

# Music

SEPTEMBER • 1955

NEWS



*Les and Mary*

*In this issue . . .* **New Releases from CAPITOL**

World Radio History

# Music Views

Sept., 1955 Vol. XIII, No. 9

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Published Monthly By

**CAPITOL PUBLICATIONS, INC.**  
Sunset and Vine, Hollywood 28, Calif.  
Printed in U.S.A.

Subscription \$1.00 per year.

## THE COVER

It's a neat trick these days to tune in your favorite radio station without catching at least one platter by Les Paul and Mary Ford. And this fall they will be seen on 150 TV stations throughout the country, more than twice as many as last season. For complete details and more pictures of these popular stars, flip to pages 4 and 5.



Steve Allen, Coral artist and NBC-TV "Tonight" star, gets pointers on fingering "licorice stick" under tutorship of Benny Goodman, who waxes for Capitol. Scene is Universal-International studios, Hollywood, where Allen worked as star of the forthcoming "Benny Goodman Story," co-starring Donna Reed. B. G. himself appears at opening and end of film.

## ● FLICKER CLEFFER

Capitol composer-conductor Les Baxter wrote three songs for a new Columbia feature picture starring Jane Russell and Cornel Wilde: "Song of the Gypsy" and "I Could Learn to Love You," each of which Miss Russell sings in the film, and "Tsara-Tsara." Movie, slated for release early next year, is "Tambourine." Baxter also composed the title songs for two other pictures: "Monika," a Hallmark Production, and "Simba," a Hall-Bartlett Production. It's understood Arthur Murray plans to popularize a dance step to "Simba."

### IT'S ALL WET!

The proud citizens of Bristol, Connecticut, home town of "Tennessee" Ernie Ford, Capitol Records, NBC-TV, and CBS-Radio Star, have honored the entertainer with one acre of ground.

But there's a hitch: It's located smack-dab in the middle of Lake Holston. The townspeople say the water-logged gift is to assure Ernie of a good fishin' spot for the rest of his life.

"It may be a little hard to plow but I'll never have to irrigate!" he reminds, proudly.



"Take It Or Leave It" is the vocal suggestion of Yvonne De Carlo on Capitol platter. Song is in "Flame of the Islands" for Republic. The Nelson Riddle musicians accompany.

# Les and Mary THE HIT MAKERS!

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**F**ANS OF THE original musical sound of Les Paul and Mary Ford are welcoming the news that these artists will be seen this fall on 150 TV stations (more than twice as many as last season) from coast to coast, five times a week. The series is slated to start about Oct. 1 and to continue for 39 weeks. Meantime, the pair's sensationally popular Capitol album, "Les and Mary," continues to skyrocket in sales, and their Cap pop single of "Hummingbird" and "Goodbye, My Love" is still much in demand at record stores throughout the country. On these pages we see Les and Mary at home, recording, on TV, in a personal appearance, and just together. It's all part of the busy schedule of a top Mr. and Mrs. team, hit makers of Capitol Records.





## ENCOURAGING NOTE FOR STUDENT CLEFFERS

These are great days for amateur songwriters, according to Hal Levy, who conducts a course in Popular Lyric Writing at UCLA Extension in Los Angeles.

"Recently I have been approached by a half dozen local publishers, and even received letters from two others in New York, all of them wanting to get a crack at the material the students are turning out."

This course in Lyric Writing, only one of its kind, attracts people of all ages and from all walks of life. In addition to the basic lectures and demonstrations, guest lecturers appear from time to time, including such music world notables as Oscar Hammerstein II,



John Raitt, a Fullerton, California boy who sang his way to top roles on Broadway, is at his best in Cap album, "Highlights of Broadway."

Johnny Mercer, Hoagy Carmichael, Johnny Green, Paul Weston, Harry Warren, Leo Robin, and others.

"I have a hunch," continues Levy, "that the emergence of so many small, independent record companies is responsible in large part for the interest in young songwriters. In last year's class alone, six different writers got their first record break on small labels, and a couple others cracked the majors."

