

Reviews and Ratings of New Albums

Continued from page 45

★★★★

VERY STRONG SALES POTENTIAL

POPULAR ★★★★★

★★★★ **UNDER PARIS SKIES**
 Andy Williams. Cadence CLP 3047—Williams offers his usual tasteful vocal stylings—both in English and French—on a group of nostalgic Parisian-flavored oldies and standards with fine backing by Quincy Jones. Recorded in Paris, the LP includes "Under Paris Skies," "April in Paris," "I Love Paris" and "Comme Ci, Comme Ça."

★★★★ **HAPPY SHADES OF BLUE**
 Freddy Cannon. Swan 504—The exuberant rock and roller warbles cheerfully on a group of tunes with the word "blue" in their titles. His fans should like the package. Selections include "My Blue Heaven," "Alice Blue Gown" and "Old Piano Roll Blues."

CHRISTMAS ★★★★★

★★★★ **CHRISTMAS CAROUSEL**
 Peggy Lee. Capitol ST 1423—This is a new role for Peggy Lee, singing well-known and not so well-known Christmas carols. But she handles them all creditably, accom-

panied by a children's chorus. The songs include "Jingle Bells," "Deck the Halls," and "White Christmas." This is not the usual sexy Miss Lee, but it should have appeal.

★★★★ SING THE SONGS OF CHRISTMAS

Guy Lombardo. Capitol STAO 1443. (Stereo & Monaural)—A happy Christmas album with the Lombardo crew in a sing-along session of carols recorded live at St. Patrick's Parish, Stoneham, Mass. About 100 children of the Parish join with the band in singing the carols, with Lombardo heard frequently announcing the songs. Many of the standard carols are featured, plus "Winter Wonderland" and "Rudolph." Inside spread of the book fold set contains complete lyrics to all songs on the disks, for would-be sing-alongs.

JAZZ ★★★★★

AT NEWPORT
 Chet Atkins and the Nashville All-Stars. Victor LPM 2302—A group of Nashville All-Stars led by RCA Victor guitarist and a.&r. man Chet Atkins, never got to play

officially at the Newport Jazz Festival, but did play an impromptu session that was recorded by RCA Victor. The country acts acquit themselves with distinction on seven tracks, with honors going to vibest Gary Burton, guitarist Hank Garland and pianist Floyd Cramer. Most unusual tracks on the LP are Benton Brooks playing "Opus De Funk" on violin and Atkins' jazz-country version of "Frankie and Johnny."

★★★★ AMBASSADOR OF JAZZ

Max Kaminsky and his Orchestra. Westminster WP 6125—Trumpeter Max Kaminsky leads his selected group of cats thru a fine assortment of standards and originals, 10 tracks in all. While the bulk of the material carries the undeniable Dixie stamp, notes of modernity adds much excitement, humor, and variety. A fine rendition of Horace Silver's "The Preacher" is just one obvious example. Given half a chance, this LP might see some action.

CLASSICAL ★★★★★

★★★★ **VERDI: REQUIEM**
 Soloists: Vienna Philharmonic (Reiner). (2-12"). RCA Victor LD 6091 — The four fine soloists include the late Jussi Bjoerling, Giorgio Tozzi, Leontyne Price and Rosalind Elias. Conductor Fritz Reiner leads the Vienna Philharmonic and the Viennese chorus in an inspiring rendition of one of the great masterpieces of the genre. The three currently available competitive versions are all aging and cannot compete with the splendor of this set's sound. All these factors plus the de luxe Soria packaging makes this two-disk set a significant piece of merchandise.

SOUND ★★★★★

★★★★ **THE SOUND OF HOLLYWOOD**
 Medallion Strings. Medallion MS 7513.

(Stereo & Monaural) — Another super-duper package of sparkling sound — this time with the emphasis on rich, full-bodied string effects. Emanuel Vardi is the maestro as the large ork performs some of the memorable recent movie themes — including "Sundowners," "A Summer Place," "Midnight Lace," "The Unforgiven," "Never on Sunday," and "The World of Suzie Wong." Delightful background music, or for the more attentive ear, a brilliant exposition of sound.

★★★★ SOUND OF TOP BRASS, VOL. 2

Peter London Orchestra. Medallion MS 7508. (Stereo & Monaural) — This is the second in the label's series of "Sound of Top Brass" albums, and it should be as successful as the first. Again trumpets, trombones and French horns are shown off to advantage via arrangements by Art Harris, Frank Hunter and Vic Schoen, played by top musicians. The songs include such well-known standards as "The Continental," "Tico Tico," "Bugler's Holiday," and "Grandada." The set is bright and brassy, especially in stereo.

★★★★ THE SOUND OF LATIN BRASS

Tarrango Orchestra. Medallion ML 7511 — As in the case of other sets in this de luxe, quality sound series of Kapp Records, this latest contains colorful arranging and handsome reproduction. Unlike some of the super-sound releases now reaching the market in growing volume, this does not focus exclusively on percussion. Rather, it mixes the percussion with the full-bodied sound of brass and woodwinds, in a program of Latin standards that's not only something to hear, but danceable as well. Set also has bookfold packaging with a sharp and displayable cover.

★★★★ 8 HANDS ON 4 PIANOS

Medallion Piano Quartet. Medallion MS 7510. (Stereo & Monaural) — Some fine piano work by top 88 men Bernie Leighton, Moe Wechsler, Buddy Weed, and Warner Schikret, accompanied by a full orchestra with arrangements by David Terry. The arrangements sparkle, the piano work is very attractive and the recorded sound is superlative. Tunes range from "I Could Have Danced All Night" to "Sabre Dance." This should interest all stereo and hi-fi bugs.

