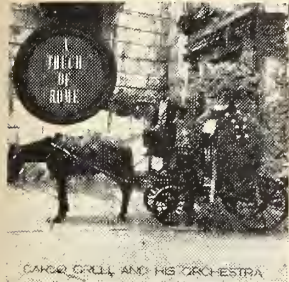




Album Reviews



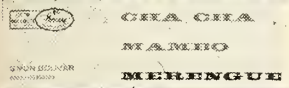
"A TOUCH OF ROME"—Carlo Grell And His Orchestra—Epic LN 3482 (1-12" LP)

The disk is one of Epic's series on musical touches of various cities and countries (New York, Spain, etc.). Grell and the ork lushly read a solid, eighteen tune program of gay, warm, and lilting Italian melodies, many in the familiar class as "Ciribiribin," "Arrivederci Roma," "Santa Lucia," and "Funiculi, Funicula." Disk has fine mood-nostalgia value.



"COME SING ALONG WITH US"—Community Singers—United Artists UAL 30003 (1-12" LP)

The disk is an infectious, follow-the-bouncing-ball type of community-sing venture, and since the participants are not polished vocalists, it induces the listener(s) to join in. Lyrics for the fourteen tune bill of oldies ("You Are My Sunshine," "Home On The Range," "Baby Face," etc.) are reprinted on the back of the sleeve. Solid release in the community-sing area.



"CHA CHA, MAMBO AND MERENGUE"—Simon Bolivar And His Band—Mercury MG 20177 (1-12" LP)

Bolivar offers four versions of each of the three favorite Latin dance-steps, employing two polished, different-sized orks. The tunes are a good combination of standards and originals, and include in the durable class "Love For Sale," "Where Can I Go Without You," "Three Blind Mice" and "Day In Day Out." A convenient, well-performed catalogue of the three steps.



"BRUNO 'JUNIOR' ZIELINSKI'S POLKA FESTIVAL"—Featuring The Wilson Sisters—Liberty LRP 3085 (1-12" LP)

The Zielinski ork has been running a polka show over Chicago's WGES for more than twenty-seven years, which adds strong mid-western polka sales possibilities to the issue. Those polka enthusiasts not acquainted with the Zielinski touch will also find the goings on reliable interpretations. The Wilson Sisters sing in English-Czech-Polish-German. Numbers included are from the countries in which the latter languages are mainly spoken.



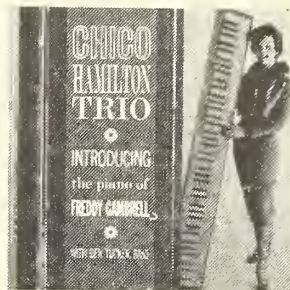
"MY MAN"—Mary Lou Brewer—With Sy Shaffer And His Orchestra—Westminster WP 6081 (1-12" LP)

Miss Brewer is a hard-hitting stylist, who has appeared on Arthur Godfrey radio-tv stints, and in various Washington, D.C. niteries. Her vocal heritage belongs, in the main, to the "red-hot-mama" school, which works well for such a strong-voiced performer. The songs here appropriately suit the belting vocal way ("A Good Man Is Hard To Find," "Some Of These Days," "How Come You Do Me Like You Do"). Sy Shaffer's ork supports in semi-Dixieland fashion. Miss Brewer is a capable performer of an all-but-lost pop art.



"CAL TJADER-STAN GETZ SEXTET"—Fantasy 3266 (1-12" LP)

The top-ranking jazzists are teamed on a seven-tune session, which skillfully wrap-up such jazz feelings as the wistful, bluesy, and swinging. The beautiful caress of the "I've Grown Accustomed To Your Face" number gives the listener the impression, which holds true throughout the package, that the date was a fortunate meeting of the vibraphonist and tenor saxist. Members of Tjader's and Getz's combos at the time the disk was cut nicely fill-out the sextet. Important jazz issue.



