of the panel are the four basic controls: input selector, mode selector, volume, and balance. On the right side of the panel are the four tone controls, which are elevenposition switches instead of the usual continuously variable type. In the center are four lever type switches for rumble and hiss filters, record equalization, and tape playback monitor. A heavy-duty slide switch, rated at 15 amperes, controls power to the Model 7 (which has a built-in power supply), and to five of the six AC convenience outlets on the rear of the unit. The sixth outlet is permanently energized to connect to a turntablewhich should, of course, be turned off with its own switch.

The selector switch has eight positions, for microphone, two magnetic phono cartridges, tape head, FM-AM tuner, FM multiplex input, TV sound, and AUXILIARY. Full stereo operation is possible on all inputs. Two parallelconnected amplifier outputs can be mixed to drive a third amplifier for center-fill. A third pair of outputs is taken off ahead of volume and tone controls to make tape recordings. The balance control allows either channel to be completely cut off, at which time the level of the other channel is raised by 2.5 db. As a result, when the balance control is used there is no change of level to be heard, merely a shift of apparent sound source from left to right or vice versa.

The two sections of the ganged volume control are individually tested by Marantz for tracking, so that the balance does not change by more than 2 db down to 65 db attennation.

The rumble filter provides an OFF position and two positions of cutoff, at 50 and 100 cps. The hiss filter has an OFF position and two cutoff frequencies, 5 kc and 9 kc. The phono equalization is inherently RIAA, but one of the front-panel lever switches allows this to be changed to the old Columbia LP characteristic, or to one having little high-frequency rolloff, for early 78-rpm dises. In the tape head position of the input selector, NARTB tape playback equalization is used. Each channel has an adjustment on the rear of the unit to vary the tape playback equalization around the ideal NARTB curve for tape machines requiring such corrections.



Each channel also has an output level adjustment on the rear of the preamplifier, to compensate for speaker systems of widely different efficiencies, or when very high-gain power ampli-



Marantz quality-still outstanding.

fiers are used. These controls also reduce the noise level of the signal supplied to the power amplifiers, though this seems to be a rather academic consideration in view of the performance of the Model 7.

Finally, a binding post terminal is provided on the rear of the Model 7 for making all system ground connections. This is a vital consideration in stereo systems to reduce hum, yet so far as we know only Marantz has made it a simple matter to ground the turntable chassis, tone arm, etc. without additional soldering operations.

### Test Results

The tone control characteristics are of the sliding inflection point type, which have relatively little effect on midfrequencies when used in moderation. Marantz recommends the use of the tone controls for loudness compensation, and no ordinary loudness control is provided. The switch-type tone controls offer the advantage of complete re-settability, and the curves in the instruction booklet show the response for all positions of the controls. These curves agree perfectly with our measured data.

RIAA and NARTB equalization characteristics agree exactly, within the limits of measurement error, with the theoretical curves. The Columbia LP characteristic appeared to have slightly more response at very low frequencies than it should have. We were most impressed to find that all equalization characteristics were matched on the two channels to within 0.2 db at all frequencies.

The IM distortion was about 0.1% up to 3 volts output, which is close to the residual distortion in our measuring equipment. It rose gradually above this output level, becoming 0.2% at 10 volts. For all practical purposes, the Model 7 is distortionless.

We checked the volume control tracking down to -40 db, and the gains of the two channels never differed by more than 0.2 db. Here again, as has so often happened when we test Marantz equipment, we are limited by the normal errors inherent in test instruments.



The gain of the Model 7 is extremely high, and only 50 millivolts are needed to develop 1 volt output from the AUX or other high-level inputs. On the phono input a 0.4 millivolt input develops 1 volt output. At full gain (which could not be used even with the lowest output magnetic cartridges), the hum and noise level on PHONO was about 50 db below 1 volt. This would be a respectably low hum level on almost any other preamplifier, but when the gain is reduced to a more practical level the hum falls to -78 db-which is totally inaudible under any listening conditions. On the high level inputs the hum is better than -80 db at any gain setting.

### Model 5 Power Amplifier

The Model 5 is a basic power amplifier, with no controls other than screw-driver adjustments for bias on the output tubes (a pair of EL-34s). Two inputs are provided: one going directly to the grid of the input stage and the other through a filter which rolls off response below 20 cps to prevent speaker damage due to subsonic signals such as switching transients.

The outputs are for 4-, 8-, and 16ohm loads, with a damping factor of

### Z-400 Speaker System With Woofer and JansZen Electrostatic Tweeters

SPECIFICATIONS (furnished by manufacturef): a full-range bookshelf speaker system consisting of the JansZen two-radiator electrastatic tweeter and the Model 350 cone woofer, in a totally sealed enclosure. Frequency range: 30 cps to beyond 30,000 cps. Crossover frequency: 1,000 to 2,000 cps. Type of network: LRC high-pass filter for tweeter; mechanical rolloff on woofer. High frequency dispersion: 60 degrees. Power consumption (tweeter power supply): 2 watts. Impedance: 8 ahms. Power capability: 50 wotts program. Flnish: birch, mahogany, ail walnut, walnut, unfinished. Price: \$134.50 to \$149.50. MANUFACTURER: Neshaminy Electronic Corp., Neshaminy, Po.

At a glance: The Z-400 provides the same wide-range, low-distortion output as JansZen's well-known Z-300, but is a more compact and versatile system. The Z-400 can be placed on a shelf or on the floor-either along a wall or in a corner. Two units, paired for stereo, provide fine quality at a reasonable price.

In detail: The Z-400 is a version of

20. Instructions are given for making a simple change in the internal wiring to obtain damping factors of  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1, or 2 if this is desired.

As with the original Marantz 40watt amplifier, a meter is built in so that the output tubes can be balanced as required. As with the older unit. one must be careful to avoid getting burned on the very hot output tubes, due to the location of the adjustments adjacent to the EL-34s. Fortunately this adjustment is not likely to be required very often. The oil-filled input filter capacitor and telephone-quality electrolytic filter capacitor which characterized the 40-watt amplifier are also in evidence on the Model 5, and they as well as the tubes are operated well below ratings. Their life should be practically indefinite.



The frequency response of the Model 5, between 20 and 20,000 cps, is flat enough to be drawn with a straight edge. Less than 1 db of loss is introduced at 20 cps when going through the filtered input.

The power response is practically as flat as the frequency response. This means that the full steady stated power output of about 32 watts with no clipping of the waveform can be obtained down to below 20 cps and that the 30-watt rating is met at 20,000 cps as well. The power output of the Model 5 into a 3-mfd capacitive load (simulating a wide-range electrostatic speaker) was 20 watts at 10 kc. The fact that two-thirds of its rated power was available under these conditions is noteworthy, since few if any amplifiers we have tested will develop as much as one-half rated power under this admittedly stringent test.

Measuring distortion in a Marantz amplifier has always been a challenge and the Model 5 is no exception. At 1 kc the harmonic distortion is below the residual of our test equipment (0.08%) up to 30 watts, after which it rises sharply, reaching 0.3% at 40 watts. At 20 cps, our residual distortion was 0.1%, which was not ex-ceeded until 7 watts output was reached. This, too, rose to 0.3% at 40 watts output. The IM distortion was measurable, but very low throughout the range of outputs up to 30 watts, where it reached 0.3%. At 50 watts output the IM was only 1%. Since many amplifiers are power-rated at 2% IM, one appreciates the conservatism of the Model 5's 30-watt rating.

The hun level was 88 db below 10 watts output with open circuited input, and better than 90 db below 10 watts with a low-impedance source driving the amplifier. The damping factor measured at 19. The amplifier was rock-stable under all conditions of capacitive loading. —H. H. Labs.

the Z-300 scaled down only in the physical sense; it has been reshaped to satisfy the current demand for bookshelf speakers. The acoustic aspects of the speaker's design remain the same. The interior is the same 2.2 cubic feet as the JansZen Z-300. The woofer is the same Model 350 long-excursion unit as in the Z-300. And the tweeter, for which Neshaminy and JansZen are perhaps best known, uses two of the square electrostatic elements.

On the low end, the Z-400, like its predecessor, is superb. The middlerange response is smooth and evenly blended. From 2,000 cycles up the sound of the Z-400 is crisp and sharply defined. On some records, where the upper ranges have been exaggerated for an enhanced high-fidelity effect, the JansZen is a bit too bright, even with the tweeter control set at minimum. But this is certainly not a fault of the speaker, and is a condition which usually can be corrected with tone controls.