In the three years that Levy has been giving this course, over five hundred students have attended and about seventy-five of them have had songs accepted by legitimate publishers.

### ● CELLULOID REUNION

The original, famous Benny Goodman quartet—Benny himself, Gene Krupa, Lionel Hampton, and Teddy Wilson—are reunited in "The Benny Goodman Story," Universal-International feature film scheduled for late fall release.

NBC-TV's bespectacled funnyman, Steve Allen, a Coral Records artist, plays Goodman, who cuts album sides for the Capitol label.

Today Goodman and Krupa are 46. Hampton is 41, and Wilson is 42.

## Introducing

### PAUL "MR. HUCKLEBUCK" WILLIAMS and Jimmy Brown

Paul Williams' 1949 recording of "The Hucklebuck" started a dance craze that launched his popularity as a top rhythm and blues artist. Two buses and five cars gave out under the strain of the band's datebook, which was quickly filled after the success of the "Hucklebuck" platter.

Prior to this, Williams experienced the inevitable knocks while he sought recognition in his home town of Detroit. But after "Hucklebuck" the personable Paul was on his way. Recently he was signed to an exclusive contract by Capitol Records in Hollywood, which

promptly released a pair of songs guaranteed to set your toes to tapping: "Rock It Davy Crockett" coupled with the cheerful musical greeting, "Hello."

Featured vocally as well as on trumpet with Williams is Jimmy Brown, who delivers his lyrics with all four limbs swinging wildly to the beat. Brown has been with the group since 1952.

Besides Brown on trumpet, others in the Williams band are Freddy Johnson, piano; Ernest Butler, bass; Eddie Silvers, sax; and Belton Evans, drums.



**PAUL WILLIAMS**

**Eddie Silvers**

**JIMMY BROWN**

## MUSIC WILL GO ROUND AND ROUND HERE



Recent fame in Vegas and their Mercury release "Only You and You Alone" has The Platters high stepping up the ladder of success.



Almost before ink was dry on his new Capitol contract, "Texas" Bill Strength's first disk, "Yellow Rose of Texas" was in stores of U. S.

A unique new silhouette is rising daily on the Hollywood skyline.

Just off the world-famous intersection of Hollywood and Vine is rising a 13-story (height-limit for the Los Angeles-Hollywood area) circular office building. The Capitol Tower, which will become the international executive headquarters for Capitol Records when completed about the first of the year.

The \$2,000,000 structure, the top dozen floors of which will be a full 360 degrees and appear to be "floating" on a rectangular base, will be Hollywood's first completely air conditioned major office building, and the city's first height-limit building to be erected in the past 35 years.

Why a circular building? Not to simulate a stack of records, but for economy of construction, operation, and maintenance plus maximum utilization of space and efficiency of operation, according to Architect Welton Becket.

### ● PERRY'S TV HOUR

Perry Como, who etches for Victor, launches a new, hour-long TV show over NBC Sept. 17. In addition to singing, he'll act and be host. Musical director Mitch Ayres and the Ray Charles choir will be there, too.





**The Capitol Tower, new world headquarters for Capitol Records, rises just off world-famous intersection of Hollywood and Vine in Hollywood. Unique structure, world's first circular office building, will be 13 stories, completely air conditioned. Completion? About first of year.**

## ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Thirteen-year-old Mike Dickler recently crashed the entertainment world, by "crashing the gate" at ABC Television Center in Hollywood.

While the TV lot's guards had their guard down, young Mike hopped over the fence and burst, unannounced, into the office of Western Division v.p. Earl Hudson, exclaiming "I can sing!"

What could a startled veepee do at a time like this except to accept the challenge. He said "Sing."

The lad did and eight days later he was on Al Jarvis' teenage dance show, "Hi-Jinx."



Les Baxter takes a breather at home while arranging "The Shrike"/"The Toy Tiger" (both from U-I movies) which he has recorded for Capitol.

