



# THE WORLD OF JAZZ



BY TED WILLIAMS

## Presenting Gary Burton

Gary Burton, at 22, is considered by many to be one of the dominant forces in the profession of his choosing. The young vibraharpist, when at his best, reveals near flawless technique and admirable solo construction.

Bright stars on the jazz horizon, as in most professions, appear almost daily, but fortunately only the cream of the crop achieves any permanent prominence. Burton has become one of the more powerful forces on his instrument; and it looks like a permanent position.

Burton, who records for RCA Victor, was added to the label's roster after being heard by RCA's man in Nashville, Chet Atkins. Since that time the musician has recorded some 25 albums, many as featured soloist or leader. I remember an LP that Burton appeared on with guitarist Hank Garland on the Columbia label. It was as much a showcase for Burton as it was for Garland, who was the featured performer. Of course there's been lots of musical maturing since that time, (he was 17 then) but that instinctive feeling for jazz already was evident in the vibist's playing.

Since his signing with RCA, Gary has been ever active, at both performing and writing. The artist worked with George Shearing for a year, and also did some writing for the group. Last year Burton joined the Stan Getz quartet, the biggest boost to his career so far. The musician's subdued swinging, an integral part of the group's sound, and his adept composing (he wrote the perky "A Singing Song" that the group has taken on as sort of a theme) are not his only contributions to the Getz group. Gary is also the quartet's business manager. How about that?

At the Tony Bennett-Stan Getz concert at Lincoln Center's Philharmonic Hall April 9, Burton gave the impression that he was a little tense at the beginning of the first number. He was a bit more cautious than usual during his solos. However, after a couple of numbers, the ideas began to flow; Burton loosened up and



Gary Burton

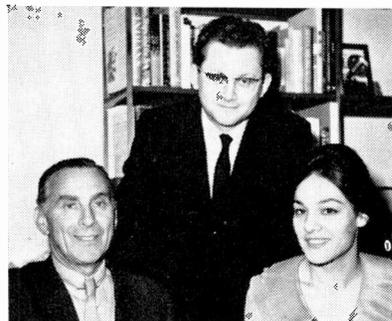
began giving the polished performance he's capable of. By the time he was ready to do a solo performance on the tune "Edelweiss" from his latest album "The Groovy Sound of Music," the artist was in top form and gave a stellar rendition of the tune.

I have purposely refrained from comparing Burton to any other musician because he is not going to be the next Milt Jackson, or the next anybody. He is the first Gary Burton, and there's a lot to be said for that.

### Hall to Artcraft

SCHENECTADY, N. Y. — William Woods, director of Artcraft Records, met last week in New York City with artist Linda Hall and her manager Howard Gebhardt, to sign Miss Hall to an exclusive recording contract.

### Israeli Visitor



Rivka Raz, right, who played Eliza in the Israeli "My Fair Lady," visited the states recently, chatted with Columbia Records prexy Goddard Lieber-son, left, and Ettore Stratta, Manager, International A&R for Col and did the Sullivan TVer and various benefits.

## Woody's 2nd LP For Colpix

Comedian Woody Allen will record his second LP for Colpix in April when he will be cut "live" at Washington's the Shadows where he headlines April 12-17. He may also tape additional portions during his starring engagement at New York's Basin Street East April 19-May 1. The album will be titled "Woody Allen—Vol. 2."

## Joe Williams

(Continued from page 17)

The singer also checks show scores (his last single release was "Feeling Good" from "The Roar of the Greasepaint"), and spiritual and folk catalogs for material.

"The song is the thing," Joe stressed. "If a song is good, no matter what kind it is, I want to sing it. And if I choose it, I want to make it good."

Right now Henderson is preparing for his semi-annual European tour. "This tour is important to me," he said, "because the cliché is true. Music and performers are America's best exports."

## UA Releases 12 New Albums

United Artists Record has unveiled its special "Showcase 65" promotion to their distributors covering the entire continental United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and Hawaii. It consists of 12 new packages which will be shipped immediately.

Topping the list is "By Popular Demand" from Ferrante and Teicher, a follow-up to their "The People's Choice." Vocal sensation Jimmy Roselli is represented by two collections, "Life And Love Italian Style" and "Mala Femmena," while perennial favorite Al Caiola offers "Solid Gold Guitar Goes Hawaiian." From the Beatles' musical director, George Martin, who has stepped out on his own as a platter star, comes "George Martin Scores The Instrumental Hits"; and Jay and The Americans are present with "Blockbusters." Tito Rodriguez and "Amor, Por Favor" and new albums from Steve Lawrence, the Leasebreakers, Phil Porter, the Highwaymen and Hans Hansberger round out the promotion.

## YOU HEARD IT LAST NIGHT

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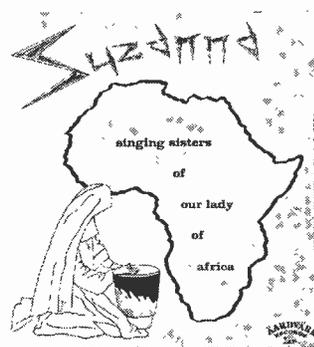
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