On the most dependable of all source material-first generation tapes -the Z-400 sounds open, transparent,



A well-balanced speaker system.

and crystalline throughout its range. Considered as a whole, the Z-400, when fed properly equalized source material, is excellently balanced, and sounds full and natural.

MANUFACTURER'S COMMENT: Since the introduction of the first Model 130 tweeter in 1955, the JansZen Electrostatic has been designed and produced to deliver the full musical spectrum acaustically flat from 1,000 cycles to above 20,000 cycles with no attenuation and less than 35% distortion. In the Z-400, the same unusually wide, smooth range is obtained in a complete loudspeaker system selling for less than the original tweeter olone.

### Lafayette KT-315 Stereo Adapter

SPECIFICATIONS (furnished by manufacturer): The KT-315 is a self-powered remote control adapter which permits utilization of two monophanic systems for stereo. It may be used up to 50 feet fram power omplifiers. A null circuit is incorporated, to permit precise electronic balancing of the two channels. Individual volume controls may be ganged through a clutch action. Gain: 6 db, Distortion: less than 0.2% IM at 2 volts output. Crosstalk: better than 55 db separation. Price: \$27.50. MANUFACTURER: Lafayette Radio, 165-08 Liberty Ave., Jamaica 33, N. Y.

At a glance: The Lafayette KT-315 provides complete stereo control functions for two monophonic amplifiers. It offers greater flexibility of operation than any other stereo adapter we know of. It has no measurable effect on the distortion and frequency response characteristics of the system.

In detail: Most stereo adapters are passive devices. That is, they contain neither tubes nor power supply, but perform all their stereo control functions with potentiometers and switches. Such adapters can introduce no distortion, and are simple to install, but are somewhat limited in operating flexibility and can cause an insertion loss.

The Lafayette KT-315 incorporates active networks, with two tubes and a self-contained power supply. It is essentially the output portion of the Lafayette KT-600 stereo preamplifier. A gain of 2 is provided, instead of the loss incurred by many passive adapters. The output is from low-impedance amplifiers capable of delivering several volts output with negligible distortion. Concentrically mounted volume controls provide for balance adjustment. Once balanced, the two controls may be clutched together and operated as a single volume control.

The function switch selects either of the two inputs and feeds the selected signal to both outputs. In the stereo position it feeds each channel to its own output. An A+B position combines the two channels and feeds the mixed signal to both outputs. A second function switch, mounted concentrically with the first one, has position for normal and reversed stereo operation. In the latter case the left signal is fed to the right channel and vice versa. A unique and very desirable feature, made possible by the tube circuitry of the KT-315, allows the phase of one channel to be reversed. This is much more convenient than the usual procedure of reversing speaker leads on one channel.



Lajayette KT-315 adapter.

An interesting means is provided for equalizing exactly the output levels of the two channels. A CAL position on both function switches adds the two channels, with a phase reversal on one channel. When the signal levels are adjusted for a null, or minimum signal in the output, the channel gains are matched. This matching applies only to the electrical output of the control unit, and does not take into account differences in the two amplifiers or speaker systems.

Another unusual feature of the KT-315 is the third channel or mixed output. A bridge control supplies a combined channel A and channel B output, equally mixed, to an output jack in the rear of the unit. This may be used to drive a third amplifier and speaker midway between the two stereo speakers, to fill in the center



area. With a normal two-speaker stereo installation, excessive channel separation may be corrected with the bridging control by setting the function switch to A+B. With the bridging control counterclockwise, this gives a 14-db channel separation. As it is rotated clockwise, the channel separation is reduced, until in the clockwise position the two channels are completely mixed.

In our tests of the KT-315, the frequency response proved to be as flat as our measuring equipment, or within about 0.1 db from 20 to 20,000 cps. The intermodulation distortion also was almost unmeasurable, since it approached the inherent distortion of the test equipment. The IM is not more than 0.1% for output voltages up to 4 volts, which is more than sufficient to drive any amplifier. The volume control tracking error was less than plus or minus 2 db down to -40db (relative to maximum setting), which is quite satisfactory. When the gain settings of the two volume controls are initially displaced by 10 db, the tracking error increases considerably. This points out the desirability of equalizing the gains at the external mono amplifiers with the KT-315 controls set to the same point. Minor adjustments may be made at the KT-315 without trouble from tracking error. H. H. Labs.

### Regency HFT-1 Preamplifier

SPECIFICATIONS (furnished by manufacturer): This is a transistorized preamplifier-control in kit form. Provides phono equalization, separate tone control facilities, and input selection. Tone control range: bass, +15 db at 20 cycles; treble, +8 and -20 db at 20,000 cycles. Frequency response: ±0.5 db 20 to 20,000 cycles. Naise: 70 db below 1 volt output. Battery operation. Price: \$34.95 less batteries. MANUFACTURER: Regency Division I.D.E.A., Inc., 7900 Pendleton Pike, Indianapolis 26, Ind.

At a glance: The Regency HFT-1 is a fully transistorized, extremely compact, and completely self-contained preamplifier. It has its own batteries, and operates with an extremely low noise level. On the other hand, its gain is relatively low and its output voltage capability is similarly low with the final result that speaker volume may be insufficient.

In detail: The Regency HFT-1 is available in kit form or ready-wired. The three transistors and most of the components are mounted on a printed wiring beard. The over-all dimensions in its cabinet are 7½ by 2½ by 3% inches. It weighs only 29 ounces including batteries. Either one or two



Regency's new preamplifier.

9-volt batteries may be used, but distortion is substantially lower with 18 volts and this voltage is strongly recommended. Some 500 hours of battery life should be obtained.

This is a basic preamplifier and has

Continued on page 158

## A high fidelity KIT REPORT



# The GRAY HSK-33 Turntable

In about 25 minutes, you can put together a unit that looks beautiful, works well, has little vibration, almost no noise, keeps constant speed The Gray HSK-33 is a single-speed, 33<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub>-rpm turntable, available in kit form at the excellent price of \$49.50. It employs a hysteresis-synchronous motor, is belt-driven, and has an aluminum (nonmagnetic) turntable platter. Construction time is claimed to be 25 minutes, and this is within reason, though we dawdled and took nearly an hour and a half. A special belt is used, to provide optimum decoupling from motor shaft to turntable proper. The motor shaft may be adjusted in three planes. A base is available from Gray, though it seems likely that the home craftsman, intrigued with the idea of constructing a turntable from a kit, will be sufficiently intrigued to build his own base. Also available is a matching tone arm kit, costing \$23.95; an outstanding feature is the viscous damping principle, used by Gray for many years.

Assembly of the turntable kit involves mounting the motor to a support bracket and then to the mounting plate; attaching the turntable well, the starting capacitor, a line-cord clamp and a terminal strip to the mounting plate; clamping nine wires to the terminal strip, two to a toggle switch, and one to the motor (which in turn is grounded to the frame); and making seven soldered connections. The rest of the project is adjustment of the motor to the correct distance from the mounting plate to keep the belt in its right place. This step would probably be needed even if you bought the turntable already assembled.

From this point on you are involved in woodworking if you build your own base from scratch, or in a minor bit of hole drilling if you mount the turntable in one of Gray's ready-built bases. Most of the hole drilling has to do with mounting an arm, bowever, and has nothing to do with the HSK-33 kit. The only hole necessary for the turntable is a half-inch in size, to mount the toggle switch. This hole can be dispensed with, if you run a jumper across the terminal strip where the switch wires are connected and plug the line-cord into the switched AC outlet on the back of your control amplifier or preamp. If, however, you operate your system with, say, a tuner or tape recorder, you'll probably want some way to turn off the turntable while the other equipment is still operating, and the switch will be necessary.

My personal feeling is that the toggle switch supplied is not esthetically a fitting companion to such a beautiful piece of equipment. The turntable, in flat black and aluminum, and the base, in lustrous wood-grained formica, are much too elegant for a common, gardenvariety on-off switch. I'd prefer the type of switch that turns on clockwise and that takes a knob, like the kind found on volume controls. (You can, of course, add your own switch, which is just what I plan to do.)

How well does the HSK-33 perform? Very satisfactorily, indeed. It requires a bit of breaking in; the manual recommends ten hours. This is adequate, but my experience was that the longer it ran, the quieter (mechanically) it became. The motor makes only a slight swish. There is very little vibration to it, and four quite large and very resilient damping spheres (they are hollow) keep virtually all vibration away from the turntable itself.