## ● DISKS FOR DOLLARS

To assist the Paralyzed Veterans of America in raising one million dollars, an LP recording, "Nine Days For Americans," has been produced. The disk is a collection of stories in song pertaining to national patriotic holidays. Profits from the sale of the LP will go toward the assistance of some 5,000 paraplegic ex-servicemen in this country.



Backstage at Hollywood Palladium finds Gloria Wood with Harry James' horn and James himself at piano. His Cap album is due soon.

## ● KNOWS THE SCORE

Composer-conductor Nelson Riddle has been retained by Republic Pictures to write the score for Ann Sheridan's forthcoming movie. "Come Next Spring," which may be indicative of its release date.

The Capitol baton-waver also scored another Republic flicker, "The Flame of the Islands," starring Yvonne DeCarlo and Zachary Scott, now screening nationally.



Harry Belafonte, who starred last in the movie "Carmen Jones" is pictured here rehearsing a dynamic folk song for upcoming show.



Singing discovery of Earl "Fatha" Hines, Penny Lynn, took a step up lately by recording several tunes with Hines on the Nocturne label.



Vicki Young looks as if she means it while recording her new Capitol disk, "Put Your Arm Around Me." Nelson Riddle orchestra assisted.



Ireland's gift to the "pop" music field is Cathy Ryan, born in Dublin. She was discovered by MGM Records singing with Art Mooney.



"The Moon Must Have Followed Me Home" sings newcomer, Tim Kirby. Tim made wax debut on Victor. He warbles "The Rainbow" on flipside of disk, now in stores.



Jones is the name say Norman Dial, Wayne Hoff, Rex Dennis, Fred Smith, quartet who make up the unique sounding group, Jones Boys.

# record



Rhythm-inspired Wilder Bros. of label X, noted for unusual technique, continue coaching under noted vocal coach, Gene Byram.



June Christy does creditable job chanting lyrics to "Pete Kelly's Blues" on Cap wax. It's going great. Flipside she just did for "Kicks."



Wesley and Marilyn Tuttle appear jubilant over the way their new "You Nobody But You" Cap disk is going. Backside is "I Promise You."



Dean and Line (names rhyme) whose full monikers are Dean Martin and Line Renaud, offer "Relax-Ay-Voo," "Two Sleepy People" as their first vocal duet recording for Capitol.



The likeness of Carol Ohmart will get the Vista Vision treatment when she makes her film debut in Paramount's "The Scarlet Hour."

## OPPORTUNIST

Some pawn shop operators are surprisingly enterprising guys. Ask Herman Lubinsky, head of Savoy Records.

Seems H. L. had been doing much of his own lenswork for his Savoy LP album covers. He went to a New York pawn shop, borrowed an old battered alto sax which he decided to shoot and use on the cover of his new Charlie Parker Memorial album.

As a courtesy, Lubinsky sent a copy to the pawn merchant. Promptly said merchant slapped the cover and the sax in his window, together with a sign reading, "Charlie Parker's Sax."

Next day the instrument brought \$150. The price before Lubinsky: \$50!

## ● BOUND—TO SELL

Slated for September release is Leonard Feather's quarter-million-word "Encyclopedia of Jazz." The volume includes over one thousand biographies of musicians and vocalists dating back to the early days of jazz. Capitol Records' Duke Ellington wrote the foreword. Horizon Press publishes the \$10 tome.



# NEW ALBUMS

## THE NEW *Oklahoma!*

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### NELSON RIDDLE & HIS ORCHESTRA

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No. 586







# NEW



# ALBUMS

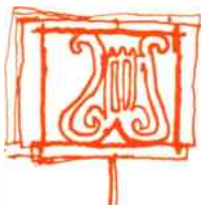
## CLASSICS



HOLLYWOOD BOWL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
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From diametrically opposite schools of musical composition, these selections, marvelously rich in melody, display the versatile, sensitive artistry of one of the world's most distinguished violinists. No. 8325



THE PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA,  
conducted by  
WILLIAM STEINBERG

TCHAIKOVSKY:  
Symphony No. 5 in E Minor

This popular lyrical work is interpreted with dazzling style in incomparable high fidelity by one of America's foremost conductors. No. 8325



Reeking of the roaring twenties are Jack Webb and Janet Leigh as pictured in "Pete Kelly's Blues." Cap's Ray Anthony waxed title tune.

