

LEONARD MacCLAIN PLAYS FOR THEATRE ORGAN LOVERS - RALBAR SOLP-6301 (Stereo), OLP-6301 (Mono).

Recorded on the Lorin Whitney WurliTzer-Morton, this album captures the incomparable MacClain style at its best. The excellent choice of combinations makes each number a new listening delight, especially the beautiful Vox combinations used in "Street Of Dreams." Lorin Whitney certainly deserves a pat on the back for such a well regulated instrument. Selections include "Moon River," "Street Of Dreams," "Don't Take Your Love From Me," "Goodnight, Sweetheart" (a gem), "Don't Blame Me," "Ain't Misbehavin'," and others.

In our opinion, this is a worthy addition to any organ lover's music rack at \$4.98 Mono, \$5.98 Stereo. The record is not available in stores, but will be shipped postpaid from RALBAR PRODUCTIONS, P.O. Box 212, Pottstown, Pa.

"OLDIES" For Pipe Organ - Lee Erwin plays the Mighty WurliTzer - SOMERSET-SF-12600 (Stereo).

Here is an excellent record we picked up in a drugstore music rack for 88¢! The cover photo is the much used New York Paramount console, while the organ played by Lee Erwin is the studio WurliTzer at Radio City Music Hall. The selections include 31 all-time favorites including "Hot Time In The Old Town Tonight," "Wait Till The Sun Shines, Nellie," "My Gal Sal," "Cuddle Up A Little Closer," and so forth. This is a good pressing, with a minimum of surface noise, well played on a real WurliTzer with most of the colorful reeds in evidence. We would say if you can pick this up in your local drugstore even at \$2.98 it is a good buy.

"THEATRE ORGAN TECHNIQUE" at the Hammond and Pipe by Rosa Rio - RIO RECORDS-RR2004 (Mono).

Here is a record with two bands devoted to Hammond and one band to pipe organ, for those who like to compare between pipes and electronics. Rosa Rio has an excellent style and good arrangements, although registration does not vary too much either on the Hammond or the pipe portion. The make or location of the pipe organ is not mentioned, but it is probably a home or studio installation. The organ and tonal percussions sound very well, and we get impressions in listening to this disc that Rosa Rio has played a lot more pipe organ than she has electronic, as her style is so much more relaxed on the pipe numbers. Selections include "People Will Say We're In Love," "Satin Doll," "Sleepy Time Gal," "The Swinging Shepherd Blues," "Fascination," "Surrey With The Fringe On Top," "St. Louis Blues" and others. We think you will enjoy this LP at \$3.50 postpaid. RIO RECORDS, 130 Mill Street, Shelton, Connecticut.

Record Reviews

BOB READ AT THE BEEF EATERS THEATRE PIPE ORGAN - HI-FI PIPES - BR1001 (Mono only).

This is the first recording of a very talented organist, Mr. Bob Read. Bob, who for years has been among the top jazz organists in the country, presents his artistry at the console of his Marr & Colton-WurliTzer Theatre Pipe Organ. This effort culminates six years of hard work rebuilding the organ, which is presently installed in the famous Beef Eaters Restaurant in Phoenix, Arizona, where Bob plays nightly. The 3 manual console shown on the record jacket controls 18 ranks of pipes plus a host of percussions. Selections played are "Everything's Coming Up Roses," "Makin' Whoopee," "Col. Bogey March" (complete with all percussions), "My Funny Valentine," "No, Not Much," and others. We don't know the price, or a mailing address, but would suggest that you write Bob Read, Beef Eaters Restaurant, Phoenix, Arizona, for this fine record.

THE BELLS OF CHRISTMAS CHIME AGAIN (Volume 2) Eddie Dunstedter - CAPITOL ST-1968.

This album is a follow up to THE BELLS OF CHRISTMAS recorded by Dunstedter last year. Both albums are recorded on the Lorin Whitney WurliTzer-Morton, and include the artistry of Bob Mitchell assisting with such melodic percussion instruments as celeste, vibraphone, chimes, and the remarkable Maas-Rowe Symphonic Carillon. The organ itself has its own Chimes, as well as Glockenspiel, Xylophone, and Marimba - all adding to a holiday celebration that is joyful to the ear as it is to the spirit.

Other sounds were added for the charming novelty "In The Clock Store," which while not specifically associated with Christmas, was included by Dunstedter because it has invariably been requested at many of the Christmas concerts he has given during his long reign as one of the greatest theatre organists. This is Christmas music in the style of "Mr. Pipe Organ" Eddie Dunstedter. Numbers played are "White Christmas," "Silver Bells," "Sweet Little Jesus Boy," "Winter Wonderland" (We liked this arrangement), "I'll Be Home For Christmas," "In The Clock Store," and others. This is a super addition to any organ lover's library.