The noise which must be worked out comes primarily from the turntable well. Tolerances between well and turntable shaft are so slight that, until the two are broken in to fit each other, the sound of metal rubbing on metal is noticeable. But this gradually dies down until the mechanism makes almost no noise at all.

Rumble appears to be very low, though not as low as on some expensive turntables of professional quality I have used. Here again, it will probably get lower as the unit continues to operate.

Speed constancy, as expected, is excellent. The turntable maintains its speed even when you try to slow it down by rubbing your finger against the edge of the platter. You *can* stop it completely, if you try hard enough, but for normal loads, it stays on speed without deviation.



Motor is attached first to it's support bracket, then to mounting plate.



Lower view of completed unit. The longer it works, the quieter it runs.



Belt-driven turntable keeps constant speed even when you try to slow it.



## HELPFUL HINTS

### by John A. Comstock

• When you suspect that the trouble with your system is a microphonic tube (one having loose elements), proceed gently. Don't pick up just any tool from the bench to use as a tube tapper. A good soft hammer for the job is simply a rubber wire feedthrough grommet, slipped over the tip of a screw driver's blade.

• When you have several wire leads to tin, a spring made of coiled-up wire solder can be used to hold the leads as shown, while you tin their tips. After the job is done, you will find the spring of solder more convenient to use than a spool of solder. Make the spring by wrapping the solder around a pen or similar object.

• To keep the AC line-plug of a high-fidelity system from slipping out of the socket of an extension cord when the other cords are pulled, tie a simple overhand knot in it. Just entwine the cords and insert the plug into the socket. This way the plug can't possibly slip out and disconnect the circuit.



HIGH FIDELITY MAGAZINE


### Acro

The Acrosound stereo preamplifier is available either as a kit or completely factory-wired. Two magnetic cartridges may be connected to this preamplifier at the same time and selected by the front-panel selector switch. Thus a changer and a turntable may be used in the system, Other features



include tape head equalization as well as input for microphone connections. This may be faded into one channel for announcing. A third-channel output is provided, as well as an output to tape recorder. Phase of speakers may be reversed from the front panel. Scratch, rumble, and loudness controls are included as well as separate bass and treble for each channel. Price: as a kit, \$79.50; laboratory-assembled \$129.50.

### **Concertone 505**

This new American-Concertone tape recorder will record and play back in 2-track as well as play back in 4-track methods. For 4-track stereo a second head designed for slow speed %-track tapes is used. Separate record and playback heads, in 2-channel operation, permit instant monitoring. Speeds are 3% and 7% ips. Operation is by push-button relay; 3 motors, including a hysteresis drive unit, are incorporated. Each channel has separate microphone and line inputs. Output is low impedance. Level indicators and tape revolution counters are included, Price: \$495.



NOVEMBER 1959

## Roberts

An adapter is now available which permits playing of tape cartridges on Roberts reel-to-reel recorders. The adapter is mounted directly over the feed-reel and take-up spindles and is driven by a belt from the recorder capstan to a flywheel beneath the adapter. A separate head is provided for playback. Tentative price for the entire unit is \$75.

## **Knight-Kit Amplifier**

The Knight-Kit S3YX774 is a stereo control amplifier kit delivering 40 watts. It is rated at 0.5% distortion at 20 watts per channel; frequency response is  $\pm 1$  db 15 to 35,000 cycles at 10 watts. A special feature is the center channel output. Other features include single-knob balance control; du-



al concentric, clutch type tone controls; rumble and scratch filters. The price is \$79.50.

### Heath AS-2

The Heath Company has been licensed by Acoustic Research to offer the AR Acoustic Suspension principle in kit form speaker system. The AS-2 incorporates a 10" acoustic suspension woofer and two tweeters. Response is stated to be  $\pm 5$  db from 42 to 14,000 cps at 10 watts. Impedance: 8 ohms. The prefinished cabinet makes it necessary only to mount the speakers, construct the crossover network, and line the cabinet with fiberglass. Dimensions: 24 by 13% by 11%".

## **Robins Turntable-Leveling Kit**

A new turntable-leveling kit has just been announced by Robins. It consists of four adjustable rubber feet and a spirit level that can be mounted on top of the base.

#### Recolder

The Recolder is an ingenious device consisting essentially of two side pieces and two rods . . . one of the side pieces sliding on the rods so that



the record holder is expandable. The rods supplied with the unit are 10" long, so the unit can hold 50 LPs. Extensions are available; each pair increases capacity by 25 records. The Recolder may be put anywhere; it has felt feet. Price: \$6.95.

### Grommes 240A

This power amplifier has two separate 20-watt channels with separate level controls and a meter to check channel balance. Can be used as a 40-watt monaural amplifier. This is a power amplifier only.

## **Bogen-Presto TC-322**

The "Challenger" stereo tuner features automatic volume control as well as automatic frequency control and an illuminated dial scale. It will receive stereo AM-FM broadcasts as



well as regular ones. Multiplex may be obtained by the addition of an adapter. Sensitivity on FM is specified as 5 microvolts for 30 db quieting. Price, including cabinet, is \$109.50.

### Altec 353A

This control amplifier's stereo program peak power rating is 100 watts, with 50 watts continuous or 25 watts nominal per channel. Frequency response at 1 watt is specified as within ½ db from 10 to 30,000 cycles. There are seven inputs for each channel and six stereo or monophonic outputs. In addition to the customary bass, treble, and volume controls, the unit features a loudness contour switch and a rumble filter. Price: \$195.

### Norelco Model 400

This self-contained tape recorder will record or play back in stereo or monaural, either 4-track or 2-track. It features three speeds, 7%, 3%, and 1% ips.



Inputs are provided for microphone, tuners and phonograph with facilities for mixing microphone with tuners or phono. An output jack for monitoring with stereo headphones is incorporated. The microphones are enclosed in one case, using the cross-fire technique. A single speaker is incorporated in the carrying case. Frequency response at 7½ ips is specified as 50 to 18,000 cycles. There are ganged input volume controls on microphone and on radio-phono channels, as well as separate playback volume controls, and individual concentric but frictionganged tone controls. Output connections from each channel may be made direct to stereo loudspeakers or to power amplifiers. Also included is a recording-level indicator (magic eye) and a four-digit reel revolution counter. Price: \$399.50.

## Fisher SA-100

This power amplifier's two stereo channels together deliver 50 watts. Output impedances are 4, 8, and 16 ohms. A center channel jack permits addition of a third amplifier and speaker system. Harmonic distortion is rated at



0.8% at 25 watts of music per channel; 1M distortion is 0.1% by CCIF standards. Each channel has bias controls. Three external test point terminals are included. Price: \$119.50.



## **Bogen-Presto AC-220**

This stereo control amplifier provides 10 watts per channel. Separate bass and treble tone controls are ganged for operation on each channel simultaneously. Each channel has a separate volume control. Inputs are for magnetic phono, radio, and auxiliary. A loudness control switch is included. Price: \$79.95.

## **GE Control Amplifiers**

Rated at 28 watts (IHFM) per channel, this stereo control amplifier accommodates five input channels: tape, monophonic cartridge, stereo cartridge, tuner, and 1 auxiliary. Flexibility is also the keynote of the speaker mode selector which permits parallel as well as stereo operation. The parallel mode is for stereo cartridges used on monophonic discs. Other controls include loudness, contour, balance, separate bass and treble controls, scratch and rumble filters.

The Model G-7600 is the same except that output rating is 20 watts and scratch filter and phasing switch are omitted.

## Connoisseur Pickup and Arm Ercona has announced importation of

a new 10%" arm equipped with a 0.6-



mil diamond stereo ceramic pickup. The arm is lifted by means of a knob located above the pivot point of the arm. Frequency response of the cartridge is stated as  $\pm 2$  db from 20 to 20,000 cycles; channel separation is from 20 to 25 db. Prices: arm, \$59.50; turntable, \$119.90.

### Heath SA-1

This stereo control amplifier provides 14 watts per channel and complete preamplifier-control facilities. An important feature is two switch-selected phono inputs, one for monophonic cartridges and the other for stereo cartridges. In addition there is a tape head input and three high-level inputs. Ganged volume controls as well as a separate balance control and individual power amplifier level controls are incorporated. Bass and treble controls are separate for each channel. Finally, there is a dimension control.

## Heath SA-2

This stereo control amplifier is available as a kit and provides 14 watts per channel. The four-position input selector provides a choice of magnetic phono, crystal phono, tuner, or highlevel auxiliary input. Tone controls are dual and ganged; the volume control is dual concentric.

