

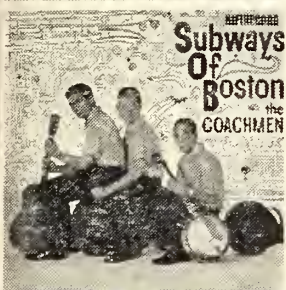


Album Reviews



"THE FLYING FINGERS OF FLIPTOP FINNEGAN"—Atco 33-116

Honky-tonk and ragtime, corn and cherished old melodies combined here make for a lively fun interlude. Finnegan and his group (apparently a fictitious assemblage) serve up "Melancholy Baby," "Twelfth Street Rag," "Somebody Stole My Gal," "Beer Barrel Polka" and "After You're Gone" in high flying style. Merits party disk attention.



"SUBWAYS OF BOSTON"—The Coachmen—Hifi R 420

Professionally related to the Kingston Trio, Brothers Four, etc., are the Coachmen—three young, crew-cutted musicians and vocalists. Their repertoire is ambitious, running the gamut from a spoof of the Kingston's "Tom Dooley" and "M.T.A." titled "Subways of Boston" (S.O.B.) to the almost now obscure Frank Loesser song of courage, "Roger Young," plus "Delia's Gone," "Rock Island Line" and "I Never Will Marry." They have a good harmony style and should arouse interest from the market.



"EUROPEAN HITS IN AMERICA"—Richard Wolfe—Kapp KL 1183

Lately Europe has contributed many songs that have become top hits in the U.S. (as well as country of origin) and ork leader Wolfe has collected them under one cover for an interesting and relaxing instrumental survey. Included are "Fascination," "Morgen," "Marina," "Petite Fleur" and "Come Prima." Nice listening.



"EXTRAVAGANT PIANO"—Mister Mystery—Palette SPZ 37003

Supposedly a top classical pianist in Europe, "Mr. Mystery" has recorded an outstanding album for the label. Employing such devices as multi-tracking, echo chambers, etc., he offers delightful solo piano essays of "Kitten On the Keys," "Tico Tico," "Dardanella," "I Got Rhythm" and seven others. Lots of fun and good listening here.



HERE COMES THE SWINGIN' MR. WILKINS! ERNE WILKINS and his orchestra

"HERE COMES THE SWINGIN' MR. WILKINS"—Ernie Wilkins and his Orchestra—Everest LPBR 5077

Ernie Wilkins has arranged a big band session that espouses the dancing beat as well as a full jazz sound. The tunes are all standards, among them "Falling In Love With Love," "The Continental," "Somebody Loves Me" and "All of You," and they are swung vigorously. Wilkins is one of Basie's top writers so it's natural that most of the chairs here should be occupied by Basie sidemen. Soloists include Al Grey, Thad Jones, Marshall Royal and Zoot Sims. Exciting issue.



"THE SOUND OF MUSIC"—The Paul Smith Quartet—Verve MG VS-6128

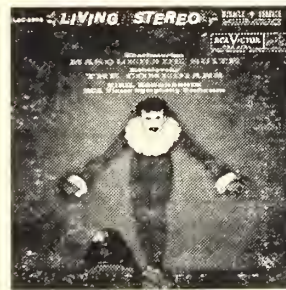
Richard Rodgers' wonderful melodies are treated royally by Smith in this jazz interpretation. Smith's piano and Barney Kessel's guitar mate perfectly (as in Kessel's Peterson days) for a lightly romping adventure into such tunes as "My Favorite Things," "Climb Ev-ry Mountain," "An Ordinary Couple" and "So Long, Farewell." An easy-listening package that will appeal to pop fans as well.



"DIXIE IN HIGH SOCIETY"—Barney Richards and His Rebels—Mercury SR 60185

The Richards band puts the emphasis on two-beat Dixie but its repertoire runs mainly to show tunes unlike most traditional outfits. Here with the exception of "Bill Bailey" and "Mournin' Blues," the band runs through a brace of showpieces including "S Wonderful," "Thou Swell," "Just In Time" and "Mountain Greenery," providing a well-seasoned spice dance session. Stereo sound is a good asset. For traditional fans.

CLASSICAL



KHACHATURIAN: "Masquerade Suite;" KABALEVSKY: "The Comedians"—Kiril Kondrashin conducting The RCA Victor Symphony Orchestra—RCA Victor LSC 2398

A bubbly, bouncy affair is this recording as it brings together two highly volatile programmatic pieces by the two Russian composers. And interpreting with the baton is yet another Russian, making this a fiery triumvirate on disk. It is a captivating record, full of energetic life and spirit.

JAZZ PICK OF THE WEEK



"THE MUSIC FROM 'THE CONNECTION'"—Freddie Redd Quartet—Blue Note 4027

"The Connection" is now enjoying a successful off-Broadway run as the first play to use jazz and jazz musicians as vital, integral parts of the action in the story. Freddie Redd's music for the show reflects his understanding of putting jazz to use as descriptive music. But the star of this recording is Jackie McLean, alto sax and major soloist with the group. It is his searing, gripping solos which brings the jazz to fruition. Album should do well.



"BITTER SWEET"—Angel S 35814

One of the classics of the operetta is this romantic showpiece by Noel Coward. Angel gives it a long-awaited first recording and has done a masterful job in recreating the regal splendor of the Gay 90's, from a wonderful cast to the inviting orchestrations. Vanessa Lee, Roberto Cardinali, Julie Dawn and John Hauxvell are starred—all of fine operetta voice. An endearing period-piece.



"COOL HEAT"—Anita O'Day—Verve MG VS-6046

Anita O'Day is cooled-off for this album but there is no less artistic, stylistic, individualistic singing than on her previous hot sessions. Her cooling off is due to her use of Jimmy Giuffre arrangements, which swing but in a smoother, glossier way than the singer is accustomed to. And there is plenty of scat singing present—the entire "Hershey Bar." Other tunes are "Orphan Annie," "My Heart Belongs to Daddy" and "Come Rain or Come Shine." Excellent addition to the jazz vocal shelf.



RACHMANINOFF: Piano Concerto No. 3 In D Minor—Ann Schein, pianist, Sir Eugene Goossens conducting the Vienna State Opera Orchestra—Kapp 6600

At twenty, Miss Schein is a brilliant pianist, with promise of an even brighter future on the concert stage as evidenced by her mastery over the Rachmaninoff concerto here. Her technical facility is astounding and it is always under tasteful control. A brilliant recording.



"MAYNARD FERGUSON PLAYS JAZZ FOR DANCING"—Roulette R 52038

Ferguson is another of the more recent big band leaders who believe that jazz should return as a dancing medium. His enormous appeal on campus is proof of truth in his philosophy. This time out the band crackles with enthusiasm on "Hey There," "It Might As Well Be Spring," "I'll Be Seeing You" and "Where's Teddy," a sparkling, bright new original. All have the important dancing beat. A savory new outing by Ferguson.



BRAHMS: Hungarian Dances (1, 3, 5, 6, 17-21); DVORAK: Slavonic Rhapsody No. 3, Scherzo Capriccioso—Rafael Kubelik conducting the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra—Capitol SG 7209

A collection of bright, colorful "folk" dances which is of especial interest to the light-classical fan. These pieces by Brahms and Dvorak are lively, tuneful affairs and are accorded such treatment by Kubelik, who directs with a significant light hand. Interesting array.