



SPECIAL MERIT PICKS

Special Merit Picks are new releases of outstanding merit which deserve exposure and which could have commercial success within their respective categories of music.



POP SPECIAL MERIT

Buddy Greco's Greatest Hits
Epic LN 24043 (M); BN 26043 (S)

Buddy Greco pulls out all the stops on this one. The album swings and so does Buddy, all the way! Greco gives such tunes as "The Lady Is a Tramp," "You're Nobody" and "Like Young" his personal ad-lib touch. There's much to listen to and Greco is at his best!



POP SPECIAL MERIT

Surfin' U.S.A.
The Hot Doggers
Epic LN 24054 (M); BN 26054 (S)

The surfing sound is big across the land now, even if the sport itself hasn't yet reached as far. Here's a fine new instrumental combo with the swinging down guitar sound, and the group picks up on a flock of recent and current hits in the surf groove, including "Surfin' U.S.A.," "Balboa Blue," "Pipeline," "Surfer's Stomp," "Surfin' Safari" and others. A solid album with a better than average sound.



POP SPECIAL MERIT

Now Playing!
Various Artists
Ava A-23 (M); AS-23 (S)

Movie music fans will have another winging listening to outstanding motion picture musical signatures like "Days of Wine and Roses," "Mutiny on the Bounty" and "Lawrence of Arabia." There's an offering of a wide variety of performances—ranging from an Elmer Bernstein treatment to a Carol Lawrence vocal to the bossa beat of the Harry Belafonte ork with the Bill Brown Singers.



POP SPECIAL MERIT

Country Boy Goes to Town!!!!
George McCurn
A&M LP 102 (M)

George McCurn shows his broad resources of talent on this LP. Besides "I'm Just a Country Boy," which was a chart climber a short time ago, the album contains a wide assortment of songs sung with authority. On the country side is "He'll Have to Go," and there's a jazz-oriented "One More for the Poor Man" and fine low-voice spots in "Hundred Pounds of Clay" and "Snap Your Fingers." There's another potential hit in "Georgia Town."



POP SPECIAL MERIT

Mondo Cane
Movie Sound Track. United Artists
UAS 5105 (S); 4105 (M)

Here's an album that could prove a real sleeper, should it get the play. The LP is from the current off-beat movie and the music should surprise a good many people. Little of the bizarre nature of the picture is evident in the music which has excitement and some first-class themes played by a large string ork. Lots of good programming here.



FLAMENCO SPECIAL MERIT

Flamenco Fire
Sarita Heredia
World-Pacific 1427 (S)

This is one of the most exciting flamenco albums in years. It captures a live performance by Sarita Heredia and her troupe at Los Angeles' Club Matador, and it blazes all the way. Miss Heredia is captured in cante chico, little flamenco songs, which she infuses with her own personality and style both vocally and via her guitar work. Followers of flamenco should get kicks with this set.



SPOKEN WORD SPECIAL MERIT

Treasury of Nursery Rhymes
Christopher Casson
Spoken Arts 857

An unusual recording . . . authoritative in background, it is completely enchanting in performance and has special value as a source material for folk singers. Expertly sung and read by Christopher Casson—who also plays harp and handles the special effects in many numbers—the recording contains 53 selections . . . all the well-remembered favorites plus some indigenous to Great Britain.

ALBUM REVIEW POLICY

Every album sent to Billboard for review is heard by Billboard's Review Panel, and its sales potential is rated within its category of music. Full reviews are presented for Spotlight Picks or Special Merit Picks, and all other LP's are listed under their respective categories.

BREAKOUT ALBUMS

★ NATIONAL BREAKOUTS

MONO

Bobby Vee Meets The Ventures
Liberty LRP 3289

Latin Rendezvous
Mantovani & His Ork, London LL 3295

Oldies But Goodies, Vol. 5
Various Artists, Original Sound LPM 5007

STEREO

Latin Rendezvous
Mantovani & His Ork, London PS 295

★ NEW ACTION LP's

These new albums, not yet on Billboard's Top LP's Chart, have been reported getting strong sales action by dealers in major markets.

MONO

The Incredible Nancy Ames . . .
Liberty LRP 3276

Fabulous Miracles . . .
Tamla TM 238

The Boy's Won't Leave The Girls Alone . . .
Clancy Brothers & Tommy Makem, Columbia CL 1909

The Motor-Town Review, Vol. 1 . . .
Various Artists, Motown 609

The Ventures Play The Country Classics . . .
Dalton BLP 2023

Wagner: Siegfried . . .
Various Artists, London A 4508

Plenty of Pete . . .

Pete Fountain, Coral CRL 57424

Little Bird . . .

