

"Tangerine" and "Green Eyes" reflect their World War II vintage with 4-to-the-bar pedal, while ballad treatment of "I Can't Get Started" and "These Foolish Things" sound as though Larry is playing three-handed; a sharp reed melody accompanied by the unbroken shimmer of strings while the Harp marks the accompaniment rhythm. Actually its a very effective use of second touch; Larry's left hand holds down the string-rich chords while a little more pressure brings in the Harp beat. Note that gorgeous Lyn Larcenous modulation leading into the final chorus of "Things". There is nice ballad work during "Little Darling" and "They Didn't Believe Me." "Can Can at the Circus" is a "kitchen sink" for all the tunes Larry had left over, from Offenbach to "Billboard March."

Smooth "rolls" are heard during "It Had To Be You." Larry's "Third Man Theme" uses the "Mandolin" as a Zither. Two tunes recorded before the "metamorphosis" are "Who's Sorry Now" and "Basin Street Blues" ("Can Can" is the third). They show how the organ used to sound. Larry reserved this sound for the raunchier tunes where some raspy brass would help rather than hinder the effect he wanted.

All tunes are carefully orchestrated for the various voices of the organ, before or after. The Vannucci artistry is well showcased and the quality of sound recorded requires no apology for its being electronic. We consider it a milestone.

CHRISTMAS RECORDINGS

Organ records make fine presents. The time to order is now. Here are some possibilities.

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JOHN STEELE - (Stufoto)

I FEEL CHRISTMAS, Helen Dell playing 12 Christmas pops and standards (on carols) on the Bob Carson 3/26 Studio Wurlitzer, \$5.50 postpaid from Malar Records, Box 3104, Glendale, Calif. 91201.

JOY TO THE WORLD, Lyn Larsen playing up-to-date versions of Christmas standards and carols on the Bob Carson Wurlitzer. \$5.50 postpaid from Essential Records, Box 3544, Glendale Calif. 91201.

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Closing Chord

Johnny Duffy, westcoast organist with a long career in radio, TV and recording, died on August 5th, after a valiant six-month battle with cancer-generated brain tumors.



JOHNNY DUFFY - (Stufoto)

Duffy was born of Scotch-Irish parents in Motherwell, Scotland on June 26, 1927. His family emigrated to the USA when Johnny was six and settled in Pittsburgh, Pa. The youth took to music at an early age and was soon organizing local dance groups. He also discovered the electric organ and did some club work in the Pittsburgh area. Then he joined Art Kassel's orchestra on tour as pianist.

He settled in Hollywood with his family in the late '40s and joined ABC-Hollywood as radio and TV musical director for 15 years, then moved over to NBC for another 4 years. Shows he scored include *The Frank Lovejoy Show*, *Lassie*, *Michael Shayne*, *Richard Diamond* and the *Buddy Clark Show*. Later he did club work, with engagements at such posh spots as the Chicago Blackhawk and the Beverly Wilshire hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif. He also played long engagements in the San Fernando Valley (California)

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Chase House, Skytrails and Red Barn, on Hammonds and Gulbransen "Rialtos" (his favorite plug-in).

During this period he found time to make some fine recordings on the then Joe Kearns 3/26 Studio Wurlitzer, notably "Excursions in Hi-Fi" and "Love Moods" for Liberty Records. He also recorded the gone Columbia Square Wurlitzer ("Autumn Leaves") and made several plug-in records, among them "The Look of Love" on an Allen. Curiously, a record he thoroughly disliked, "Giant" on the Sunset label, remains his best seller, perhaps because of its youth orientation.

After six children, Johnny's marriage went on the rocks, and he "batched it" until he met Ruth about eight years ago. Ruth became his wife in 1966.