## EICO HF-87

This stereo amplifier is rated at 35 watts per channel with IM distortion



at 1% at 70 watts and frequency response at this power within 1 db from 20 to 20,000 cycles. Available in kit form at \$74.95; prewired at the factory, \$114.95.

#### **Bogen Catalogue**

The complete line of Bogen high-fidelity equipment is described and illustrated in *Catalogue* 510, now available. All new items introduced during the current season are included.

Catalogue 510 is available free of charge at Bogen dealers or directly from the company upon request.

### Ferrograph 808

Ercona has announced importation of the Ferrograph 808 series which provides complete stereo recording and playback facilities for either 2-track or 4-track systems. Each pair of tracks is served by dual inputs for lowand high-level sources such as micro-



pliones and tuners. Outputs are lowlevel, to feed amplifier-speaker systems. Price: \$595. "The new Citation Kits represent for me the successful culmination of years of research and experimentation to achieve the ultimate in high fidelity design."

Stewart Hegeman, Director of Engineering, Citation Kit Division, Harman-Kardon, Inc.



HESE ARE STRONG WORDS from a conservative audio engineer. But the proof is overwhelming. All that's necessary is a look at the technical specifications of the new Citation I Stereophonic Preamplifier Control Center and Citation II 120 Watt Stereophonic Power Amplifier.(We'll gladly send them to you.)

Hegeman is recognized as one of the world's great audio engineers. His original designs for the famous Brociner amplifier and preamplifier, and the Hegeman-Lowther speakers, are still regarded as classics by audio engineers and audiophiles. In his capacity as head of the kit engineering group at Harman-Kardon, he has again created new classics.

### Easily Assembled— Professional Performance

THERE ARE MANY exciting new concepts built into the Citation Kits. The engineering is so wonderfully precise that the instrument constructed by the kit builder will duplicate the precision of the finest factory-assembled products. Here are some of the remarkable new assembly features that distinguish the Citation Kits:

Military Type Construction: For ease of assembly and durability, rigid phenolic boards are used. Special Cable Harness: Unique harness template enables builder to make a professional cable harness to facilitate wiring and insure accuracy. Special Aids: Resistors and condensers are filed individually on special component cards so that they can be quickly identified. Wire strippers are supplied free with each kit to produce clean wire junctions.

## The Citation I Stereophonic Preamplifier Control Center

HERE IS THE FIRST brilliant expression of the advanced design concepts which sparked the new Citation Kit Line: the incomparable Citation I, Stereophonic Preamplifier Control Center.

The Citation I consists essentially of a group of circuit blocks termed active and passive networks. Active networks incorporate the vacuum tubes and furnish amplification; passive networks consist of resistors and condensers and provide precise equalization. The active networks are treated as one- or two-stage amplification units, flat over an extremely wide frequency range, and each one of these networks is surrounded by a feedback loop. This results in levels of distortion so low as to prove unneasurable. The passive networks are constructed of precision components and are designed for minimum phase shift.

**P**ROFESSIONAL STEP-TYPE tone controls are used on the new Citation I. They overcome the limitations of continuously variable potentiometers; each position on a step control can be engineered to perform a specific function which is absolutely repeatable when necessary. The flat position of the controls by-passes all tone control circuitry, thereby eliminating transient distortion and phase shift.

Other features include: The new Citation Blend Control which introduces a continuously variable amount of crossfeed between the two channels to eliminate the "hole-in-the-middle" effect of many stereo records; DC heated preamplifier filaments; six silicon diode rectifiers to provide unexcelled B+ and filament regulation; separate turnover and rolloff controls to provide precise equalization.

The Citation I is available with an optional walnut hardwood enclosure which sets off its magnificent sculptured satingold escutcheon. The Citation I... \$139.95, Factory Wired...\$239.95; Walnut Enclosure, WW-1...\$29.95.

## The Citation II 120 Watt Stereophonic Power Amplifier

HERE IS ALL the power required from a stereophonic amplifier. Two 60 Watt Channels—with a combined peak power output of 260 Watts!

The Citation II reflects a dramatic new approach to amplifier design. Audio engineers have discovered that the characteristics of an amplifier in the non-audible range strongly influence sound quality in the audible range. This can be determined in critical listening tests where the program material for each amplifier is laboratory controlled.

Because of this vital consideration the Citation II is engineered to produce frequencies as low as 5 cycles virtually without phase shift. At the high end—the amplifier has a frequency response beyond 100,000 cycles without any evidence of ringing or instability.

AUDIO ENGINEERS have also found that the higher the degree of feedback—and the consequent lower distortion—the more apparent the improvement in sound quality and the greater the reduction in listener fatigue. In order to increase the degree of feedback in the Citation II, a "multiple loop" technique is used in contrast to conventional "single loop" techniques. This results in a 20/1 to 30/1 reduction in distortion compared with the 10/1 to 20/1 reduction in conventional amplifiers.

Other important Citation II features include: video output pentodes in all low level stages for exceptional wide frequency response and low distortion; power supply consisting of four silicon diode rectifiers, choke and heavy duty electrolytics with potted power transformer for superb regulation and long life; bias meter to adjust individually the plate current of each KT88 for balance and lowest distortion.

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## MERRY WIDOWS

Continued from page 66

in 1907 when it was renamed 1001 Nights.

Strauss had better luck on his next try, when he was offered the adaptation of a book by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy, Offenbach's librettists. Their comedy Réveillon eventually became Die Fledermaus, written in forty-two nights and given its first performance on April 5, 1874. It was presented only sixteen times in its first season, but since then it has been performed thousands of times all over the world-the perfect operetta, witty and sentimental, with beautiful music and great songs, exquisite taste and genuine humor. Johannes Brahms compared it to The Marriage of Figaro and never missed a performance. Together with Mozart's opera buffa, Wagner's Meistersinger, Verdi's Falstaff, and Richard Strauss's Rosenkavalier, it belongs to the small group of genuine comic masterpieces in music.

Strauss never recouped his happy inspiration. The Gypsy Baron, based on the novel Saffi by the Hungarian poet Maurus Jokai, has beautiful music (the income tax collectors might be more justified in calling it a comic opera), but it doesn't have the certain spark that makes people do the sort of things they regret the next morning. But this opera for the first time brought off the successful marriage between Viennese waltz and Hungarian melody which later became a phenomenon of many Viennese operettas. Another phenomenon is that the action of Viennese operetta almost never takes place in Vienna. Romantic complications occur at Maxim's, on the Italian Riviera, in the Hungarian puszta, in the Alps, on anonymous lakes, and in unspecified night clubs but never in Vienna.

It must have been a great time, that Golden Epoch of the Vienna operetta. Suppé and Millöcker used polkas and galops in their works, Strauss introduced the waltz. Suppé scored with Boccaccio (the libretto had been offered to Strauss and rejected), and Millöcker wrote The Beggar Student. There were fine performers available, among them Mme. Maria Geistinger and the celebrated comedian Alexander Girardi, for whom many parts were especially written. But nothing lasts forever. The Golden Epoch ended on the last day of 1899 with the death of Millöcker. Strauss had died earlier, in June, and Suppé had been dead since 1895. The critics buried the Viennese operetta. It was all over, they said.

Continued on next page

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## MERRY WIDOWS

## Continued from preceding page

And almost exactly six years later, on December 29, 1905, a young man named Franz Lehár, from Komorn, Hungary, made his Viennese debut with The Merry Widow. At the end of the performance everybody was cheering; the next morning people everywhere sang the "Maxim's" song and the critics celebrated the resurrection of the Viennese operetta. True, it was only a Silver Epoch, but there was plenty of 24-carat gold, too. Lehar wrote a score of operettas, among them The Count of Luxembourg and Land of Smiles; a gifted young man named Oscar Straus (no relation, one "s") contributed A Waltz Dream and The Chocolate Soldier; Leo Fall did Dollar Princess and Madame Pompadour, Kalman wrote The Gypsy Princess and Countess Muritza; and there were Zeller's Birdseller, Eysler's Brother Straubinger, Abraham's Victoria and Her Hussar, to name only the biggest successes. (In America, The Merry Widow and The Chocolate Soldier are the most frequently performed Viennese operettas, followed by Fledermaus and Gypsy Baron.)

By the time the Habsburg Monarchy had broken up into the succession states, Viennese operetta was one of the very few things that everybody everywhere liked about Vienna. Operetta became an industry-and quantity of output didn't improve quality. An army of librettists, gagmen, composers, orchestrators, singers, hangerson, and promoters promenaded between the Café Museum (headquarters of the various operetta cliques). the Hotel Sacher (home of those who had arrived), and the lovely old Theater an der Wien, where Beethoven's Fidelio had first been performed in 1805 and where most of the classic Viennese operettas have had their premieres. The theatre is now closed because no one wants to pay for its restoration-a sad letdown for the house with the greatest tradition of all theatres in Vienna.

