

RECORD REVIEWS

Organ Recordings

COLOSSUS - Gus Farney, Organist at Larry Bray 5-19 Wurlitzer, Salt Lake City. Warner Brothers Record, B1359, Mono, WS 1359 Stereo.

Packaged in a jacket with a particularly colorful shot of the pipes in the Solo Chamber which shows off the beautiful Brass Trumpet, reflecting multi-colored lighting, this fairly recent release has had unusual sales success -- for a reason! For here is organ music to match the sparkle and color displayed on the jacket cover!!! Gus Farney uses his artistic talents to good advantage throughout the rather wide variety of selections, and combines this with some really fine registrations with pleasing results to any organ enthusiast. Note the Vibraharp in Londonerry Air, as well as Tuba Horn, Tibias and English Post Horn. (Which is, by the way, a Robert Norton). The Marimba Harp shows up nicely in Singin' In The Rain, as does the Piano. Other percussions are used to advantage throughout. You'll Never Walk Alone starts out with a nice Vox Humana combination and builds up to a climax that'll really convince you its true! A crisp rendition of Veradero is followed by a nice ballad, Cryin' For The Carolines, a la Crawford. Listen here for the counterpoint on the Tuba Horn! And so on through a peppy finale, Canadian Capers. Although its listed as 24 ranks, the 5 ranks of Morton strings had been removed at the time of the recording due to a faulty chest - but you won't miss 'em! A real nice little touch is the recommendation at the lower right corner, back side, of other organ recordings on competitive labels! One'll get you five its Bray's idea!!! A really fine recording and a credit to all who were responsible.

BEYOND THE BLUE HORIZON, United Artist, #UAS 5056, Jonny Seng, Organist, Dick Loderhose Wurlitzer.

This release, reviewed in stereo, literally swept us off our feet! The accurate record jacket notes by Ben Hall are again proof that such can be well written, interesting, analytic and entertaining! The sound of the organ has been extremely well recorded, with fine small sounds captured as accurately as the fiery brass reeds. It displayed real depth and perception, and to date is one of the nicest sounding releases to be had!

Johnny Seng, so far as we know, herein makes his debut as a contemporary theatre organist, and well he deserves the title. He combines modern harmony, tasteful registration with sensitive technique to bring forth really wonderful music. This recording will stand repeated listening without wearing on the individual, and much is to be learned from a careful analysis of his playing. If you like modern theatre organ music, well played with a wide selection of pop tunes, you will find this a wise choice to add to your library.

A STEREO INTRODUCTION TO THE WORLD FAMOUS WURLITZER PIPE ORGAN FORMERLY OWNED BY PARAMONT PICTURES CORP. U.A. #UAS 5059 - Stereo, Dick Scott, Johnny Seng, Don DeWitt, Organist, Dick Loderhose Wurlitzer.

Here is the first release of the famous Paramount Studio Organ since its re-installation in the home of Dick Loderhose. An excellent color shot of the 4 manual console eliminates the need for further description of this recording, except that perhaps you might not yet have heard it! First of all, Loderhose and United Artists are to be commended for the ACCURATE and COMPLETELY DESCRIPTIVE statements by Ben Hall. Too many organ recordings released recently have insipid, inaccurate, and thoroughly misleading jacket notes and cover photos. Our collective hat is off to this effort, but not for this reason alone. Herein you will find vivid proof that this famous organ will long yet play over the air waves! If not on radio, at least on stereo hi-fi. Each artist does two numbers on each side, and it is difficult to describe their efforts without appearing to show favoritism...so we won't. This is but the first release of many more to come, and fortunate we are to have these to look forward to. Don't let the non-de-plume Dick Scott fool you though --guess who? -- the proud papa! CONGRATULATIONS!

MUSIC OF THE EXOTIC EAST, Fantasy Record, #8013, Stereo, Korla Pandit, Organist, Lorin Whitney Studio Organ.

Korla Pandit turns to the Theatre Pipe Organ in this Stereo Release to present his interpretation of a varied selection of numbers generally associated with the Far East. Others are included which have an Oriental or Egyptian air, such as "Love Song Of The Nile". Making full use of the percussions, as could be well expected in this type of recording, the organ stands up

well to stereo treatment. The pace of all of the numbers is somewhat similar, with a slow definite rhythm. This is definitely mood music, and a very definite mood at that. If this type selection is to your liking, so will be the record

CHRISTMAS IN YOUR HEART, United Artist, #UAS 5057, Reginald Foort, Organist, Dick Loderhose Wurlitzer.

Reginald Foort needs no introduction to theatre organ enthusiasts anywhere in the world, so far as we know. But if we are mistaken, he is adequately introduced on the record jacket notes written by Ben Hall. If further introduction is required, it is only necessary to put this record on your stereo turntable to meet him personally, Mr. Foort is simply perennially good. You can be assured that his name on a label guarantees the product. In this recording, Foort does more to display the tonal finery of the former Paramount Studio Wurlitzer than you might believe possible. There is no mistaking the intent of this record, and those intentions are completely fulfilled. It's Christmas Music, played in an amusing and contemporary vein that will be a welcome addition to your festive season, whether you buy it now or at Christmas time. But just from a theatre organ enthusiasts point of view, here is an opportunity to hear the happy combination of organ artistry and instrumental beauty in all of its detail, right down to the 16' Double String Celeste in the pedal.

THE FAMOUS RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL ORGAN, Col. #CL1434 - Monaural. ASHLEY MILLER, Organist. Radio City Music Hall, 4 Manual Wurlitzer.

Just recently received, this record is long over-due for reviews on these pages! Here again, is real theatre sound, and Ashley Miller has demonstrated acute sensitivity to registration and orchestration of the wide variety of selections offered. Made up of pop tunes, or perennial favorites, on the first side, and a selection of waltzes on the second side, the record is similar to an earlier Columbia release (#CL945) in this respect, i.e., like numbers grouped together on each of the two sides. Especially nice are "A Foggy Day", "Someone To Watch Over Me", and "Fascination". The difficulties encountered in recording a large organ located in a large theatre are almost beyond comprehension. The very mechanics of sound are against it from the start! Nevertheless, here has been captured not only the delicate reeds, but full organ as well. This is truly a fine release, and a credit to both Miller and Columbia.