



Spinning Organs

. . . BY THE EDITOR

Our reviewers have again listened to available releases and bring our readers these sketches and listings.

BUDDY COLE: Pipes, Pedals, and Fidelity. Columbia CL 1003, 12" LP. Selections: The Peanut Vendor, One Morning In May, Mine, Everytime I See You I'm In Love Again, Carioca, Willow Weep For Me, Jeannine I Dream Of Lilac Time, I Get The Blues When It Rains, You Go To My Head.

(Robert-Morton, Cole Residence, Los Angeles)

JESSE CRAWFORD: Plays Irving Berlin. Decca DL 8565, 12" LP. Selections: Blue Skies, Lady Of The Evening, Isn't This A Lovely Day?, Tell Me Little Gypsy, They Say It's Wonderful, Soft Lights And Sweet Music, Cheek to Cheek, How Deep Is The Ocean, A Pretty Girl Is Like A Melody, Easter Parade, I've Got My Love To Keep Me Warm.

(Robert-Morton, Whitney Studios, Glendale, California)

It seems rather presumptuous, at least to this reviewer, to sit down and write a "review" of this first Jesse Crawford recording on the pipe organ to be released in years. Frankly, I don't feel that I am capable of doing it full justice. Here is the "Master" back again with all of the superb artistry that we "young-ones" have heard so much about, the same artistry which is recalled with so much relish and delight by his many old-time fans. This is the first time that Mr. Crawford has appeared on a true Hi-Fi record, and no one can possibly be disappointed. He is bound to represent the PEAK of any organ-fan's listening; he has the same style that we have all heard on the old 78's, and just possibly a little bit better than ever before. The Whitney Robert-Morton sounds fine . . . in fact it sounds like a "Crawford Special" . . . and who could ask for more. The recording is excellent and the jacket features a color close-up of the two top manuals with the second-touch stops across the top. The jacket notes sing the praises of the "Poet of the Organ," and I think every listener will agree with them after listening to these arrangements. Certainly this record is required listening for every organ fan, and we'll all be looking for more releases in the near future . . . we hope!

(A. C.)

RICHARD ELSASSER: More LeRoy Anderson. Selections: Sandpaper Ballet, Summer Skies, Jazz Legato, The Girl In Satin, Saraband, The Penny Whistle Song, A Trumpeter's Lullaby, China Doll, Forgotten Dreams, The Bluebells of Scotland, Turn Ye Unto Me, Song Of The Bells.

Richard Elsasser MGM E 3505, 12" LP.

(Robert-Morton, Lorin Whitney Studio, Glendale, California)

When Elsasser turns loose his terrific technique on a fine organ, something good is bound to come out of it. His many admirers will enjoy this, somewhat different from the usual Elsasser program.

ERNESTINE HOLMES: Invitation To Dream. RCA-Victor LPM 1259 12" LP. Selections: Invitation To Dream, Yesterdays, Midnight Bells, Street Of Dreams, To Each His Own, Drifting And Dreaming, When You Wish Upon A Star, Romance, A Dreamer's Holiday, Dream Lover, The Song Is You, I'll See You In My Dreams.

(Radio City Music Hall Studio Wurlitzer, New York City, N. Y.)

TINY JAMES: Intermission Time. Doric DO 1210 12". Selections: MacNamara's Band, We Just Couldn't Say Goodbye, Body And Soul,

I Believe In Miracles, Will You Remember, Ecstasy Tango, Old Time Favorites Medley, Wedding Of The Painted Doll, Valse Bleue, I Wonder What's Become Of Sally, I Guess I'll Have To Change My Plan, Diane, Victor Herbert Medley.

This is a lot of theatre organ music on one record. You will like the atmosphere of the entire project. The jacket carries a reproduction of a typical marquee, done just for this record. The organ at the Fox Oakland is as familiar as is the theatre itself, to Tiny. He knows just how to get the feet tapping or to hush the audience down to heart beat audibility. The jacket notes, too, are unusually good insofar as they tell something of the instrument as well as the performer. This is a real North Bay Chapter scoop, since the organist, organ, and the jacket material are all in the A.T.O.E. program here. Jealous? Don't be; get the record for yourself!

ALFREDO MENDEZ: "Fiesta for Pipe Organ." RCA Victor LPM 1444, 12" LP. Selections: Mambo Mendez, Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White, Tico Tico, Adios Muchachos, Compadre Pedro Juan, Sweet and Gentle, Oye Negra, Sway, Cavaquina, Cha-Cha-Cha, Magic In the Moonlight, Espana Cana.

Alfredo Mendez, Pipe Organ, with Rhythm Accompaniment.

Here is a break for the listener with a yen for Latin-American rhythms. Mr. Mendez offers us a chance to hear a variety of popular rhythms from south of the border, other than the so-oft recorded Argentine Tango, Bolero and Rumba.

Although RCA Victor still pursues its policy of keeping the buyer in the dark as to the organ used, we can safely assume that this is the N. Y. Paramount's 4m/36r Wurlitzer.

Mr. Mendez has relied heavily on the brass in the organ — the Double English Horn is seldom still throughout the whole of the recording.

The jacket notes state that *Espana Cana* (sic), written by Pascual Marquina, is a Mendez original. However, the record label qualifies this by giving Mr. Mendez credit for the arrangement. Not wishing to be unduly critical, some may find the imprecise rhythm, on occasion, a bit disconcerting — as in *Tico Tico*.

Suggestion: Boost the bass. Mr. Mendez has used light pedal registration, but little of it is evident on the flat RIAA curve. (Roy Gorish).

South Seeks Independence

Confirmation has been received on the withdrawal of the Los Angeles group from A.T.O.E. Just what this will mean to those in the "large minority" who wished to remain affiliated with the national organization we do not know. But for whatever reason this action was taken, we hope that it will have worked to the betterment of the group, A.T.O.E., or will have paved the road for smoother enjoyment of organ music and its appreciation. It seems unfortunate that so much feeling could have expressed itself in no other way. But there may have been enthusiasm to spare down there. And A.T.O.E. will go on, not with apparent indifference of which we have heard, but regretfully. The missing note so often seems to be the one most needed.