The decline and fall of Viennese operetta began in the early Twenties. Plots became strictly a matter of formula. Typical is Countess Maritza (1926), written by the master librettists of the time. Julius Brammer and Alfred Grunwald. (Librettists always seem to come in pairs, vide Meilhac and Halévy, Leon and Stein.) Countess Maritza, a rich lady about town whom every man wants to marry "after a ten minutes' acquaintance," gets tired of life in the big city and goes back to her estates in Hungary. (There is a chance for folklore dances new madison fielding series 440

and harvest songs and colorful native costumes.) Naturally she falls in love with the one man who doesn't want to marry her after ten minutes; in fact, he's her penniless administrator, and she couldn't marry him because he's a commoner (she thinks). There are some side-plots involving a fictitious fiancée. Great climax towards the end of the second act when the lady and her employee split off. Great finale half an hour later when they find out that they are made for each other. Incidentally, it isn't a mésalliance after all, because he turns out to be a count himself and he's got plenty of money. Curtain.

Obviously, there's no social awareness in this type of operetta. The hero, a bankrupt prince, may briefly fall in love with a peasant, but he marries only in his own circle. It's mostly a case of mistaken identity. and everybody is deadly serious about the whole thing: unlike the Parisian operetta, its Viennese sister has never laughed about itself. There are a few solo arias for the stars, and there are far too many dances in moments when they have no business being there. Oscar Straus and Kalman worried a lot about getting too many dance numbers in the wrong places, but they were not always successful. The elichés began to deteriorate.

These were the days when at the Café Museum vou met characters who had struck it rich with a little inspiration in waltz and lyrics. Every month there was another premiere. The press was corrupt and the critics indulgent. There were speeches and encores and banquets, but they couldn't change the fact that operetta was dving even in its native habitat. And it has never traveled very well. Non-Viennese orchestras don't know about its subtleties, such as the ever-so-slight accent on the second beat of its waltz themes. Somehow in being transported the bubbles go out of the champagne.

The advent of Nazism signed off the end officially. The Café Museum became the hangout of brownshirts and blackshirts. People who create operettas and want to make other people happy have never worn such shirts. Hitler is said to have loved The Merry Widow but he was no inspiration to the operetta composers of his time. The Silver Epoch of Viennese operetta, too, is ended. But we have the musical legacy—and who knows when a new Golden Age may be around the corner?



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## PHILHARMONIC

Continued from page 57

The bulk of each man's earnings comes from work at the Opera, and so does the bulk of his retirement pension (remember that the Opera is a governmental institution). From the Opera and the Philharmonic together, an alumnus receives a pension of more than seventy per cent of his active salary. The active salary (of the average member) is, according to Helmut Wobisch, trampeter and business manager, about 80,000 schillings a year. Translated at the official exchange rate, this comes to something like \$3,200, and might seem small pay. The official exchange rate, however, has small observable connection with the way Austrians live. Pictured as practical purchasing power, the wage figure probably should be multiplied by two.

Leading members also do considerable chamber music work. The Vienna Octet, the Barylli Quartet, the Konzerthaus Quartet, and the Vienna Woodwind Ensemble all consist of VPO members, and will be names familiar to American record buyers. And, of course, the senior instrumentalists do a great deal of teaching. Nearly all the first-desk men teach at the famous Academy, preparing the next generation of Philharmonic members. Incidentally, the title of Professor, borne by fifty-two members of the Orchestra, does not necessarily imply a doctorate or a teaching job. It is given out annually by the President of the Republic to distinguished artists and scholars. Furthermore, it's used. Helmut Wobisch will accept "Herr Wobisch" from an ignorant foreigner, but wee to the Austrian who doesn't say Professor Wobisch. Or better yet. Herr Professor.

Professor Wobisch calls the Philharmonic the world's most democratic musical organization, in tones of mixed pride and irritation. "This is a family," he says, "with 124 heads." Everything is voted on, by secret ballot when necessary. The Philharmonic's carnings from concerts, tours, and recordings are divided equitably no matter who plays when. This spring, for example, in successive weeks the Orchestra recorded Also Sprach Zarathustra, for London, and Haydn's 104th Symphony, for RCA Victor. Naturally the latter required fewer players than the former, but the trombonists and percussionists shared in the fee just the same. Before World War I the Orchestra banked its savings; hence it lost them in the postwar inflation. Now it buys apartment buildings (it owns two), which would seem a good investment in housing-short Vienna.

The Orchestra is, in point of fact, a fairly good living proof that artists can be businessmen. "Everyone you see around here," said Wobisch between phone calls in his very busy office in the Musikverein building, "is a musi-cian in the orchestra. Dr. Otto Strasser, the president, is a violinist, as are the librarian, Professor Franz Slawicek, and the treasurer, Professor Walter Weller, and I am a trumpeter. Everyone plays an instrument except the accountant. We are elected for threeyear terms. Usually there are more jobs than people who want them, but the work gets done." The work was getting done as he talked, since arrangements were being made for the Vienna Philharmonic to undertake the first around-the-world tour ever made by a major symphony orchestra. (They will be crossing North America as you read this.) The route was to be southerly: New Delhi, Boinbay, Hongkong, Manila, San Francisco, Provo (Utah), Chicago, Cleveland, New York, Boston, Atlanta, Montreal, and back to Europe. "Much detail," he explained apologetically, as the telephone rang for the third time in eight minutes. "Wobisch hier," he said, into the instrument, then, waiting said: "All go by airplane, 118 men with instruments. We could not include Russia, they wanted us three weeks, too long. Perhaps we will go there another time. While we are gone we must pay salaries for substitutes at the Staatsoper, so we cannot be away too long.

Should the business offices on the second floor of the Musikverein building seem inordinately businesslike (though they are dark and carpeted and altogether charming), one can always go upstairs to the realm of Dr. Slawicek, which is purely antic and scholarly. Every square foot of the walls is taken up with autographed photographs and sketches, except those occupied by bound volumes of concert programs, going back a century, and collections of letters signed, in ink now fading, with such names as Johannes Brahms, Richard Wagner, Gustav Mahler, and Richard Strauss. More than that, one can hold and handle (not twirl) a light, strong walking stick that once belonged to a confirmed Viennese stroller named. Ludwig van Beethoven. In an ordinary museum this sort of thing would be bolted down in a glass case, but not in the Library of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. Perhaps, in fact, not anywhere in Vienna, which is part of the town's timeless quality. The room in the Heiligenstadt inn where the Pastoral Symphony was con-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>o</sup>Management for the American tour: National Artists Corporation, 711 Fifth Avenue, New York.

ceived is not a museum. The tavern is still in business. You may drink new white wine there now, under trellised vines thick and gnarled enough to date from Beethoven's day, in the courtyard. The main difference is, probably, that you will pay a little more for the wine than he did. And that what was countryside for him is countryside no longer; down the street are coöperative apartment houses. But some of them do have mosaics on the streetside walls. Vienna.

Being a self-governing coöperative, the Philharmonic has no musical director; it still engages conductors for individual events. It has to be diplomatic in its dealings with the musical director of the Opera, of course, since he is the members' boss when they function as Staatsoper Orkester, but the dealings are carried on as between equals. Currently the musical chief at the Opera is Herbert von Karajan, whom the Orchestra happens to get along with very well. (He is conducting on the world tour.) In fact, they'd like him as concert conductor more often, but he has so many other jobs -notably those at Berlin and La Scala -that he limits himself to two subscription concerts. With other conductors, admits Professor Boskovsky, the orchestra sometimes has had to be "a little cross." Dr. Fritz Metznik, director of the Austrian Federal Press Service, recalls once receiving an anxious letter from an arriving conductor, asking if he might borrow photographs of the principal players in the Orchestra, so that he could memorize their names and faces before his first rehearsal and thus make a good impression on them.

The Philharmonic makes recording contracts in its own corporate capacity. All its recording is done, these days, in the Sofiensäle, which is quiet and acoustically kind to microphones. Since World War II the VPO has recorded exclusively for London-Decca, until recently when London and RCA Victor worked out a sort of subcontracting exchange agreement. Its Victor records thus far, accordingly, have been made by the regular London location crew. This consists of recording director John Culshaw, his assistant Ray Minshull, and three engineers, Gordon Parry, Jim Brown, and Karl Brugger. Actually these comprise two crews, at least when they are working for Decca-London, since stereo and monophonic tapings are made separately.

