



Album Reviews



"SWING-A-SPELL" — Jimmie Dodd — Imperial LP 9121

Spelling songs of both adult and kiddie interest are given a big swinging treatment by Dodd, a kiddie chorus and a bright, high-stepping ork under the George Weir baton. Dodd expounds the lessons of "Rag Mop," "Harrigan," "Mickey Mouse Cha Cha Cha," "Massachusetts" and "I've Got A Gal In Kalamazoo" in delightful fashion. A good natured listening session.



"BONGOS" — Don Ralke — Warner Bros. W 1398

With a tremendous assemblage of percussionists and percussion instruments under his baton, Ralke whips up a frenzy of Afro-Cuban rhythms that will delight the audiophiles. The selections are mostly originals which use vocal chants, lots of rhythms and counter-rhythms and very little melody, except in its most primitive state. For real down-to-earth percussion, this is the choice.



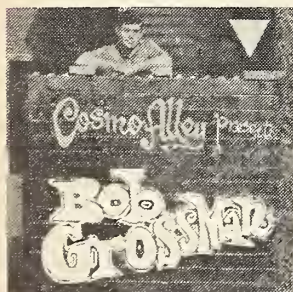
"ROGER AND OVER" — Roger Price — A.A. Records AR-1

Roger Price, droodler and theorist, trades on the more daffy aspects of life for his comedy. Here, in a "live" performance cut at New York's Village Vanguard, he expounds his latest theory, the Price-Stern Theory of Names, which offers the listener lots of entertaining chuckles. The other side of the disk, studio made, contains Price's "Expose of Hi-Fi," "A True And Authentic History Of Vermont Jazz" and "Sound Droodles." Real kookie comedy.



"BALDWIN ORGAN AND BONGOS" — Audio Fidelity DFS 7004

Eddie Osborne proves a master at eliciting the widest array of musical tones from the Baldwin electronic organ. And with a percussive rhythm section in tow, he offers delightfully diverting versions of "El Cumbachero," "Barbara Polka," "South Of The Border," "Washington Post March" and "Ma, She's Making Eyes At Me." The counter-positioning of the organ and the percussionists make for fascinating stereo listening.



"COSMO ALLEY PRESENTS BOB GROSSMAN" — Eureka 501

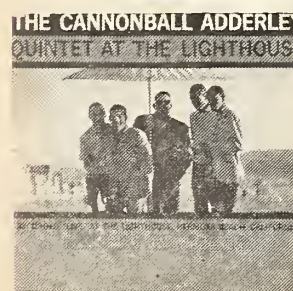
Grossman, an uncommercialized singer of folk songs, debuts here in a performance cut at Cosmo Alley. The singer's work is marked by an extraordinary understanding of the history of his material and the inclusion of explanations into his performance. His rapport, with the disk listener as well as the "live" audience, is as warm and as close as possible. Selections (sung in their original language) include "La Quince Brigada," "Zog Nit Keynmol," "Le Chevalier de Paris," "The Fox" and "Suliram." Complete texts and translations are included in booklet form. A fine, new disk talent.



"HOMEWARD BOUND" — Ed McCurdy — Rodeo International RLP 102

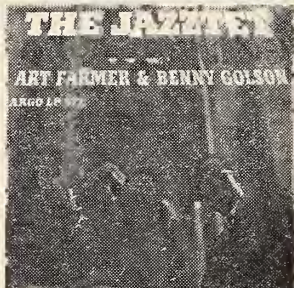
McCurdy, as authentic a singer of folk songs as there is, tackles a program of Canadian folklore, which includes such tunes as "Harbour Le Cou," "The Bonnie House Of Airlie," "The Nova Scotia Song," "When The Caplin Come In" and "Come All My Old Comrades." He performs them in simple, straightforward terms, with an appealing sincerity, and accompanies himself on guitar in the process. Of sizable interest to folk enthusiasts.

JAZZ PICKS OF THE WEEK



"THE CANNONBALL ADDERLEY QUINTET AT THE LIGHTHOUSE" — Riverside RLP 344

Adderley returns to the West Coast, the scene of his first "live" LP triumph, for his third quintet outing for the label. The group has been caught in performances at the Lighthouse, rocking the customers with its brand of earthy, low-down "soul" music. Tracks include "Sack O' Woe," "Azule Serape," "Blue Daniel" and 3 others. Highly marketable jazz.



