

THE SPINNING ORGANS—

THE FOLLOWING SURVEY comprises disc and tape recordings available as of August 1, 1955. Not included are repressings of old 78-rpm masters under new LP labels (Gramophone, Plymouth, Pontiac, Remington, Royal, and Varsity) on which the organist's name is either not mentioned or is stated as a *nom de plume*. These records cater largely to department store patrons and retail for less than one dollar, including the 12-in. discs. In several instances the disc jacket carries the phrase "Recorded in Europe" obviously with the design of inducing purchase by the indiscriminate buyer.

It is not the purpose of this review to comment on the merits or demerits of organ recordings, either from the standpoint of the recording technique or the musicianship of the recording artist. Not only is there wide variation in the fidelity of play-back equipment but musical preferences of individuals vary. That which appeals most favorably to one listener may be ill-received by another. The American Association of Theatre Organ Enthusiasts appreciates any activity on the part of any recording company to record the music or the organ. To such companies which have already made a commendable start in this direction we say "Thanks. Keep them coming!"

Re-issues on LP

(Released Prior to Jan., 1955)

Columbia Albums 92 and 137, featuring **DON BAKER** at the 3m/24r Wurlitzer, New York Paramount Theatre Studio are available on 10-in. CL 6037 at all record shops.

JESSE CRAWFORD, also on the Paramount Studio organ, is featured on Decca LP Albums 5058 "In a Monastery Garden;" 5059—"When the Organ Played at Twilight;" and 5381—"Lead Kindly Light," the latter a group of hymns with instrumental accompaniment.

A group of selections by **RICHARD LEIBERT**, previously issued as 78's by Victor are now available on two 12-in. Camden labels: Cal 169 "Dick Leibert at the Console" and Cal 200—"Mellow Moods." Featuring the Radio City Music Hall 3m/12r studio Wurlitzer with instrumental accompaniment the selections include a group of Strauss waltzes and standard favorites. The same label includes Cal 143 "Organ Cameos" and Cal 132 "Famous Melodies" by the late **LEW WHITE**, again a re-issue of popular favorites previously issued as singles under the Victor label.

Two choice discs by the inimitable **GEORGE WRIGHT** at the N.Y. Paramount Theatre Wurlitzer under the King label are available at all record shops. Disc #265-3 ("Always," "Stardust," "Night and Day," "Body and Soul," "Begin the Beguine," "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes") and #265-19 ("Brazil," "Blue Moon," "Español Cani," "Birth of the Blues," "Honky Tonk Train Blues," "Falling in Love with Love").

LP Recordings

(Released Prior to Jan., 1955)

The **Replica Record Co.**, 7210 Westview Dr., Des Plaines, Ill., deserves hearty congratulations for its recording efforts in behalf of the pipe organ. To quote from a leaflet distributed by the company, "Replica Records is off to a fast start and intends to hold its lead in production of fine pipe organ records. From the start it was evident that they had set a new standard for faithful reproduction of the elusive pipe organ tones. You haven't heard pipe organ music like this on records before—they simply didn't make them. With the advent of high-fidelity

equipment it's at last possible to do justice to a too long neglected musical instrument. High Fidelity magazine calls these records 'beautifully engineered' and you'll agree when you hear them. Any doubting Thomas about hi-fi's superiority over standard recording will be sent scurrying for an equipment catalog when he hears these records. This is truly hi-fi at its best. Any one of the following albums will take its place as the 'piece de resistance' of your record collection."

Replica 33X501 and 33X503 feature **LEON BERRY**, the popular organist at the Hub Roller Rink, Chicago, Illinois, at his 2m/6r unit organ. Those who like organ music embellished with traps and percussions will definitely want these recordings. Rep. 33X500 features **BILL KNAUS** on the 3m Wurlitzer at the famed Trianon Ballroom in Chicago on a platter titled "The Latin Set," selections including "Orchids in the Moonlight," "El Choclo," "Tico Tico," "Siboney," "Brazil," "Nightingale," "Jealousy," and "Lady of Madrid." The equally popular Aragon Ballroom, where Wayne King and his orchestra rose to fame, exploits the 3m Wurlitzer by **HAL PEARL** on Rep. 33X502—"Dizzy Fingers," "Malaguena," "Canadian Capers," "Song of India," "Stan Takes a Holiday," "Español Cani," "Flapperette," and "Polly" and the theme from Grieg's "Piano Concerto."

The popular English organist, **H. ROBINSON CLEAVER**, whose many recordings on the English Parlophone label are well known to organ record collectors in this country, exploits the 4m/14r Wurlitzer at the Granada Theatre in Tooting, London, on three discs released by U.S. Decca: DL 5360—"The Church Organ"—includes "War March of the Priests," "Even-song," and other well known classics; DL5388 "As Time Goes By" and DL5492 "Organ Moods" are delightful groups of standard favorites.

Known to many radio listeners as "Edwin LeMar" through his transcribed organ programs and as the piano accompanist to Bing Crosby and Rosemary Clooney, **BUDDY COLE'S** organ interpretations are unique. He plays his own Robert-Morton 3m/10r organ on several of the selections in Capitol Alb. H-206 "Moonlight Moods" and H-9002 "Organ Plays at Christmas."

A library of 150 masterpieces on twelve 12-in. records (LP101-112) is available from **The Summit Sound Systems Co.**, 917-19 E. Market St., Akron 5, Ohio. The organist is **WILLIAM MEEDER** at the console of 3m/9r Kimball of the Columbia Broadcasting System, New York City, which was originally the studio organ that the late Lew White used for many of his Victor recordings.

The early Victor pipe organ recordings of the late **THOMAS "FATS" WALLER** are prize collector's items. Two selections "I Believe in Miracles" and "Don't Try Your Jive on Me," the former recorded in this country in 1935 with a small band, the latter in London in 1938, appear on Victor's LPT 10-in. Album—"Swingin' the Organ." The other items on the disc are Hammond.

REGINALD FOORT needs no introduction to organ fans in America. His early recordings on the U.S. Decca label, featuring the 4m/36r Wurlitzer of the N.Y. Paramount Theatre, while no longer available, are well-remembered. Now residing in Chicago, Illinois, "Reggie" continues to thrill his organ fans with his recordings for Cook Laboratories under the label **Sounds of our Times**. Five 10-in. discs have been released, the first four featuring the 3m/17r Wurlitzer at the Mosque Civic Theatre in Richmond, Virginia, the other the 4m/36r Wurlitzer at the Fox Theatre, Detroit, Michigan. Disc #1050 includes "Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2," "Giselle Waltz," "Bells of St. Mary's," "Londonderry Air," "In a Persian Market," "Coppelia Waltz," and "Zampa Overture." #1051 offers "Orpheus Overture," "Nocturne" (Grieg), Scotch medley, "Flight of the Bumblebee," "Sleeping Beauty Waltz," "Parade of the Tin Soldiers," and "Jealousy." On #1052 are "Percussion and Pedal"—"St. Louis Blues," "Dust Storm," "Stars and Stripes Forever," "In a Clock Factory," "Nightmare in the Mosque," Finale from "Dance of the Hours." #1053 has "Foort at the Mosque"—"Scherzo in E Minor" (Mendelssohn) "To the Spring," Prelude