Culshaw says that recording with the Philharmonic is not like working with any other group in the world. They are very fast: sometimes he has

Continued on next page

NOVEMBER 1959

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## PHILHARMONIC

## Continued from preceding page

been able to record an entire work played without halt, with only a few retakes for safety's sake. However, the members would rather be caught dead than looking efficient. Only a few go to listen to the playbacks at break time; the rest fish newspapers from their pockets and turn to the scandal columns or racing results. (Of course, newspaper reading is *the* great Viennese recreation; when you go into a café, the waiter brings you a choice of newspapers along with the menu.)

There is commonly also some small and endearing show of either independence or temperament, it is hard to say which. One day last April, when Zarathustra was being recorded, the old ballroom's curtains had to be parted, since on the stage had been mounted an enormous 2,400-pound bronze church bell, rented from a foundry by Culshaw's tireless fi-men for a climactic effect towards the end of the tone poem. There were also photographers present, preparing publicity for the world tour. Into the control room came one player, in a stout wool sweater. The hall was too cold, he said, there was a draft from the stage. As he left, in came another, in shirt sleeves, wiping his brow. He was bothered by the heat, he said, from the floodlights. "They sit about five feet apart," said Culshaw later, "but now they've had their say, and they can play." Indeed, they were already tuning up.

They were not, may it be said here, tuning to an A-note of 447 cycles, as they have been charged with doing in the press. This is a canard, says Dr. Strasser. It may have been started by singers who bobbled high notes and wanted to lay the blame elsewhere. The orchestra varies its pitch upward somewhat from the 440-cps of the International A, according to where it's playing, but seldom above 444. In recording it holds rigidly to 443.

In any case, the secret of the famous Vienna tone is not pure brilliance. It is a sort of transparent depth, which comes simply from long knowledge among the players of the sounds each other make. Rarely does a player leave the Philharmonic, and it is not unusual for a member to be training his son to succeed him; this is happening now in the horn and flute sections. Hence the extraordinary empathic give-and-take that informs their work, and hence the high unlikelihood that anyone will imitate their formula successfully. It would take 117 years.





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## NIGHT LIGHTS

## Continued from page 69

Society, SPA, and a number of others to enter the recording field on a hitherto undreamt-of scale. Nor were artists' fees the only bargain. The famous Musikverein, where the Vienna Philharmonic always recorded, rented for 1,800 schillings per session in 1950 (it now costs just double); the Konzerthaus charged 900 schillings a session for the beautiful Mozartsaal and 1,500 schillings for a session in the large hall. The Konzerthaus studio cost \$3.20 an hour in 1949, and it was here that the Nelson Mass, the Vox St. John Passion, and the first Bach Guild records were made. The Vienna Symphony's technical outfit, called "Symphonia," charged \$9.00 an hour for their technicians in 1949. Telefunken Studios, which was under the supervision of a brilliant engineer named Otto Leitner, had delightful facilities in the suburb of Dombach; there, amidst green trees, you could record for the same price as in town, and there was the additional advantage that the Dornbach studios were right round the corner from a Heuriger, who did a brisk business sending up frosty glasses of white wine to thirsty technicians. Herr Leitner says he made his best records after the third or fourth glass.

Prices in Vienna are not so fabulously low nowadays: the Vienna Symphony has gone up double its price since 1949, but even at \$3.00 per man per session, it is still an attractive proposition to come and record in Vienna. Herr Duron, at least, isn't worried.

"It's not like 1950, of course," he said. "But it was too much then. We couldn't have kept it up all these years. And look at our orders for this fall. . . ." He showed me the huge tally sheet on which recording sessions were charted.

"Now that they've gone through most of the Haydn symphonies and Bach cantatas, what do you expect to do next?" I asked.

Duron leaned back and laughed.

"We'll do them all over again in sterce," he said, pointing through the window. On the other side two technicians were busily setting up the equipment.







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## HF REPORTS

#### Continuted from page 141

a minimum of controls and operating flexibility. Nevertheless, its flexibility should be quite adequate for most home installations. An input selector offers a choice of magnetic phono, microphone, tuner, and crystal phono inputs. Separate bass and treble tone controls supply the usual boost or cut characteristics. The level control is combined with the ON-OFF switch.

The phono equalization (RIAA) is designed for the GE RPX series of monophonic cartridges, and makes use of the inductance of the cartridge coil to roll off the high frequencies. Satisfactory results should also be obtained with the Pickering 350S Fluxvalve pickup. Instructions are pro-vided for the simple modifications needed when the preamplifier is used with the Audiogersh MST-IS and Fairchild 225 series cartridges.

We measured the equalization error both from a low impedance (600ohm) source and through a GE GC-5 stereo cartridge. In the latter case the equalization was within 3 db of the RIAA curve from 20 to 10,000 cps, while there was pronounced rise in high-frequency response when a lowimpedance source was used. Fortunately, the tone control characteristics are such that this rise can be compensated for easily by the use of treble cut. The NARTB tape playback characteristic can be approximated fairly well using the phono input and some treble cut.

The response through the microphone input was very flat from 300 to 15,000 cps, but fell sharply below 300 cps. Here too, the bass boost characteristics of the HFT-1 would make possible a reasonably flat response curve. Through the tuner input the frequency response was flat within 1 db from 20 to 20,000 cps, and the tone controls were fairly conventional in their action.

As one would expect with a batteryoperated transistor preamplifier, there is absolutely no hum in the output of the HFT-1. The noise (hiss) is also very low, being from 60 to 70 db below 1 volt output on all inputs and at any gain setting. This is inaudible even when one's ear is placed against the speaker.

In our tests, the intermodulation distortion proved to be considerably higher than the Regency specifications would indicate. The usual upper limit of tolerable IM (2%) was reached at 0.6 volts indicated output, which corresponds to about 0.75 volts with a sine wave test signal. This would be acceptable when a relatively high-gain or high-powered pow-



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er amplifier is used, but not with some amplifiers which might require 1.5 or 2.0 volts to drive them to 10 or 15 watts output.

Another limitation, though not a severe one, is the low gain on the magnetic phono input. A 10-millivolt signal is needed to develop 1 volt output. The gain is, of course, quite sufficient for the GE or Pickering cartridges for which this unit was designed, but when used with low-output types there is no reserve gain. Here the low noise level of the HFT-1 is advantageous, since it can be operated wide open with no ill effects. In listening tests we used a Grado stereo cartridge, which has less than 1 millivolt output, and a 50-watt power amplifier. There was no difficulty in obtaining uncomfortably loud volume levels, though the preamplifier was operated at maximum gain.

A final minor criticism is the lack of a pilot light or other indication that the unit is turned on. It would be necessary to develop a systematic procedure for turning off a system to avoid leaving the preamplifier turned on. This could be a rather expensive mistake.

All in all, the Regency HFT-1 is a moderate-performance preamplifier, having no serious faults except the limitation on output voltage. It certainly is unsurpassed when it comes to low noise and small size. Its chief application will probably be in limited-space installations or in portable equipment, where its virtues can be fully exploited.—H. H. Labs.

MANUFACTURER'S COMMENT: It is difficult le account for the results found, in the case of the discrepancy in the audio response curves using microphone input and tuner input, and in the high IM readings noted. It should be noted that the amplification circuits for microphone and tuner inputs are identical with the exception of the 470 K-ohm resistor in the tuner input, which would hardly account for the response difference found.

Further, under factory test procedure, factory-wired and -tested HFT-1 preamplifiers indicating IM distortion readings over .8% at 1 volt output are rejected. Test is made with lone controls set "flat" and gain control at maximum.

The unit tested here was a kit, constructed in the field, and it is possible that incorrect assembly or component mishandling might account for the above results.



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## WURST AND BEETHOVEN

Continued from page 62

ancient building on the beautiful Michaelerplatz where, incidentally, the old Burgtheater, in which Figaro was first performed, used to stand. He rang the porter's doorbell, and a wellpadded Hausmeisterin answered.

"Is Herr Haydn's room still free?" the dashing young man with the curious past asked.

The Hausmeisterin thought a moment, and then answered, as if Herr Haydn had just vacated the room last week, "As a matter of fact, it is. You want to rent it? I'll show it to you."

