

M REVIEWS

PICK HITS

THE MONKEES SONGBOOK THE GOLDENGATE STRINGS-Epic LN 24248; BN 26248.

Stu Phillips, who was associated with "The Beatles Songbook" and so started this string songbook trend, here gathers together hits by the Monkees and gives them big ork sheen. "Last Train to Clarksville," "I'm a Believer," etc.



THE MANHATTAN STRINGS PLAY HITS MADE FAMOUS BY THE MONKEES

Tower 5067 (m-s).

Some nappy and perky instrumental versions sparked by large string section of songs the Monkees have sung on their TV shows and on their records. "Theme From the Monkees," "Last Train to Clarksville," "I'm a Believer."



PETER NERO PLAYS A SALUTE TO HERB ALPERT AND THE TIJUANA BRASS

RCA Victor LPM/LSP 3720.
Some high falutin' and low falutin' interpretations of Herb Alpert tunes by one of the most popular key ticklers. Nero ripples through "A Taste of Honey," "Spanish Flea," "What Now My Love," "The Lonely Bull."



ONE MORE TIME! DELLA REESE-ABC(S) 589.

An exciting in-person recording from Della. She wallops out her torried version of "That's Life" and includes a number of other ditties that are in the fun-to-belt category. "Good Times," "Don't You Know," etc. Bobby Bryant Quintet assists.



GUITAR FREAKOUT

THE VENTURES-Dolton BLP 2050; BLP 8050.

This package of guitar sounds from the rock reliables, the Ventures, is already taking off and it should. The cuts include "I'm a Believer," "Snoopy vs. the Red Baron," "Good Thing," "Standing in the Shadows of Love." Well done.



ARE YOU LONELY FOR ME?

FREDDIE SCOTT-Shout (S)LPS 501.

A soul singer here who is now recording with one of the best purveyors of soul on disks, Bert Berns. Freddie's new cry "Cry to Me" is on the package as is "Bring It on Home to Me," "Let It Be Me" and more of same.



SWEETEST ONE

THE METROS RCA Victor LPM/LSP 3776.

Newly-popular r/b group reprise their "Sweetest One" click and add a number of spicy others. Their use of the beat and the modern idiom lyric to get rock effects is slick and saleable. "Since I Found My Baby," etc.



A TASTE OF "SHERRY" MARILYN MAYE - RCA Victor LPM/LSP

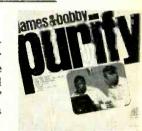
The Maye gal is building herself a fine reputation via club dates and her RCA title song waxings ("Sherry" and "Cabaret"), and here complements those with smooth, sweet versions of "Java" and a sure single bet, "If You'll Just Come Back to Me."



JAMES AND BOBBY PURIFY

Bell 6003 (m-s).

These brothers have hit the pop record scene with impact and here's their first album with their first single click, "I'm Your Puppet," on it and other ditties like "Knock on Wood,"
"Hitch Hike," "A Change is Gonna Come."



DAKOTA '67

DAKOTA STATON-London LL 3495; PS 495.

It's been a while since the canary traveled this way. She sounds exactly the same and that means the fans will be beside themselves. Swinging combos back her on "Route '66," "Moon River," "Isn't This a Lovely Day."



SARAH SLIGHTLY CLASSICAL

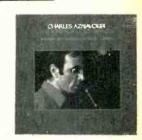
SARAH VAUGHAN— Roulettie (S)R 52123.

The divine gal sings eight melodies based on divine classical themes. The Vaughan fans will want to add this package of gorgeous sounds to their collections. "Intermezzo," "Full Moon and Empty Arms," "My Reverie."



HIS KIND OF LOVE SONGS

CHARLES AZNAVOUR—
Reprise R(S) 6245.
The Gallic chanteur-writer sings some of his latest numbers in English with rich Gordon Jenkins arrangements. The good to very good translations are by Gene Lees, Buddy Kaye and David Newburge, whose "And I in My Chair" stands out.



IN PERSON/SAN FRANCISCO CARMEN MCRAE-Mainstream 56091;

The silken voice of Carmen McRae is always a balm. On this new package she trots out a bouquet of standards and juices a few of them up. "I Left My Heart in San Francisco," "Let There Be Love," "A Foggy Day."



BLOSSOM TIME

BLOSSOM DEARIE— Fontana MGF 27562; SRF 67562.

A May wine too rarely available on records, Blossom sings a superb collection of tune and jazzes them on her lovable piano. "When the World Was Young" with the marvelous Mercer lyrics, "When in Rome," "Mad About the Boy." The cream.



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