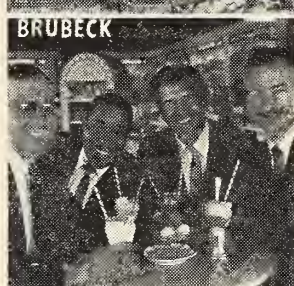
"BIG CITY SOUNDS" — The Jazztet — Argo LP 672

The group continues to make a strong impression on both pop and jazz markets. This is due probably to its precision arrangements, the melodic Benny Golson originals and the warm personality of its members. Here they offer a program consisting of Golson's "The Cool One," "Bean Bag" and "Five Spot After Dark" plus standards "My Funny Valentine" and "Wonder Why." Commercial date at no artistic expense.



"ANITA O'DAY AND BILLY MAY SWING RODGERS AND HART" — Verve MG VS 62141

The team of O'Day & May did wonders in re-creating over-done Cole Porter songs in their recent LP collaboration and here do the same for a lineup of a dozen tunes from the wondrous pens of Rodgers & Hart. They change tempos with measured abandon and generally mix it up all over the place with "Johnny One Note," "Bewitched," "Have You Met Miss Jones," "It Never Entered My Mind" and "Spring Is Here." Music excellence prevails throughout.



"BRUBECK A LA MODE" — The Dave Brubeck Quartet featuring Bill Smith — Fantasy 3301

Another Brubeck session from Fantasy features the pianist playing second fiddle to clarinetist Bill Smith and ten Smith originals. Though not at all as fascinating as current Brubeck disks, there is still a good swinging feeling attained throughout. Among the selections are "Dorian Dance," "Invention," "Frisco Fog," and "Ballade."



"DON JACOBY AND THE COLLEGE ALL-STAR BAND" — MGM E3881

Jacoby, faculty member of the National Dance Band Camp, among other endeavors, leads a spirited group of top flight college musicians, dubbed the All-Stars, in a striking big band outing. The boys play with conception and precision which belied their age, plus the all-important enthusiasm. There's lots of explorable talent here. They play "Salt Peanuts," "A Sunday Kind Of Love," "Just Because," "I Wish You Love" and 12 others. The tracks are immensely danceable, but are even greater as exciting listening experiences.

CLASSICAL PICK OF THE WEEK



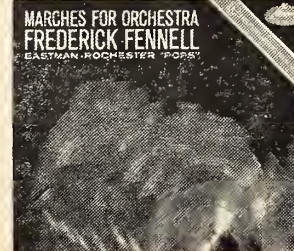
VERDI: "Aida" — Tebaldi, Bergonzi, Simionato, MacNeil, the Vienna Philharmonic conducted by Herbert Von Karajan — London OS 25206

The grandest of the grand operas received an overwhelming performance on the complete London set, recently released. This single disk of highlights is but a sampling of the delicacies to be tasted in the whole set, but it is a wonderful sampler, containing such arias as "Celeste Aida," "Ah! Tu Dei Vivere!" and the Trumphal scene. Performances are exquisite.



PROKOFIEV: "Peter And The Wolf"; SAINT SAENS: "Carnival of the Animals" — Beatrice Lillie, London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Skitch Henderson — London CS 6187

The inimitable Bea Lillie tackles a man's job ("Peter and the Wolf") and her delightfully feline personality stands her in good stead as the only female to record the work. This "different," motherly approach marks it as good competition in the over-abundant "Peter" catalog. Ogden Nash's verses for the Saint Saens music is totally adult fare, and very challenging indeed for the precocious youngster. Two wonderful vehicles for Miss Lillie.



"MARCHES FOR ORCHESTRA" — Frederick Fennell conducting the Eastman-Rochester Pops — Mercury SR 90271

Fennell adds yet another package of classical marches to his already substantial catalog. Here he directs his ork in stirring readings of Beethoven's "Turkish March," Schubert's "Marche Militaire," Sibelius' "Alla Marcia" and Grieg's "Homage March," and others. Stereo enhances the music considerably.