She led him up flight after flight of stairs, each landing shabbier than the one before. The last flight was practically perpendicular. She unlocked a door in the huge attic, and there, overlooking St. Michael's Church and the round, elegant square, was the very room Havdn had occupied in 1749 or 1750, when he was a penniless student, just expelled from St. Stephen's Choir for cutting off the pigtail of a fellow student during High Mass.

The dashing young man with the curious past surveyed the room. It had scarcely changed since Haydn's time: the plaster had peeled off the walls, and there was the musty, heady air of a room unused for many years. The Hausmeisterin threw open a window and the fresh summer air of 1959 filled the old garret.

"It's not a bad room for the price," she said, eveing the prospective tenant warily.

The dashing young man with the curious past rented the room. He hopes-rather naïvely, I fear-that the city authorities will turn it into a tiny museum and appoint him the guardian.

The Viennese authorities have far too many musical museums to care for, as it is. Their director, Franz Gluck, a kindly scholarly-looking man with thick glasses and a soft-spoken, ele-gant manner, sighed when I asked him about the problem.

"These museums cost a fortune to maintain," he explained. "They are mostly in very old houses which have to be repaired constantly. Take the Haydn Museun," and he shook his head gloomily.

"The last time I was there, the house looked very solid to me," I put

"Ah, but you didn't see inside the walls," answered Director Gluck. "All the timber rotten, the whole house unsafe. We had to renovate it from attic to cellar. If you would like to see what happened, I'll show it to you.'

We drove from Director Gluck's



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splendid new office building on the Karlsplatz to the busy Mariahilferstrasse, Vienna's principal shopping street and one of the main arteries to the West. (Traffic in Vienna has become a terrible problem, because most of the small, winding streets in the Stadt. or inner city, are totally unequipped to take the present flow of automobiles, local and foreign.) In an endless stream of delivery trucks and cars, we crawled past the stately baroque church where Haydn's funeral service was held on a June after-noon in 1809. "A hot, sticky day," reports a contemporary diary. "Choking dust. Haydn's body was carried thrice round the church in a solemn procession. Not a single Viennese Kapellmeister was there. . .

"Vienna hasn't changed much," was Director Gluck's terse comment as I reminded him of the conduct of Haydn's colleagues 150 years ago.

Just before the Westbahnhof, we turned off the Mariahilferstrasse and suddenly the years rolled away as we traversed what was, in the eighteenth eentury, the suburb of Gumpendorf. Haydn's house used to have the address Kleine Steingasse 73, but the street was later renamed Haydngasse: it is quite an imposing house, with a lovely garden where the aged composer used to take his morning walks, leaning on the arm of his faithful servant Johann Elssler.

Director Gluck and I stood for a moment in the courtyard, looking out onto the garden. We seemed to be on an enchanted island in the middle of the great, sprawling city; the soft green of the trees along the brick wall contrasted gently with the yellow and white of the house.

In fact, it was Haydn's wife who discovered the house. She wrote to her husband, then in London, with her usual tact and charm, suggesting that he buy the house for her to live in when she became a widow. Haydn returned, fell in love with the house, and bought it straightaway. "And it's I who am living in it, as a widower," he used to tell people, with his quick irony.

He had bought the place in 1793, between his two London visits, and immediately asked the authorities if he could enlarge it. The petition Haydn submitted to the Vienna City Magistracy is still extant: "In this projected construction [wrote Haydn], good materials would be used . . . and [the house] would contribute to improving the general looks of the street. [Haydn] hopes therefore that his plan will be approved, the more so because by enlarging the building, an in-

Continued on next page

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## WURST AND BEETHOVEN

Continued from preceding page

crease of tax money would accrue to the most exalted Magistracy. Vienna, 14th August 1793 . . ."

Needless to say, permission was granted.

Director Gluck led us up the stairs to the rooms Haydn lived in. During the renovation, workmen stripped the walls down, revealing layer after layer of wallpaper and paint. Gluck said that it was like taking a trip backwards through the nineteenth century. Finally, they got down to the last layer, and to their delight they found a delicate, exquisitely patterned late eightcenth- or early nineteenth-century paper.

per. "It might have been Haydn's own paper," Gluck said. "The pity is that there wasn't enough of it in a good enough state of preservation, and I had to scrap the idea of doing the whole of Haydn's apartments that way."

Improbable occurrences, improbable conversations. . . Imagine a string quartet party at Mozart's house, Haydn playing first violin, Mozart viola; Leopold Mozart, a venerable old man, is there, on a visit from Salzburg. After the quartet is finished, Haydn talks about Wolfgang to Father Mozart, and someone takes down the conversation. It all sounds like fiction—and yet the very meeting described above took place, and the house where it occurred is still standing.

You start at St. Stephen's Cathedral, the sprawling late Romanesque *cum* Gothic *cum* (on the inside) Baroque building which is so typically Viennese. It does not have the soaring mysticism of Chartres or Reims, or the Northern secrecy of Durham or Speyer;

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Behind the Cathedral, on the east side, you pass the little chapel where Mozart's funeral was held before a tiny group of mourners. To the right is the heavy grandeur of the Deutsch-Ordens-Haus, where the Salzburg.



Archbishop's minion, Count Arco, booted Mozart down the stairs, out of the Archbishop's service, and into immortality. You cross into the Schulerstrasse, a tiny street reminding you that Vienna was a flourishing city in the Middle Ages. A few doors down is a four-story late Baroque house, with a handsome façade. The Mozarts rented the whole first floor for the stiff price of 460 Gulden a year (the annual salary of a second violinist in an Austrian provincial town); they remained there from September 1784 to April 1787.

They were certainly Mozart's happiest years. His subscription concerts were attended by almost the entire Viennese aristocracy, including Emperor Joseph II (who really understood neither Mozart's nor Haydn's music). It was in this house that Le Nozze di Figaro was composed, as well as many of the greatest piano concertos (e.g., K. 466, 467, 482, 488, 491, 503), the Prague Symphony, and the last three of the six string Quartets dedicated to Joseph Haydn.

It was on a February evening in the year 1785 that Wolfgang held at his house in the Schulerstrasse the musical evening mentioned above. Leopold Mozart, on a lengthy visit from Salzburg, wrote back to his daughter a few days later: "Saturday evening Herr Joseph Haydn and the two Baron Tindis were here; the new Quartets were played, but only the three new ones [K. 458, 464, 465] which [Wolfgang] has added to the three we already have-they are a little easier but excellently written. Herr Havdn said to me: 'I tell you before God and as an honest man, that your son is the greatest composer I know, personally or by reputation; he has taste and apart from that, the greatest possible knowledge of composition."

HIGH FIDELITY MAGAZINE

On a spring day in the year 1787, shortly before Mozart-because of financial difficulties-had to give up his beautiful flat, he had another visitor, this time from Bonn. Mozart was very busy and barely noticed the young man, who asked to be allowed to play something on the piano. When, however, the young man began to play, Mozart (so the story goes) cocked an attentive ear and said: "Pay attention to him! One day he will make the world sit up and take notice." The young man was Ludwig van Beethoven.

Vienna is full of Beethoven houses. Discovering all the houses Beethoven inhabited in Vienna and its outskirts is rather like trying to make a list of all the beds in which George Washington or Queen Elizabeth I slept. There is an old Viennese joke to the effect that every second house in Vienna has some connection with Beethoven, if you look hard enough.

One Beethoven flat, however, was his home, with occasional absences, for some ten years-from 1804 to 1815. It is on the top floor of the so-called Pasqualati House (Freiherr von Pasqualati was the Emperor's private physician) on the Mölker-Bastei, originally connected to the city walls (which were torn down in the nineteenth century to make the present Ringstrasse), and thus higher than the surrounding part of the district. When you stand below the Bastei, you can imagine what Vienna must have looked like in the late eighteenth century. Like Haydn's house in Gumpendorf and the "Figaro" House, the top floor of the Pasqualati Haus is also a museum, dedicated in part to Beethoven and in part to the Emperor's then-famous physician.

Personally, the Beethoven house I much prefer is out in Heiligenstadt, once a little village an hour's carriage drive from the city, and now a quiet, rather dreamy suburb. In the year 1802, when Beethoven realized that he was going deaf, he was living in this little house, now Probusgasse 6; it was here that he wrote to his brothers the searing document called the "Heiligenstädter Testament," protesting his affliction and seeming almost to welcome the release of death. Round the corner, if you follow the winding street, you find the Pfarrplatz, or village square, with shady trees, old houses (hardly a façade has changed very much in the last 150 years), and a rustic village church. (Recent excavations have shown that the church was built on the foundations of an early Romanesque basilica.) Here, too, Beethoven

Continued on next page

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## WURST AND BEETHOVEN

### Continued from preceding page

lived, at Pfarrplatz No. 2, during the year 1817.

