ALBUM PICKS

AMAZING GRACE ROYAL SCOTS DRAGOON GUARDS-RCA LSP-4744

This is a perfect example of how truly unpredictable this business is. England's smash single is rapidly attaining that status here, so the release of this album comes as no surprise. It's certainly different enough to be a hit album. Included is "Scotland The Brave," and "Russian Imperial Anthem."



Anyone growing up during the greatest Mathis make-out years has to get wet in the eves listening to the timeless collection included in this outstanding double package. Every song somehow has that special meaning. You remember what you were doing, who you were with, and so on. A delightful album.

SUGAR

ORIGINAL CAST—UA UAS 9905

David Merrick's umteenth Broadway hit, based on the screenplay, "Some Like It Hot," comes off beautifully on record. The writing talents of Jule Styne and Bob Merrill, and the performances by Robert Morse, Tony Roberts, Cyril Ritchard and Elaine Joyce make this package totally worthwhile. A hit is a hit.

THE GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK CARMEN McRAE—Atlantic SD 2-904

Not too many artists could get away with introducing musicians at the beginning of a set, but for Ms. McRae, an audience is easy pickings. Music covers the spectrum from "Satin Doll" to "A Song For You." This wonderful live work is easily a pop/jazz crossover.

MOUSETRAP

SPENCER DAVIS-UA UAS-5580

It's been well over a year since Spencer Davis' last album, too long in fact. This effort features excellent back-up vocals from guitarist Tret Fure. Album also features a host of outstanding musicians including Keltner, Sneaky Pete and Lee Sklar. Best material is straight out funk.

DON'T PLAY IIS CHEAP

ORIGINAL CAST—Stax STS 2-3006

Didn't this show just open? The answer is yes, and label wasted no time in making the deal to release this two-record set. Mr. Van Peebles is hot, and his newest venture won unanimous raves from the critics. The gifted writer-composer also produced the show. Listen. It's a good one.

BROTHER, BROTHER, BROTHER

THE ISLEYS—T-Neck TNS 3009 (Buddah) Carole King has some exceptional fans in the Isley Bros. They chose to record three of her recent classics, "Brother, Brother," "Sweet Season" and a fantastic ten and a half minute version of "It's Too Late." Album is a good one, but it falls slightly short of their last effort. Listen and decide.





























WITH LOVE

TONY BENNETT—Columbia KC 31460

Frank Sinatra's favorite singer dedicates the album to Frank himself, "King of the Entertainment World." One listen to this fine work, and you begin to truly believe Frank. The effort stresses love, and should be a favorite in the wee small hours. All cuts are virtually flawless. Dream along.

THE NIGHT IS STILL YOUNG

SHA NA NA—Kama Sutra KSBS 2050

Group provides just the right combination of great oldies and wonderful contemporary material. "Sea Cruise," "So Fine" and "In The Still of The Night" will tantalize your nostalgic thoughts, while "Bless My Soul" is excellent 1972 rock&roll. Jeff Barry production works perfectly.

PIANO RAGS BY SCOTT JOPLIN, VOL. II JOSHUA RIFKIN— Nonesuch H-71264 (Elektra)

Thanks to Mr. Rifkin, Scott Joplin works are now being appreciated by a large, sophisticated young audience. A large measure of successful exposure is the direct result of the efforts of progressive FM radio. Vol. II contains the more congenial side of Joplin and should be treasured memorabilia.

CANADIAN ROCK THEATER

Lion LN-1003 (MGM)

A barage of musicians and vocalists have put together this wonderful Jesusoriented rock&roll album. Group borrows from "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "Godspell" scores with tasty results. "Anthem (We The People)" sounds like an excellent choice for a single. Listen and enjoy. Maybe repent.

NOT THE FLOWER BUT THE ROOT

DANA VALERY—Brunswick BL754180

Label has done something ingenious by taking instrumental tracks of proven hits, and then recording vocal of this fine international singer. Many recent hits included like "Oh Boy" (the women's version), "Higher and Higher" and "Have You Seen Him." The effort works very well. Listen. She's good.

PETER GALLWAY

Reprise MS 2078

Whatever happened to Ohio Knox? Peter is that group's lead vocalist, and this is his first solo effort, and quite simply, it's a real nice album. "Watch Yourself," "Running, Walking, Kicking The Ball" are the best cuts, because artist is at his best with straight ahead funk. Check it out.

I'M BAD

KIM FOWLEY—Capitol ST-11075

Kim Fowley has a history that includes numerous label changes, writing for many top groups, producing many others. Now he's on Capitol and rock&roll's bad boy is just as gutsy and good as ever. Artist composed all 10 tunes on this effort. Give the kid a chance. He's the killer type.

