



WALT STRONY IN CONCERT. Video cassette in VHS available from the Allen Organ Company, 150 Locust Street, Macungie, PA 18062. 215/966-2202. VISA and Mastercard orders accepted. \$29.95 postpaid.

For you concert-goers who make a point of sitting as close to the console as possible so as not to miss a single trick the artist displays, this is a tape for you. Walt Strony plays the Allen custom three-manual digital computer theatre organ at the International Sales Headquarters in Macungie. The recording is done in Hi-Fi stereo and the response is remarkably good with proper playback equipment. I watched it again with my average, middle-class, single-speaker TV and found it, though lacking bass response, quite acceptable.

Walt's playing is, as expected, absolutely impeccable. No easy feat when playing live in front of an audience. The organ looks and sounds so authentic that it would take an extremely astute ear to even remotely question that it was not a pipe organ. It's that good!

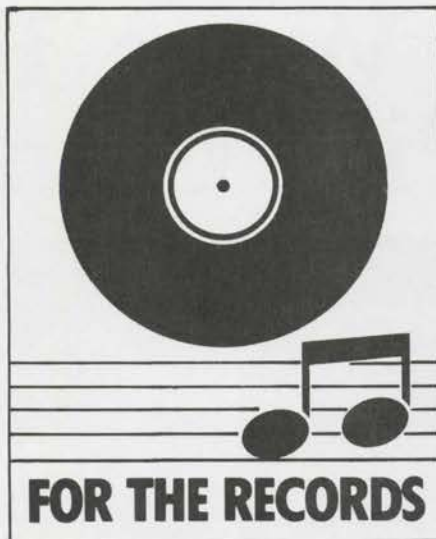
The generous program includes: Serenata, Oklahoma Medley, Jealousie, As Time Goes By, A Handful of Keys, Malaguena, a Gershwin Medley, Stars and Stripes Forever, September Song, Hoedown (from *Rodeo*), Tico-Tico, Serenade (*Student Prince*), Bacchanale, and (of course) the Oscar Mayer Wiener Variations.

The filming is somewhat unimaginative but still OK. Too many times, just when finger pyrotechnics start, the camera is suddenly shooting from twenty rows back. Only in the last few pieces did the cameraman realize there was some pretty fancy pedaling going on throughout the concert. Minor points but a bit amateurish production-wise.

Following the concert, there is a brief interview (read commercial) with Walt that would enlighten those who are not steeped in theatre organ.

The cassette cover shows Walt seated at a classic organ console, but be not dismayed. The taped organ is horseshoe all the way.

Gerry Gregorius



PARAMOUNT ON PARADE. Jim Riggs at the Oakland Paramount. Available from Jim Riggs, P.O. Box 10042, Oakland, CA 94610. Cassette tape \$12.00 postpaid.

Another fine recording from Jim Riggs. In my opinion not as exciting as his recent "Singin' In The Bathtub," it is still everything you might expect to find in an excellent theatre organ recording.

Anyone who has heard the Oakland Paramount Wurlitzer knows that it is a masterpiece of tonal finishing. While it might lack the punch of other instruments its size, it is perfect, and more than adequate to the demands placed on it.

This tape is well recorded. The recording engineer captured the spaciousness of the theatre without losing the clarity of the organ.

Tune list is Paramount On Parade, My Sunshine Is You, All Alone Monday, Where Can You Be?, My Silent Love, Look What I've Got/Thank Heaven For You, A Warner Bros. Medley, Why Can't You, Baby-Oh Where Can You Be?, Two Hearts Beat In Three Quarter Time, Rio Rita, On A Slow Boat To China, Cole Porter Selections, Cuban Love Song, I Concentrate On You, My Funny Valentine, Reaching For Someone (And Not Finding Anyont There), Television March. I could have lived without the TV March!

A fine addition to anyone's collection.

Bob Shafter



SOMETHING TO REMEMBER YOU BY. Tom Hazleton at the Thomaston Opera House 3/15 Marr & Colton. Available from: CV Tapes, c/o George Bell, 130 Ponus Ave., Norwalk, CT 06850. Cassette tape \$12.00 postpaid.

This is one of the most amazing and unique recordings I have ever heard. Tom Hazleton gives us traditional theatre organ, and a look at the mostly neglected orchestral side of the instrument. There are very few organists who are willing or even able to play the theatre organ with the tremors off and very discreet voicing, thus making the instrument sound like a straight romantic instrument. There is enough of everything in this tape to please those who want customary theatre organ, and those who've become just a little jaded and want something very unusual and off the wall. This is easily the best recording of Tom Hazleton I've heard.

The proof of the voicing is that this organ is equal to the demands Tom places on it. In my opinion, it is an expert job of tonal finishing and a rare combination of beauty and power. The recording engineer captured the sound of the instrument, and the ambience of the empty room.

Tune list is: Zing Went The Strings of My Heart, You And I, A Song of Sunshine, They Can't Take That Away From Me, Melody In Mauve, Jamaica Farewell, The Horse Guards, Whitehall-March, You Came A Long Way From St. Louis, Don't Blame Me, On A Spring Note, Touch Her Soft Lips and Heart, Juliet's Waltz, and Something To Remember You By.

This tape is highly recommended, but remember it is somewhat out of the ordinary.