CHRISTMAS ★★★★★

★★★★ **DECK THE HALLS**
 Medallion Ork & Chorus. Medallion MS 7512. (Stereo & Monaural) — A rich and beautifully recorded Christmas LP. This set, arranged by John Paul Krance, makes an attractive display item as well. Full ork and chorus supply the fine round of Christmas melodies: "Joy to the World," "First Noel," "Little Drummer Boy," and "Christmas Song" are just a few of the 20-odd tunes arranged in medley. Scoring is tastefully and effectively done for stereo.

SACRED ★★★★★

★★★★ **GET AWAY JORDAN**
 Statesmen, Skylite SKLP 5965.
 Blackwood Brothers. Skylite SRLP 5966 — Both these groups are regularly featured on RCA Victor but here they appear on a label with headquarters in both Atlanta and Memphis, and which is actually a joint operation of the two groups. Both perform in the usual strong, fervent gospel manner and both offer 12 selections including hymns and upbeat rhythm gospel songs. In each case the front cover carries a photo of the group on the recording. Both can reap good sales in the proper territories.

RELIGIOUS ★★★★★

★★★★ **HAIL MARY**
 Ann Blyth. Everest SDBR 1113. (Stereo & Monaural) — The movie actress, well known for her participation in charity activities for her church, sings with rich legitimated effectiveness and handles the narration with reverent sincerity. Altho the theme is a religious one, Jerry Livingston's music and the text and lyrics by Lenny Adelson frequently have a pop quality.

★★★★
GOOD SALES POTENTIAL

POPULAR ★★★★★

★★★★ **THEMES**
 Helmut Zacharias. Decca DL 4083 — Zacharias' lush violin solo work is spotlighted on a group of poignant movie themes, featuring the current pop single hits, "The Apartment" and "Never on Sunday." Fine mood music for dreamy jock segs. Other tunes include "Gigi," "Rose Tattoo," and "On the Beach."

★★★★ SING ALONG IN FRENCH

Ray Ventura. Everest SDBR 1107. (Stereo & Monaural) — A group of familiar French tunes are sung with pleasant brightness in French by a mixed chorus. Good performance and interesting addition to the sing-along category.

★★★★ SLEIGHRIDE

Randy Van Horne. Everest SDBR 1112. (Stereo & Monaural) — This is a pleasant, wintry type of album, featuring cold-based songs handled neatly by the Randy Van Horne Singers. Tunes include "Baby, It's Cold Outside," "Winter Weather," "Spring Will Be a Little Late This Year" and "It Happened in Sun Valley."

★★★★ THE CLINGSMAN CLAN

Trey TLP 960 — The Clingsman Clan are a sort of humorous Kingston Trio. Their songs in this new set include a take-off on "Tom Dooley," a slightly saucy item called "Hey Lolly," and the sprightly old "The Drunken Fool." There are also straight versions of "Man About Town" and "Barbara Allen." Lads have possibilities.

★★★★ HERE COMES CHARLIE SHAVERS

Everest SDBR 1108. (Stereo & Monaural) — The highly accomplished and fluted trumpet playing of Charlie Shavers is cast in a more commercial mold on this LP. Shavers plays with a quartet in much the same way as he did at the Embers in New York. A dozen tunes, all standards, are handled with fire and fine melodic concept. Among the best are: "It's All Right With Me," "Makin' Whoopee," and "You've Changed."

★★★★ BROADWAY IN BRASS

Eric Johnson and His Orchestra. Westminster WP 6126 — A group of nostalgic show tunes are wrapped up in effective instrumental treatments, with particular emphasis on solid brass section work. Spinable package includes tasteful ork treatments of "Dancing in the Dark," "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes" and "Bewitched."

CLASSICAL ★★★★★

★★★★ RAVEL: PIANO CONCERTO IN G MAJOR; PIANO CONCERTO IN D MAJOR FOR THE LEFT HAND

Samson Francois, Piano; Paris Conservatoire Orchestra (Cluytens). Angel S 35874. (Stereo & Monaural) — Dealers should find this becoming the strongest version of these two works currently available. Samson Francois provides the wit, gaiety and near-jazz technique necessary for successful execution of the G Major Concerto, and the emotional depth required for the Left Hand Concerto. Clear and natural sound plus top quality support from the Paris Conservatory Orchestra are additional virtues. Should do steady, if not spectacular business, for quite a while.

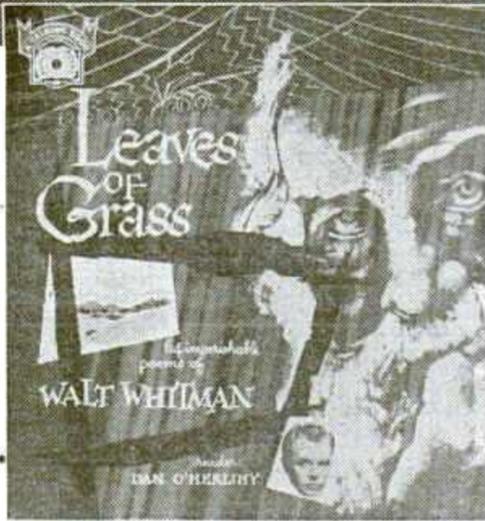
★★★★ LISZT: PIANO CONCERTOS NO. 1 IN E FLAT MAJOR; NO. 2 IN A MAJOR

Vienna State Opera Orchestra (Boult). (Continued on page 50)

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