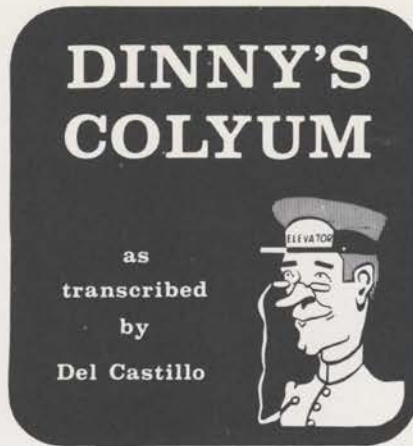
Four years ago Johnny quit smoking after being a "3-pack-a-day" man for many years. On February 29 of this year, a surgeon removed a malignant tumor from Johnny's brain successfully, but continued tests toward locating the cause of the malignancy. It was traced to a lung and on April 11 a nicotine-sodden cancerous lung was removed. That was expected to stop the generation of tumors and Johnny was anxious to get back to work. But then he went blind — until a second brain tumor was removed on June 15.

The three operations took their toll. Johnny's weight was way down but he was still full of fight. By telephone he told the writer that he had no intention of "taking off and leaving Ruthie. These are my happiest years."

But he put his affairs in order just the same. He told his wife that if the worst came he wanted to be cremated and his ashes scattered over the ocean. The worst came; a third brain tumor developed and the hardy constitution that had survived so much was too weak to undergo more surgery. Before he lapsed in unconsciousness, he warned his wife away: "I don't want you to see me like this."

Johnny was still stalling death. He managed somehow to survive in his hospital bed for three weeks of coma before the end came on August 5th. There was no funeral service.

On the next day a bi-motor plane winged out over the Pacific and all that remained of a unique musicianship and a truly wonderful person was consigned to the sea. □



I guess maybe one of the reasons I hang on to the coat tails of these here organ players and organ clubs is that I always wanted to learn to play the organ my own self. So I got some of these here organ method books but they all seem to sort of shoot off in different directions and they wind up be gettin me all mixed up. Like they start usin letters for the rite hand and then they give the fingers to use and when they say put your thum on C which is to the left of the two black keys then they give you the fingers to use and you go One, One, Two, Three, Three, Four, Five, go up one more for Five, come down again for Five, Three. Well, OK, I reckernize the toon, so I think well maybe it'll be easy to learn to play.

But then the next time they give me the fingers but dont give me the letters so I put my fingers where they was before with my thum on where it says middle C is, but it dont come out rite on account the book didnt say I should of moved my hand up and down. So pretty soon I get on to how I have to find where the letters is on the lines and spaces, and I can belt out Home Sweet Home OK except the

second part where I have to move my hand up to a noo place. And then when I get the toon down it still dont sound rite because the notes they all run together sort of. So the next thing I find out they is different kinds of notes that has different lengths like the ones with the holes in them is to hold on longer, and the ones with the line acrost the top is quicker, and the ones with the dot after them is longer except that if the dot is on the top then they is quicker. I ask you!

So by now I have to find out how to use the left hand and then I am really in trouble. One book says all you have to do is put your index finger on the letter it says for the chord and then the thum and the little pinkie will fall on the right place. Which is all rite except that I have to keep jumpin my hand up and down and pretty soon they is a cord that dont sound rite on account it should have had some of the black notes that nobody told me about. So then I try another book and it has a big chart with about 500 cords on it that I have to try to memorize and they all have the letter for the cord on the bottom note and I aint much better off than I was before on account my hand is jumpin up and down like one of these here Mexican jumpin beens.

So by now I am gettin kind of desparate on account every book seems to tell me something different and so I go to another book that says I have to learn all the different keys and the scales and then the cord will be 1, 3 and 5 of the scales for a Majer cord, and lower the 3rd for a Miner cord, and raise the 5th for a Oggmented cord, and lower the 7th for a 7th cord, and lower the 3rd and the 5th and the 7th for a Diminishing Cord, and I think what in tunket am I a-gettin



Larry's dramatic style is captured in tunes such as:

"I Can't Get Started"
"Third Man Theme"
"These Foolish Things"
and many more

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