Bob Shafter

Manufacturers, distributors or individuals sponsoring or merchandising organ recordings are encouraged to send review copies to the Record Reviewer, THE-ATRE ORGAN, 4633 S.E. Brookside Drive., #58, Milwaukie, Oregon 97222. Be sure to include purchasing information (postpaid price, ordering address) and a photo of the artist which need not be returned.

BOB MITCHELL'S THEATRE ORGAN FAVORITES #2. Bob Mitchell at the 4/30 Kimball pipe organ, St. James Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles. Available from: Bob Mitchell, 713 N. Gramercy Place, Hollywood, CA 90038. Cassette tape \$7.50 postpaid.

This is an interesting recording because it shows us what an original installation Romantic church organ can do. The organ is so orchestral in its approach that you'd be hard put to recognize it as anything other than a theatre organ. This recording helped me in my appreciation and understanding that the classical organs of the time dictated what was happening in the theatre organ world, and not the other way around.

The performances are average, ordinary and rather uninspired. They're not terrible either; timing, phrasing and melodies are accurate. Just good solid playing.

The recording engineers did a good job with room acoustics, but the review copy was too hot, and there is a little extra hiss because they didn't use Dolby.

Selections are as follows: Swinging On A Star, Hello My Darling, Cheri, Just Like A Story, Wishing, Most Of All I Want Your Love, I Love You California, Take Me In Your Arms, Going My Way, If You Were Mine, and Over the Rainbow.

This tape is recommended because of the chance to listen to a unique and rather neglected type of instrument.

Bob Shaffer

FAIR DINKUM. Tony Fenelon at the Wurlitzer Organ of the Free Trade Hall, Manchester. Available from: The Organ Literature Foundation, 45 Norfolk Rd., Braintree, MA 02184. Price is \$12.00 plus \$2.00 postage and handling.

I am very pleased to be able to review any recording of the Manchester Free Trade Hall organ. Tony Fenelon is an excellent Australian organist who is so well known world-wide that he needs no introduction here, except I feel compelled to note that Tony Fenelon is a solid and interesting performer.

As I mentioned in my opening line, this organ is one of the finest Wurlitzers anywhere. I was a little disappointed in the clarity of the recording. It sounds just a little muffy to me.

Selections are: Waltzing Britannia (an odd Australian/British medley), When I Grow Too Old To Dream, The Old Piano Roll Blues, I Know Him So Well, Click Go The Shears, Overture to the Thieving Magpie, All Aboard!, All The Things You Are, Selections from *Oliver*, Dream A Little Dream Of Me, Grande Tarantelle.

The "Grande Tarantelle" is an extremely difficult piece to play, and Tony Fenelon plays it accurately and brilliantly. It is worth the entire price of the tape.

Bob Shaffer

TV & FILM FAVOURITES. Nicholas Martin, CD format. **JUST FOR YOU.** Nicholas Martin, cassette tape. **WE'LL MEET AGAIN.** Nicholas Martin, cassette tape, at the 3/19 Wurlitzer installed in Turner's Musical Merry-Go-Round, Northampton. Available from: Flynndale Musical Enterprises, 11, Horseshoe Drive, Etching Hill, Rugeley, Staffs, WS15 2RF, England. Prices are: TV & Film Favourites \$19.00 U.S., airmail postpaid. Just For You and We'll Meet Again \$12.00 each U.S., airmail postpaid.

Three recordings of a promising young organist from Great Britain. Nicholas Martin is technically competent, but lacks variety in registration and styling. Coupled with a tendency to play everything too fast, one gets a little bored after a few selections. However, he is very talented and very, very promising.

Like most of the current work in Great Britain these days, this organ sounds very nice. It pulls together as a solid and cohesive unit. It is installed in a large, bright room, which the recording engineer captured very well.

The review copy of the cassette "Just For You," was recorded too hot, and in a couple of places the distortion is noticeable. The other cassette and the CD are both okay.

Tune lists are as follows: TV & Film Favourites - Dam Busters March, An Affair To Remember, Big Country/High Noon/The Magnificent Seven, If I Love You/The High And The Mighty, Those Magnificent Men In Their Flying Machines, Love Theme From Superman, James Bond Medley, Once Upon A Time In The West, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Bilitis, Yakety Sax, Howard's Way, Theme From Peyton Place/Doctor Kildare Theme, Ski Sunday, Upstairs Downstairs/Emmerdale Farm/Bonanza, Dick Barton-Special Agent, Prisoner Cell Block H/Neighbours, All Creatures Great And Small, Last Of The Summer Wine, Coronation Street/Who Do You Think You Are Kidding Mr. Hitler.

Just For You (selected highlights): Just For You, One Love, Why Do I Love You?, The Sunshine Of Your Smile, Love Is All, All I Do Is Dream Of You, (Why Does My Heart Go) Boom, Woman, The Wonder Of You, The Power of Love, What I Did For Love, The Sweetheart Tree.

We'll Meet Again (selected highlights): Top Hat, The Music Of The Night, The Piccolino, Red Sails In The Sunset, Kerry Dances, Who's Sorry Now, On The Quarter Deck, All I Ask Of You, Avalon, The Legend Of The Glass Mountain, I'll Be Seeing You, Sonny Boy, The White Cliffs of Dover.

Bob Shaffer



Dorothy VanSteenkiste, John Ledwon and Frances Morehead in Phoenix.



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