The house is not a museum at all. If you go there on a summer evening, you will find the big double doors to the courtvard open, and rows of green benches and tables under the tall trees. There, the Viennese go to drink the new wine, "Heurige" ("this year's"), and to dream away half the night with their sweethearts or their wives. You sit under the window where Beethoven lived and worked, and the music they play is Schrammelmusik-soft, sentimental Viennese songs that surround and envelop you together with the warm glow of the new wine.

The first time I went there, on a summer evening which was too beautiful to be true, I thought: how incongruous, how impossible, to sing Schrammelmusik and drink wine and eat black bread and Wurst in a place like this. But after my first Viertel of the strong, heady wine, I suddenly realized that, like so many seemingly incongruous things in Vienna, Heurige and Beethoven are not so far apart after all; for in the Viennese gardens where you drink the new wine, the line between joy and sorrow, between past and present, perhaps even between life and death, is a very thin one. The house on the Mölker-Bastei is a museum, with a proper custodian and, under glass, some proper Bee-thovenian relics; but in the courtyard at Heiligenstadt, under the whispering trees, there is more: there is the Pastoral, there is even the Missa Solemnis. Here, you feel, the words at the top of the autograph score of the Missa, "Von Herzen, möge es wieder zu Herzen gehen," might have been conceived—"From the heart, may it speak to the heart." Wurst and the Pastoral, new wine and the Missa-it is all part of the secret and the mystery of Vienna.



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## STEREO TUNER

## Continued from page 72

devoted to discussion of which is better. From the practical standpoint, the answer is simple: either, if well designed and carefully produced. In the early days of FM, ratio detectors acquired a bad reputation because they could be produced economically and were often coupled with poorly built and insensitive tumers. The Armstrong circuit, per se, was more expensive to manufacture and was therefore used only on better grades of equipment. This is simply background information, designed to clear the reputation of ratio detectors; several of the best manufacturers use them with complete success.

There is a listening difference, however; and that brings us to hush or squelch circuits. When a receiver which uses a ratio detector is tuned, there is no (violent) noise between stations. On the other hand, the area between stations in an Armstrong-cucuited receiver has some of the finest waterfall-rushing and hissing sound ever heard. (Makes a wonderful loudspeaker test sound, by the way.) It can be impleasant when tuning up and down the dial. So engineers developed hush or squelch circuits to reduce and even eliminate this sound, enabling one to tune in quiet.

Provision should be-and is-made on all tuners to defeat such circuits, because if too much hush is applied, a weak station, as well as extraneous noise, can be squelched. Some tuners are designed so that the hush or squelch circuit is either in or out; others enable the amount of squelch applied to be varied.

H: Practically all FM antenna installations use 300-ohm twin lead for the connections between antenna and tuner. And all tuners have the proper terminals for wire of this impedance. In some instances, it may be desirable to use coaxial cable, to help reduce pickup of interference along the leadin wire. Coaxial cable of this type has a low impedance, between 50 and 70 ohms. Therefore, if coax cable is used, either the tuner must have low-impedance antenna terminals, or an impedance-matching transformer must be used. The former arrangement is better; the latter is entirely adequate.

I: Tuning indicators, and the need therefor, are discussed above. Either an eye (or indicator) or a meter can be sufficiently accurate for precise tuning.

Continued on next page

NOVEMBER 1959



This enlargement shows a diamond. chip needle sent us by a disappointed user, who learned all diamond needles are not O.K. Shows what happens if a heat bubble forms when a chip is welded on. Can't happen with a Duotone Needle that uses only the whole diamond set

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## STEREO TUNER

### Continued from preceding page

I: Time was when HIGH FIDELITY Magazine used to campaign to get volume controls off tuners, in the interest of simplicity. It seems sensible to adjust volume at only one point: on the preamp-control panel. It was our feeling that inclusion of a control on the tuner was a redundancy. Today, there are so few tuners with volume controls on the front panel that we make a special mention of their appearance. (Some tuners provide level controls on the rear apron, where they can be set once and for all; still others provide none, either front or back.)

K: Clear enough? See also W.

L: As pointed out at the beginning of this article, manufacturers confronted with the multiplex situations have reacted in a variety of ways. Some provide no more than an extra phono jack, wired parallel to the regular audio output connection, which can be used for anything, including multiplex (with some extra work.) Some insert this jack into the circuit so that adaptation to multiplex will be considerably easier. Some leave space on the tuner chassis, and all you have to do is to plug in the adapter. And at least one goes so far as to provide a multiplex separation control on the front of the panel.

Best advice to prospective purchasers: get the latest information about the local multiplex situation from a competent dealer, and then you can buy accordingly.

M: See I. The meter is better than an indicator (which may be an eve or a bar) for measuring signal strength, but a good indicator is better than a poor meter insofar as precision of tuning is concerned. Try both types on weak signals.

N and O: Automatic Frequency Control is included on all but two of the tuners in our compilation. In all cases, it can be defeated; the reason for doing so was discussed in our introductory paragraphs. Some tuner manufacturers make AFC variable, so that it may be adjusted to suit local conditions. The same theories apply to squelch circuits, discussed under F.

P: Phase reverse . . . um . . . when a sound strikes the diaphragms of two microphones in a recording or broadcasting studio, both diaphragms move in the same direction. When the electrical impulse representing this sound reappears at the voice coils of the



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loudspeakers in your home, it must push both speaker diaphragms in the same direction. If one diaphragm sucks in while the other pushes out, they are said to be out of phase. Out of step would be a good semantic alternate. If they are out of phase, the sound tends to cancel. This is Part I of the lesson for today. Part II has to do with how you keep things in phase. In setting up a stereo system, phase is established once and for all for records, and need not be changed. Phase can be reversed by reversing the connections to one loudspeaker



(not both). In phase, the middles and lows are strong; out of phase, they are weak, and the hole-in-the-middle is more apparent. A correct phase relationship can be maintained relatively simply by the record manufacturer, so that once it is set properly, for record playback, the chances are very good that it will not have to be shifted.

This is not equally true of stereo broadcasting. Each electronic step (even in a home system) reverses the phase of the sound signal. Thus the number of steps must be kept the same throughout the process. They can be, in record producing. They can be, in a home system. And once in a while, they can be in broadcasting. They can be if the same studio, and the same equipment, are used each time. But change microphones, add one stage of amplification, or shift transmitting facilities, and the chances are fifty-fifty that phase will be reversed.

Thus it seems probable that, from time to time, stereo broadcasts will not sound quite the same. One night they will be good, the next they might be a bit weak. Reversing the phase the second night-by reversing the leads to one speaker system-would probably effect an improvement.

Hence the need for phase-reversal provisions on tuners. Some preampcontrol manufacturers provide for it at this step in the process, and here is probably the best place because oc-casionally it may be desirable to re-

Continued on next page

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## STEREO TUNER

## Continued from preceding page

verse phase from a tape recorder and even from a phonograph record. A switch in the speaker line will do it, but this is not as neat as a switch on the preamp or on the tuner.

Eventually, of course, ways and means will be found to maintain phase regardless of the broadcasting or recording setup. Meantime, the problem should be borne in mind, and some convenient method for phase reversal provided.

At least one stereo tuner already has this feature.

Q and R: FM broadcasts carry the full range of audible frequencies, say from 20 to 20,000 cycles. Except in rare circunstances, AM transmissions are of limited frequency range. They may be as low as from 100 to 4,000 cycles; some go as high as 8,000 cycles; a few special stations go above this figure. The reason for restricting the frequency range is to minimize interference between stations, whose channels are only 10,000 cycles apart (as set by the FCC). The reverse side of this coin is that it's a lot easier to build a small kitchen radio with a restricted frequency response than it is to make it handle even 6,000 cycles. So most of the manufacturersto reduce interstation interference and to provide sharper tuning, as well as for reasons of economy-have limited their receivers to 4,000 cycles or so. Thus the broadcasters have not had, until recently, any incentive to improve their transmitting quality.

Times change. High fidelity has become a strong influence, strong enough to encourage broadcasters to improve their signals, and manufacturers to improve their receivers and tuners. But there is a conflict. For fidelity, the wider the frequency range accepted by an AM tuner, the better. But for interference-free reception, the narrower the range, the better. So several AM tuner manufacturers provide variable AM bandwidth.

W: See K.



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