

leave her native Tokyo for Southern California, in order to study theatre organ, an instrument which never caught on in Japan. Intense application, and teachers Bill Thomson and Richard Purvis, brought her to concert readiness within 5 years.

The selections on this disc are a curious mix of fine old concert chestnuts (which predominate) and pop standards. Works by Georges Bizet (*Carmen* selections) and Tchaikowsky ("Nutcracker Suite") occupy most of these grooves, with Rachmaninoff's "Prelude in C-Sharp Minor" rounding out the classical side. The "Nutcracker Suite" is preceded on Side 2 by two pop-standards, Joe Reyne's "Petite Waltz" and David Rose's "Our Waltz," an arrangement which will not please the classical purists. We must admit that past experience has taught us that mixing pops and classics on records rarely has the desired effect — sales.

But bypassing this minor objection, the performances are excellent. Maria's musicianship causes the listener to become so entranced with the music, that any critical feelings he may harbor about electronics are lost. Anyway, it's Rodgers finest theatre instrument, and that's saying plenty.

The girl has taste and imagination, plus a way of handling classics which gives them an intriguing freshness. □

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Kirk of Dunedin Suffers

FIRE DAMAGE

Terry Charles, the driving force behind the largely Wurlitzer installation in Clearwater's (Fla.) Kirk of Dunedin provides some details about the fire which damaged church and organ on the morning of March 6, 1977.

"Someone gained entrance to the Kirk's Artist's Room and set several fires. A lady in one of the neighboring condominiums couldn't sleep and, looking out her window, noted billows of black smoke mixed with the dense fog above the Kirk. She called the Fire Dept. and they got there in 8 minutes. New developments in fire fighting, which use almost no water, saved most of the organ. Thick, black smoke left deposits of 'suet' on every horizontal surface. Damage to the organ was caused by this soot, smoke and steam generated by the fire. Fire did not touch the organ except for the piano, but all internal parts of the console were totalled. All new parts have been ordered to restore it — to the tune of \$10,000. The percussion pneumatics high in the facade of the Kirk were ruined, of course, and Bells, Chrysoglotts, Chimes etc. have been sent to Deagan for restoration. Every pipe has been carefully removed and wrapped, except the large wooden Diaphones. Fifteen chests, nine tremulants and thirteen regulators have been sent to the (Dave) Junchen-Collins workshop at Woodstock, Illinois for restoration. It's amazing, the damage just smoke can do.

"The second console, a two-manual in the balcony, is a total loss and will not be replaced. While Dave Junchen is working on the chests, I, and several local volunteers, will re-install the organ, rebuild the console, rewire it, and reduct wind-



Terry Charles

lines. We hope to have it playing by August, then a formal rededication in October."

The Kirk organ project was started in 1964. Terry Charles has played 60 concerts on the one-time 3/11 Wurlitzer which has grown to beyond 20 ranks. In the interim, many famous theatre organists have been heard in concert (plus orthodox organist Virgil Fox).

At this writing, the arsonist(s) had not been apprehended nor could any reason for the fire setting be determined. □

Photo made during Billy Nalle's 1975 concert at the Kirk of Dunedin. Percussions mounted in the high arches suffered from smoke and steam damage, but the 4/21 Wurlitzer's pipework remained intact, although dirtied by layers of deposits caused by the smoke.