THEATRE ORGAN OVERTURES AT THE PLAZA - John Brent Ledwon - ALPHA-ST-7702 (Stereo), M-7702 (Mono).

This record is just what the title indicates, with three overtures being played for each side. The organ is the 3/15 WurliTzer in the Plaza Theatre, El Paso, Texas, that has been cared for as an only child by Jim Connor and Walt Hanlon of the El Paso Theatre Organ Club. The organ is certainly a credit to the two El Paso renegades, as it sounds exceptionally well. The playing of young John Brent Ledwon is the best that we have heard him do, and this reviewer knows there is a lot of talent in this young fellow. The numbers recorded are "Orpheus In The Underworld," "Gloomy Sunday," "Poet And Peasant," "Viva Mexico," "Morning, Noon And Night In Vienna," and "The Beautiful Galathea." It is our understanding that these numbers were suggested to young Ledwon by the Theatre Organ Society of Australia, but we would have preferred hearing him do something a little lighter, with Franz von Suppe overtures not being quite our cup of tea. It is, however, a good record, well played and well recorded. Available by mail only from ALPHA RECORDS, 5965 West Blvd., Los Angeles, California 90043. Mono \$4.00 and Stereo \$5.00 postpaid in the USA.

"JOHN DE MELLO AT THE WAIKIKI THEATRE ORGAN" - Lani LS-1000.

When thinking of Hawaii, most people conjure up mental images of poi, pineapples, coconuts, hula girls and other tropical dishes. Somehow, theatre pipe organs just don't seem to cross one's mind. But they got 'em! As a matter of fact, there are two Morton organs installed in theatres in Honolulu. This album features John De Mello at the 4 manual Robert Morton theatre organ installed in the beautiful Waikiki Theatre in Honolulu.

The organ chambers are located to the right and left of the stage directly behind two beautiful concrete palm trees. Lest your vacation dreams be shattered, the other palm trees in Hawaii are constructed in the usual method. This

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NOTE: To be reviewed in our next issue - Two albums by Ann Leaf, "The Mighty Mite," recorded during her recent concert at the Los Angeles Theatre. THAT THEY ARE EXCELLENT is all we have space to say just now.

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Seattle Bids Farewell To Music Hall - Robert Morton



The 4/16 Robert Morton in Seattle's Music Hall Theatre.



Organist Dick Schrum at the console of the Music Hall Robert Morton.

RECORD REVIEWS (Concluded)

theatre is directly across the street from the Royal Hawaiian Hotel and Waikiki Beach, and is a most magnificent setting for the Hawaiian music presented on this album.

Included is music of Hawaiian origin. This is not Hawaiian music composed in New York's Tin Pan Alley, ("Little Grass Shack," "Sweet Leilani," etc.) but is the native music of the islands. John De Mello, who has been playing theatre organ in Honolulu since the late '20's, has a style which conveys the relaxing tropical atmosphere of the five islands in the Pacific. Selections include "The Hawaiian Wedding Song," "Hilo After Sundown" (Mr. De Mello's radio theme), and other selections which I found very listenable but couldn't pronounce correctly on a bet ("Pulupe," "Eleu, Miki Miki," "Ka Anoi," etc.).

This album is available at this time in Stereo only, and may be obtained from the Lani Recording Company, Merchandise Mart Bldg., Suite 223, Honolulu, Hawaii.

The last public performance of the Music Hall Robert Morton Pipe Organ was given on November 15, 1963, with the popular Seattle organist Dick Schrum at the console. This fine pipe organ of four manuals and 16 ranks has been sold to the Greer Motel and Restaurant in Sacramento, California, and will be removed shortly after the first of the year.

The fabulous Robert Morton Organ was installed in the Music Hall Theatre, then the Fox, in 1929 by Balcom & Vaughn of Seattle, in time for the premiere opening on April 19, 1929. The organist was Jamie Erickson, who at that time was well known in the large movie palaces throughout the West and Midwest.

Although there are many larger theatre organs, this 16 rank Morton is probably more versatile than many through its extensive coupling and unification, and it had no trouble filling the 2200 seat theatre. The stop list includes: Tuba, Trumpet, English Horn, Diapason, Tibia, Concert Flute, Gamba, Violin I, Violin II (2 ranks), Dulciana, Vox Humana, Oboe Horn, Clarinet, Kinura, and Krummet, plus all the usual tonal and non-tonal percussions.



Seattle's Music Hall Theatre on Olive looking toward 7th Ave.

Dick Schrum is well known throughout the Northwest for his work on electronic as well as on pipe organs. He is currently playing at the Plaid Piper Tartan Room in Seattle. He also is secretary of the Puget Sound Chapter of ATOE.

The final concert started promptly at 8 p.m. with the playing of "California, Here I Come," as the console started to rise out of the pit. From then on, almost 1800 persons were treated to some 2½ hours of theatre pipe organ music showing off every possibility of this fine Robert Morton.



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