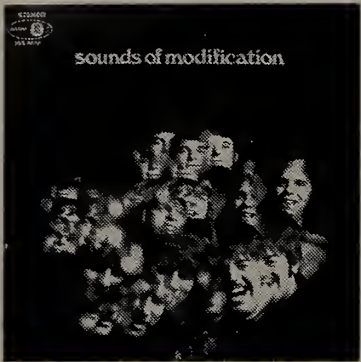


Pop Best Bets



'LIVE' AND WAILING—Carmen McRae—Mainstream S 6110

This is sort of a "Best Of" set, since Carmen McRae is captured live on 9 potent songs she's long been associated with. The vet jazz lark turns in exciting performances on "Perdido," "Love Is Here To Stay," "Too Close For Comfort" and "Traveling Light." Should be lots of good things in store for this set.



SOUNDS OF MODIFICATION—Jubilee JGS 8013

The Sounds Of Modification debut with a very well produced commercial effort which utilizes and highlights many proven "new rock" effects. Nine of the 10 songs in the set were penned by producer Bob Gallo, the 10th by Barry Gibb. FM programmers should find good material in "What Is This In The Mist," "You," and the almost 5-minute "The Toreador," the first underground tragedy song. Could be some good pickings here for the AM'ers also.



HOUSING PROJECT—John Hartford—RCA LSP/LPM 3998

This second album from composer John "Gentle On My Mind" Hartford could establish him as a folk/rock/country artist. Hartford blends all idioms as he looks at life: simple and complex, funny and tragic. "I Didn't Know The World Would Last This Long" is a lyrical look at living, while "The Girl With The Long Brown Hair" is an unusual love song. Other interesting items are "The Category Stomp" and "I'm Still Here." Could be plenty of sales in store for this set as the word gets around.



THE POPS GOES WEST—Boston Pops/Arthur Fiedler—RCA Victor LM/LSC 3008

The Boston Pops Orchestra, under the leadership of Arthur Fiedler, interprets twelve tunes associated with the American west. In brisk, lively fashion, the Orchestra romps through "Deep In The Heart Of Texas," "Sweet Betsy From Pike," "The Streets of Laredo," and Cole Porter's "Don't Fence Me In." There should be plentiful middle-of-the-road play in store for this bright package.



PAUL SIMON INTERPRETED—Sound Symposium—Dot DLP 3871/25871

The Sound Symposium, an instrumental combo, pays its respects to Paul Simon, of Simon and Garfunkel, who has written all the tunes on this LP. The music is permeated with classical overtones, and is performed with fluidity and grace. The selections include "The Sound Of Silence," "Bookends," "Scarborough Fair/Canticle," and "The Dangling Conversation." This set should enjoy brisk sales action in good music circles.



SENSATIONAL—Mario Said—Liberty LST-7562

Pianist Mario Said has taken ten fairly recent soft-rock hits and dressed them up in a lush, fully orchestrated setting, a la Peter Nero. Two strong selling points will be the mid-Victorian arrangement on Simon & Garfunkel's "Scarborough Fair/Canticle" and a hauntingly beautiful "Walk Away Renee." Arranger Tommy Oliver's "Moonlight" and the Beaud-McKuen "The Importance Of The Rose" are also strong efforts.

Jazz Picks



DUKE ELLINGTON'S GREATEST HITS—Columbia CS 9629

It has been 40-plus years since Duke Ellington cut his first record, and the multi-talented musician has been high in the public eye for every one of them. This collection contains 10 Ellington standards, most of which he had a hand in writing, and features vocals by Al Hibbler and Betty Roche, latter on "Take The 'A' Train," perhaps the Duke's best known piece. "Satin Doll," "Mood Indigo," and "Perdido" are also present. Anticipate strong sales.



THE BEAT GOES ON!—Sonny Criss—Prestige 7558

Jazz veteran Sonny Criss fronts a strong quartet on this new Prestige release. Criss (alto sax), Cedar Walton (piano), Bob Cranshaw (bass), and Alan Dawson (drums) serve up some recent tunes, including the title song and "Ode To Billie Joe," two standards and a Criss original, "Cañidad," in a highly competent manner. Criss has his own following in jazz circles and this album should do well.



BREAKTHROUGH IN 5/4—Johnny Guarneri—Bet BLPS-1000

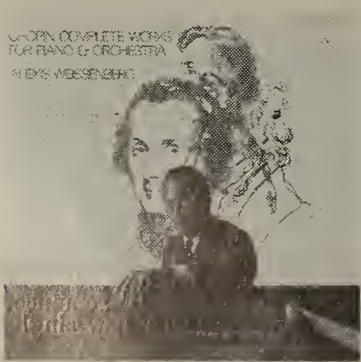
Pianist Johnny Guarneri, an alumnus of the Benny Goodman and Artie Shaw bands, has put together an album of tunes, standards and originals, all done in the 5/4 time popularized by Dave Brubeck some years back. The unusual rhythm adds new flavor to some tasty songs, such as "Sweet Georgia Brown," "Tiger Rag" and Lennon-McCartney's "Yesterday." Album could qualify for good music sales and play as well as jazz action.



NEW THING—Lloyd Wallace Trio—Duo DS-41001

The Lloyd Wallace Trio plays a set of twelve jazz sessions in smoothly swinging fashion. The Trio consists of Lloyd Wallace, organ; Larry Frazier, guitar; and Billy Mitchell, drums. Included on the LP, besides the title tune, are "Speak Low," "Blues For Gerri," and "Bring It On Home." Wallace's driving, exciting performance makes this album a strong candidate for strong sales in the jazz market.

Classical Picks



CHOPIN: COMPLETE WORKS FOR PIANO & ORCHESTRA—Weissenberg; Paris Conservatoire Orchestra/Skrowaczewski—Angel SC 3723

Chopin wrote mostly for solo piano, but upon six occasions composed for piano and orchestra. His two concertos, "Fantasy On Polish Airs," "Andante Spianato & Grande Polonaise," "Variations On 'La Ci Darem La Mano,'" and "Krakowiak, Concert Rondo" are performed excellently on this three-record set by pianist Alexis Weissenberg and the Paris Conservatoire Orchestra, Stanislaw Skrowaczewski conducting. One piano solo piece, the "Polonaise Fantasie" is included.



FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN: 24 ETUDES, OP. 10 & OP. 25—Tamas Vasary—Deutsche Grammophon 136 454

Frederic Chopin's 24 etudes, aptly referred to in the liner notes as "the Magna Carta of romantic piano technique," are performed with great skill on this album by Tamas Vasary. The etudes are both highly advanced practice pieces and great works of music. It has been said that a pianist who can perform all etudes well can perform any piano piece well. The beauty and brilliance of the etudes, and of Vasary's interpretations, should make this set a popular item in classical circles.