### ● 45 SHOOT-UP

Fifty-five per cent of all single records sold today are of the 45 rpm variety while the remaining 45 percent are 78 rpm's, according to Joel Friedman in the *Billboard*.

"It appears to be the consensus of sales executives of the industry that 45 rpm records will one day replace the 78 rpm disk," Friedman reports.

### ● THREAT TO DAVY?

Looks like kiddies from 6 to 60 might have a new national hero: Daniel Boone. It all began when composer-conductor Enoch Light got the idea for a song dedicated to "Daniel Boone, The Daddy of Them All". (Chronologically, Daniel was about fifty years up on Davy). Enoch recorded the song on the Waldorf Music Hall label using vocalist Loren Becker.



Jerry Lewis has close shave in store for Dean Martin in "You're Never Too Young," new Paramount film. Dean has new Capitol album.



"Birmin'hom" and "An Occasional Man," both from new Rosalind Russell film "Girl Rush," are out now on Capitol by Ella Mae Morse.

### GO OVER BIG

The "biggest" saxophone section of any dance band in America is claimed by KTLA's Crystal Tone Orchestra in Los Angeles.

Even though there are only four members in the Tone's reed department, their combined weight is 886 pounds: Bob Lee, 204; Russ Taylor, 210; Sparky Berg, 270, and Jim Clark, 202.

### ● FAITH IN RADIO

Conductor Percy Faith firmly feels it's radio that makes the song hits of today. He reasons there are 5,000 radio deejays in the nation and that if they fancy a song they play it an average of four times the first week, or 20,000 "plugs" over the seven day period.



Comparing notes are Ivan Ditmars (left), Frank Leithner and Rudy Schragor of NBC's "Lux Video Theatre." They produce the music.

## ● TYPE CASTING

Margaret Whiting has snagged her Capitol Records repertoire man, Voyfe Gilmore, to portray himself on one of her CBS-TV "Those Whiting Girls" shows revolving around a record date.



Sanny James, star of Big D Jambaree in Dallas, has a new one out on the Capital label, "Taa Much." Backside, "Let's Ga Bunny Huggin'."



Bathtub singing is a highlight when Jane Russell warbles the title tune in the picture "The Tall Men!" She and Gable ca-star.

### KEN'S KIN KID

Youthful recording artist June Valli acquired a relatively senior relative on "Juke Box Jury," the CBS show that predicts tomorrow's top hit songs.

Asked by emcee Peter Potter if he knew vocalist June Valli, whose record he had just heard, panelist Ken Murray replied, "Oh yes, and I know her son, Rudy, too!"



Thumbtacks on piano hammers lend more metallic sound to keyboard artistry of Joe "Fingers" Carr on Cap's new "The Barky-Roll Stomp."



During recent stint at Las Vegas' Thunderbird, chirp Dorothy Collins and hubby Ray Scott check early music interest of daughter Debbie.

## ● APPLAUSE IN RHYTHM

James Fassett, broadcasting on CBS Radio's "World Music Festivals," reports that when Norwegian concert audiences are really enthusiastic, they applaud in rhythm. About five minutes of this is a signal for the orchestra to rise and play a fanfare saluting the visiting artist. Sir Thomas Beecham received such a tribute from a Bergen, Norway, audience after a recent festival concert.



Remote-controlled one-man 12 instrument band is manned by Frank Hess. He gave 10 years and \$10,000 to its establishment. Busy guy.

## ● BANG! BANG! BANG!

Mario Lanza has earned the unofficial title of "One Take Lanza" as far as Ray Heindorf, Warner Brothers music chief, is concerned. The singer prerecorded one take each on 12 songs in his starring picture, "Serenade." The speedy and flawless session took 150 minutes. An 85-piece symphony orchestra accompanied the tenor.