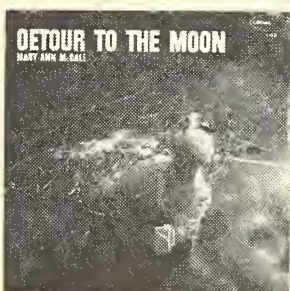
"CHICO HAMILTON TRIO"—Introducing The Piano Of Freddy Gambrell—With Ben Tucker, Bass—World Pacific PJ-1242 (1-12" LP)

This is the disk intro for pianist Gambrell, who is practically given the run of the wax as far as a featured role is concerned. Gambrell is working here with one of the most ingratiating jazzists in Hamilton, and he fits the often far-out, invariably ingenious Hamilton pattern with good-natured swing and persuasive warmth. The latter attitude on "Midnight Sun" is one of the disk's finest moments. Five of the numbers are durables. Noteworthy debut for Gambrell.



"SONNY STITT"—Argo LP 629 (1-12" LP)

The tenor saxist starts things off with two reflective essays, and then goes to medium and uptempo blowing on the six other selections. Stitt's leanings toward enthusiastic tempos provides an excellent show-case for the artist as a swinger, while his warm moments skillfully change the pace. Good work from the unbilled combo support. In fact, the package is a no-liner note affair with the same photo of Stitt on both sides of the package.



"DETOUR TO THE MOON"—Mary Ann McCall—Jubilee JLP-1078 (1-12" LP)

The one-time Tommy Dorsey, Woody Herman, Charlie Barnet, and more recently, Charlie Ventura, vocalist supplies a collection of "moon" songs with keenly phrased, misty-voiced jazz readings. Quintet backing, which includes a cello in seven sessions, vary in personnel. Searching for the "moon" song theme unearthed such neglected treasures as "Moonlight Becomes You," "I Wished On The Moon," and "No Moon At All," and "Moon Country." Established works include "Blue Moon," "It's Only A Paper Moon," and "Moonglow." Effective jazz vocals.

CLASSICAL



"VIRTUOSO"—The Roger Wagner Chorale—Capitol P 8431 (1-12" LP)

The distinguished chorus is heard in a varied seven selection program featured by the intricate Carl Orff "Praeludium" from "Catulli Carmina," which fills one side of the disk. Other works include the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's "Messiah"; "Dance Of The Polovetsian Maidens" from Borodin's "Prince Igor"; "Alleluia" from Mozart's "Alleluia"; the spiritual "Soon I Will Be Done"; Orlando Di Lasso's "Echo Song"; and the folk song, "Polly Wolly Doodle." Strong classical vocal stock.



SHOSTAKOVICH: Symphony No. 11—Stokowski—The Houston Symphony Orchestra—Capitol PBR 8448 (2-12" LP)

This is the initial American disk offering of Russian composer Dimitri Shostakovich's new eleventh symphony (subtitled "Year 1905"), a large-scale opus, which via rich dramatic and moody scoring liberal use of folk tunes, depicts the Russian revolt of 1905. Stokowski, who has performed the work in Russia, and the U.S., conducts with understanding and vigor. Bright sound. Important presentation of a work by one of today's great serious composers.

JAZZ



"CARMEN FOR THE COOL ONES"—Carmen McRae—With Orchestra Directed By Fred Katz—Decca DL 8738 (1-12" LP)

Miss McRae offers another package of mature, finely textured vocals. Working with a variety of ork backings, which include takes that spotlight percussion, string or woodwind work, Miss McRae clings expressively to her ballad moments, and charmingly catches the spirit of her swing stints. Her prancing vocals and the delightful Katz backing on "All The Things You Are," "If I Were A Bell", and "After I Say I'm Sorry" are a jig. Note the conviction on "You're Mine."



"ANITA O'DAY SINGS THE WINNERS"—Verve MG-8283 (1-12" LP)

The platter programs Miss O'Day on material associated with jazzists who have made jazz poll news. Backed by creative ork work from arrangers-conductors Marty Paich and Russell Garcia (each work on a side), the stylist roams inventively about or expressively recalls such items as "Sing, Sing Sing" (Krupa And Goodman); "Tenderly" (Oscar Peterson); "My Funny Valentine" (Gerry Mulligan); and "Body And Soul", (Coleman Hawkins). Versatile vocals by the now established jazz warbler.