Pete Jolly Trio & Friends, Ava A 22

Connie Francis Sings Award Winning Motion Picture Hits
MGM E 4048

Les McCann Ltd. Plays The Sham-Poo At The Village Gate . . .
Pacific Jazz PJ 63

Jan & Dean Take Linda Surfin' . . .
Liberty LRP 3294

Steve & Eydie At The Movies . . .
Steve Lawrence & Eydie Gorme, Columbia CL 2021

Lena Sings Your Requests . . .
Lena Horne, Charter 101

Sammy Davis Jr. Sings Forget-Me-Nots For First Nighters . . .
Decca DL 4381

Mr. Bass Man . . .
Johnny Cymbal, Kapp KL 1324

STEREO

Classical Encores . . .
Mantovani & His Ork, London PS 269

Cotton Fields . . .
Arthur Lyman Group, Hi Fi SL 1010

Today's Top Hits . . .
David Carroll & His Ork, Mercury SR 60786

The Longest Day . . .
Sound Track, 20th Fox SXG 5007

Jazz Samba Encore! . . .
Stan Getz & Luiz Bonfá, Verve V6-8523



FOUR-STAR ALBUMS

The four-star rating is awarded new albums with sufficient commercial potential in their respective categories to merit being stocked by most dealers, one-stops and rack jobbers handling that category.

POPULAR

Sammy Davis Jr. Sings Forget-Me-Nots For First Nighters
Decca DL 4381 (M); DL 74381 (S)

Sun Arise
Rolf Harris, Epic LN 24053 (M); BN 26053 (S)

Three Guitars In Bossa Nova Time
Herb Ellis, Epic LA 16036 (M); BA 17036 (S)

Mr. Jazz
King Pleasure, United Artists, 15012 (S)

Surging Ahead
Clare Fischer, Pacific Jazz PJ 67 (S)

Pony's Express
Pony Polndexter, Epic LA 16035 (M); BA 17035 (S)

CLASSICAL

Dark Eyes
Don Cossack Choir (Jaroff), Deutsche Grammophon LPEM 19367 (M); SLPEM 136367 (S)

Bach: Three Violin Concertos
David and Igor Oistrakh Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (Goossens), Deutsche Grammophon LPM 18820 (M); SLPM 138820 (S)

Chopin: Piano Concerto No. 2; Polonaises 3 and 6
Stefan Askenase, piano; Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra (Ludwig), Deutsche Grammophon SLPM 18791 (M); SLPM 138791 (S)

Jan Peerce Sings Handel Arias
Westminster XWN 19028 (M); WST 17028 (S)

COUNTRY

Johnny Bond—Songs That Made Him Famous
Starday SLP 227

INTERNATIONAL

The Gypsies Are Singing
Sandor Lakatos Ensemble of Budapest, Westminster XWN 19022 (M); WST 17022 (S)

Favorite Yiddish Songs
Martha Schlamme, MGM E 4122 (M); SE 4122 (S)

LATIN AMERICAN

El Bravo Soy Yo!
Willie Rosario and His Ork, Alegre LPA 825

Alegre!
Felipe Rodriguez, Alegre LPA 828

FOLK

New Sounds In Folk Music
Cecil Null, Briar M 107



THREE-STAR ALBUMS

The three-star rating indicates moderate sales potential within each record's music category.

POPULAR

Yes Indeed
The Ray Wray Quartet, Pharaoh PH 1001

All Spice
Claudette Sutherland, Briar M 116

Come Surf With Me
Aki Aleong & The Nobles, Vee Jay LP 1060 (M); SR 1060 (S)

Clifford Scott Plays The Big Ones
World-Pacific 1811 (S)

CLASSICAL

Knappertsbusch Conducts Wagner
Munich Philharmonic Orchestra, Westminster XWN 19032 (M); WST 17032 (S)

Stockhausen: Gesang Der Junglinge/Kontakte
Deutsche Grammophon LPM 18811 (M); SLPM 138811 (S)

Classic Cymbalom
Aladar Racz, Westminster XWN 19011 (M); WST 17022 (S)

COUNTRY & WESTERN

Done Rovin'
Johnny Horton, Briar M 104

OTHER ALBUMS REVIEWS

The albums listed below are rated as having relatively limited sales or programming potential.

INTERNATIONAL

Robert Wilson On Stage
Dominion LP 1241 (M)

An Ayrshire Lassie Sings
Margaret Cruickshank, Dominion LP 1266 (M)

FOLK

The Folk Music of Rumania
Columbia World Library of Folk & Primitive Music, Vol. XVIII, Columbia KL-5799