Capitol's "Tennessee" Ernie Ford is proud of new portrait of himself painted by chief of makeup for NBC on Coast, Fred Williams.



Rita Moreno figures well in "Seven Cities of Gold," her latest film for 20th Century-Fox in Cinema-Scope. Vegas is NOT one of cities!



No tears for Johnny Ray as he listens to playback of his Columbia disks, "Song of the Dreamer" and "I've Got So Many Million Years."

### SWEET IDEA

Combining nourishment with entertainment are Kandy Records, a new children's line. Purchased as a package are two transparent vinyl disks wrapped around cellophane-wrapped candy.

Diskery, Wynings and Keen Enterprises, Pottstown, Pa., hopes the candy takes a licking but not the sales of its records.



With baton upraised, Carmen Dragon prepares to conduct the Hollywood Bowl Symphony in a selection from the new Capitol album, "La Danza."



## CUTTING REMARK

Ray Anthony's Capitol disk of "Pete Kelly's Blues," title song from Jack Webb's movie for Mark VII Productions at Warners, was recorded in the same studio in Hollywood where, eight years ago, Webb emoted as the star of the coast to coast Mutual network show, "Johnny Modero, Pier 13."



Cy Coleman accepts regal award from Eileen Barton at Composer, New York club. Crown was given for piano-composer achievements.



Woody Herman convincingly explains his point of view during record date "break" at Capitol. His new 45 rpm album, "Movie Themes," is hot seller.



Sobersides Bob Manning gets in ultra-serious mood to cut "This Is No Laughing Matter," which is his newest on the Capitol label.

### ● JUDY ON COLOR TV

Judy Garland, who won an Academy Award for her performance in "The Wizard of Oz," in which she sang her now-classic rendition of "Over the Rainbow," launches her television career over CBS-TV Sept. 24 on "The Judy Garland Show," the initial production of "Star Jubilee." "Over the Rainbow" will be one of the featured numbers by Judy. The 90-minute production will be telecast in color.

### SONGS THAT KEEP . . .

If your favorite mode of transportation is a motorcycle, a stock car, a surrey, a train, or an airplane — in short, if it rolls — you'll find a current Capitol record to suit your fancy.

If you're a cycle fan, take a spin with "Black Denim Trousers and Motorcycle Boots" by The Cheers and Les Baxter's orchestra. Loaded with unorthodox sounds of French horns and four drums, this one is digging out as a sure hit.

As for stock cars, Merrill Moore is at the wheel of the new Caplatler, "Hard Top Race,"



A distinctively different type classical album featuring Miss Sylvia Marlowe, harpsichordist, is available on Capitol Records label now.

## . . . ROLLING ALONG?

which has a novel and surprise ending. Sales of this supercharged hot-rod disk are shifting into high gear.

And if it's horse-drawn transportation you prefer, hitch your wagon to Gordon MacRae's "The Surrey With the Fringe on Top." It can be purchased as a single record or as part of his delightful new "Oklahoma" album, from the sound track of the motion picture.

If your inclination is toward rail-type transit, climb aboard Milt Buckner's new Capitol album, "Rockin' with Milt," and



**William Steinberg** conducts the Pittsburgh Symphony in Tchaikovsky's "Symphony No. 5, E Minor, Op. 64" in a new Capitol album.



**Andrea Cleall** toots horn, calling attention to Los Angeles' station KTTV's "Top of the Morning" show with Bill Leyden and Bob Clampett.

"Take the 'A' Train" track. This one is getting the green light as an instantaneous success. Don't let anyone sidetrack you when you set out to get this one.

Or, if you want to be flighty about the whole thing, may we suggest you take off on Ray Anthony's torrid, terrific, and pressurized "DC-7." A happy flight and smooth, three-point landing is promised.

Anybody for "Bicycle Built For Two"?

