



FOR THE RECORDS

DOUBLE TOUCH. Tony Fenelon at the Capri Theatre Wurlitzer and the Grand Piano. Selections: Tritsch-Tratsch Polka, The Continental, Sophisticated Lady, Rondo Alla Turca, The Last Rose of Summer, Flight of the Bumble Bee, On A Wonderful Day Like Today, and four more. Available from: Musical Contrasts, P.O. Box 16786, Phoenix, AZ 85011. Cassette only, CrO2 with dolby HX-PRO system, do not turn on your dolby. \$12.00 postpaid.

PERFORMANCE: VERY GOOD
RECORDING: ADEQUATE AT BEST
ORGAN: BEAUTIFUL

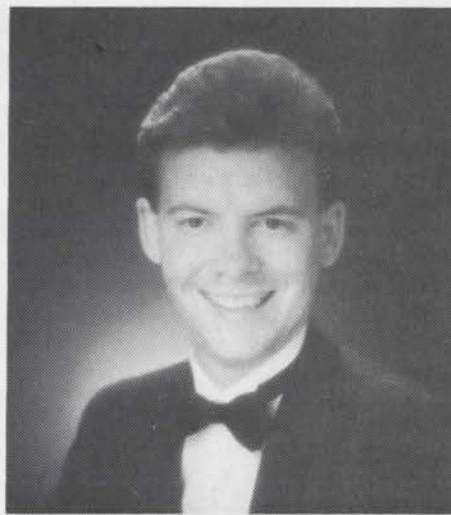
There are several aspects about the recording quality, on this tape, that I don't particularly like. It sounds like the organ was recorded by more than one mike (not an uncommon practice) and mixed by someone who seems to like the percussions louder than what I would consider a good balance. Sometimes the organ sounds like it is coming to you through a tunnel. The piano parts which are overdubbed, of course, sound like they were recorded in a totally dead studio, with no compensating studio reverb. Tape hiss is quite noticeable and the review copy was too hot in several places.

The only credit given in the liner notes for the organ was to mention that it is a Wurlitzer in the Capri Theatre. It sounds like a substantial instrument. It is a very beautiful and musically satisfying organ.

Tony Fenelon turns in a competent and musical performance. Of note are the selections which are fast, such as "Flight of the Bumble Bee," and "Rondo Alla Turca." They are played clean, accurately and up to tempo.

In spite of the recording problems, there are enough good things about this tape to earn a recommendation.

Bob Shafter



THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT. Chris Elliott at the Wilcox residence 4/48 Wurlitzer. Selections: That's Entertainment, 'Taint No Sin, Moonlight on the River, Opus One, Gershwin Medley, All the Things You Are, Dance of the Blue Danube, Danse Macabre, Oklahoma Selections, and three more. Available from: Crystell Productions, P.O. Box 705, Menlo Park, CA 94026. CD \$18.00 postpaid, Cassette \$12.00 postpaid, US funds. Overseas add \$2.00.

PERFORMANCE: SUPERB
RECORDING: VERY GOOD
ORGAN: EXCELLENT

The recording job is so well done that it would be difficult to fault. The only comment I have is that it lacks a certain, difficult to define, dimension. That is, I was not quite convinced that I was actually in the room with the organ.

The excellent Wurlitzer used in this recording was mentioned in the last issue of the Journal. It is very well finished and quite easy to listen to.

Chris Elliott turns in the kind of performance that we don't often hear these days. His technique is very clean and accurate. Phrasing and timing are flawless, and here's one that I feel is very important and often overlooked, correct tempi. There is a level of refinement throughout that is rarely heard these days. Chris allows each piece to speak for itself and is controlled enough to allow the organ to be broad and pleasing. Of particular note is "Danse Macabre." Until this recording, I would have said that the Dennis James' recording at Rochester was the definitive version, followed close by Jonas Nordwall's live performance. I am now compelled to give Chris Elliott's recording the category of definitive version.

Clean technique, refined and controlled playing, on a top notch instrument, that is well recorded is a must have in my book.

Bob Shafter

PHOENIX. Walt Strony at the Krughoff 4/33 residence Wurlitzer. Selections: Another Op'nin', Another Show, People, Donkey Serenade from *Firefly*, My Ship, Mack The Knife, Fanfare For The Common Man, Diane, Root Beer Rag, Suite from *Victory At Sea*, on cassette. CD has additional Song of India/Scheherazade Fantasy, and Satin Doll. Recorded Digitally, cassette is real time dubbed on CrO2, CD is DDD. Available from: Digital Sonic Productions, 2246 North Palmer Drive, Suite #100, Schaumburg, Illinois 60173. CD \$18.00 postpaid, cassette \$11.00 postpaid. Foreign orders add \$3.00 per item.

PERFORMANCE: EXCELLENT
RECORDING: SUPERB
ORGAN: FLAWLESS

Truly outstanding! Attention to detail and the desire to produce a perfect recording are evident from the first few moments of play. Indeed it is possible to hold up this recording and say "This is what a CD is supposed to sound like." This is a recording that has been so perfectly engineered that the listener is convinced they are right there in the room. I turned up the volume level to the point of pain, I listened with headphones and there is nothing wrong with this recording. It is the cleanest, most perfect recording job I've yet heard. Of course, without the same level of perfection with the mastering, that could have all gone to waste. Kudos to Jim Sternke.

Dave Junchen and Steve Adams also need to be singled out for producing an instrument that is flawlessly voiced and excellently regulated. The tonal integrity, balance and blend are of the highest quality. There was not one out-of-tune, or out-of-voice pipe in the entire instrument.

Walt Strony turns in the kind of performance that we have all come to expect from this most professional organist. Someone hearing Walt for the first time would be floored by the unashamed display of technical excellence. If it is possible that anyone has not yet heard Walt, this would be the perfect recording. Walt Strony fans will already be standing in line to buy this one.

This recording gets my highest recommendation.

Bob Shafter

RE-ISSUE
ASHLEY MILLER at the War Memorial. Ashley Miller at the 3/16 Moller with Joseph Scannella trumpet solo in four numbers. Selections are: Strike Up the Band, I Write the Songs, I Can't Get Started With You, On the Sunnyside of the Street, Jing-a-Ling, Yellow Days, Stardust, Love, Serenata, and six more. Available from: Milco Music Co., P.O. Box 32, Closter, NJ 07624. Cassette \$11.00 postpaid.