## 14-YEAR-OLD'S RECORD BECOMES FIRST ALL-CANADIAN HIT

The pretty little bobby-soxer with braces still on her teeth thought for a moment, then said: "How did I learn to sing the way I do? I don't know exactly. I just read the words to myself and then live them up, I guess. Then it just comes out that way."

This artistic revelation comes from Priscilla Wright, a 14-year old London, Ontario girl who has become something of a national heroine up Canada way.

In just three-months time, Pretty Priscilla managed to come up with our northern neighbors' first all-native talent, hit popular record, "The Man In a Raincoat." Pushing the magic million mark in sales, this moody, rainy-day sort of song was written by a Canadian, published by BMI



Canada Ltd., produced by a Canadian record company and performed by Miss Wright along with an all-Canadian orchestra and chorus. To add to the genuine jubilation up north, the recording, released in the United States by Unique Records, is outselling all of the competing versions by stateside singers.

Priscilla's proud and slightly bewildered father, Don Wright, a well-known Canadian choral conductor, arranger and band leader told us all about the sudden emergence of a star in his family while on a visit to the New York offices of Broadcast Music, Inc. With a doting look at little Priscilla, who was idly fingering the keys of a piano, Mr. Wright began:

"It all started on New Year's Eve. We were in the music room having our own little family party. Aside from music being our business, so to speak, we've always been a musical family—from stem-to-stern, you might say.

"Now that one over there," he pointed to Priscilla, who

**(Continued on Page 30)**



The McGuire Sisters attract the attention of Fred Astaire and Johnny Mercer. Their latest Coral platter is "Heart" and "Young and Foolish."



Famed Broadway singing star, Keith Andes, will make his movie debut in Universal's "Second Greatest Sex." He takes to Calif. ranch life.



Thrush Lucille Norman "assists" comics Jonathan Winters, Ransom Sherman during recent NBC-TV "And Here's The Show" program.

## BOBBY-SOXER HIT-MAKER

(Continued from Page 28)

smiled shyly, "she's studying to be a pianist and just about the only singing she did was when we sang grace at the dinner table. (We worked it out in five-part harmony.) Well, this New Year's Eve we were all taking turns entertaining and having loads of fun, and Priscilla sang "Blue Moon" in C. Believe me, it sounded terrible. 'Let's take it down to A flat,' I said. And that did it.

"I was so surprised that I kept saying to Lillian, my wife, 'Lil, did you hear that! Lil, did you hear that!' Why, it was a professional voice coming out of the child!"

After that, Priscilla's proud papa got to work. When he was engaged to produce a

seltzer radio jingle, he had Priscilla make her professional debut singing four bars. The transcription, heard hundreds of times on Canadian radio stations, attracted the attention of a record company, and the youngster was on her way.

Shy, and yet not at all taken aback by her sudden leap to fame, Priscilla, when asked about the interviews, autograph hunters, disc jockey appearances and some of the other prices of popularity, answers blithely, "Oh, you get used to it." She'd much rather talk about her pet Persian kitten, Sunbeam, and her horse, Buttons and Bows, which she has trained to curtsy and nod its head "yes" or "no."

Although her career seems to be cut out for her, Priscilla still isn't quite sure about what she wants to do when she's older.

## HALE! HALE!

Vale, Dale, and Gale (Jerry, Alan, and Sunny, respectively) made recent appearances on radio's "Woolworth Hour." How can a trio of entertainers like that fale?

## ● ASSIST FROM CAPITOL

Bud Freeman, former publicity manager of Capitol Records in Hollywood, whose marriage to 20th Century Fox star Sheree North was announced last month, first met his bride four years ago when she posed for the label's "Sharkey's Southern Comfort" album cover.

# MUSIC VIEWS

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You might say even in the kitchen these gals do a good job of dishing out entertainment on "Those Whiting Girls," on CBS-TV Monday nights. Co-star is Capitol Records' chirp, Margaret Whiting (left) whose real and reel sister is Barbara (right). Mom is played by Mabel Albertson, over the sink, above. Maggie contributes two songs to the show weekly.