

RECORD MAIL

A MONTHLY REVIEW AND DETAILS OF THE LATEST
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(H.M.V., Capitol, Columbia, Parlophone, H.G.M.)

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SONG BOW BY SOGGER STAR

Sunderland's Colin Grainger Scores with First Record

Colin Grainger, star Sunderland footballer who has been seven times capped for England, has made his debut on records as a singer of 'pop' songs. The titles—“Are You” and “This I Know” HMV-POP-484.

Colin, an outside left who was transferred to Sunderland last year for a fee of £23,000, first became interested in singing after seeing the Al Jolson life-story film. He first sang in public in May, 1956—in a hotel cabaret in Finland while on tour with the England team.

In September, 1956, he made his first stage appearance in this country when he sang at the Sheffield Empire one night with the Hilltoppers vocal group. A spot on Winifred Atwell's TV show followed, and three weeks' variety in Sunderland, Middlesbrough and Sheffield.

STAND-IN

On two occasions he stood in for singer Ronnie Hilton with the Cyril Stapleton Show Band Show at Newcastle—one night when Ronnie was appearing in a Royal Command Variety Performance, the next when he was unwell. Then he appeared in Eric Robinson's “Roundabout” TV show.

Colin, who lives at Fulwell, Sunderland, was born at Havercroft, near Wakefield, on June 10, 1934. Favourite singers—Ronnie Hilton, Perry Como.



Hobbies—golf, athletics, cricket and gramophone records.

Ambitions? “Well,” says Colin. “I would certainly like to continue both careers—soccer and singing—for as long as I possibly can.”

M-G-M STAR IN LINE FOR BRITISH TOUR

Connie Francis, one of M-G-M's brightest stars who has soared right to the very top of the Hit Parade with her great version of “Who's Sorry Now,” is reported to be in line for a British tour in early autumn.

Booked solidly in the United States until the end of August she would undertake television and personal appearances here.

SINGING SISTERS OFF TO GERMANY

Parlophone's Terry Sisters, Jean and Vann, are off to Germany on June 16 for a two-week concert stint. The girls appeared in Cyril Stapleton's television “Show Band Parade” recently.



SET TO GO GAY FOR SUMMER

Columbia's star pianist Russ Conway has been signed to appear for the summer season at St. Anne's Pier Pavilion. Show title—“Let's Go Gay.”



—the Hit Parade's own ‘Oscar’

goes to the boy from Stamford Hill!

1st

GOLD DISC FOR LAURIE

“Whole World” Rockets Above Million Sales Mark

RECORD MAIL sends sincere congratulations to young Laurie London — at 14 the proud owner of a Golden Disc to mark the million-plus world sales of his smash-hit Parlophone recording, “He's Got The Whole World In His Hands.” At 14, too, the first British male vocalist, and the youngest artist ever, to top the American Hit Parade.

The schoolboy from Stamford Hill, in North London, who swept aside the tough opposition of American disc ‘giants’ in his dramatic dash to the head of the best-selling charts, heard that “Whole World” had topped the million mark soon after he returned from a triumphant whirl of personal appearances in the U.S.

The presentation of the Golden Disc—and of a gold pen and pencil set—was made by Mr. C. H. Thomas, Managing Director of E.M.I. Records Limited, and took place during one of Associated-Rediffusion's popular “Cool For Cats” programmes recently.

Just before Laurie stepped in front of the television cameras to receive this premier award of the gramophone record industry, reports were received from America—where “Whole World” was released on the Capitol label—that Columbia Pictures were to offer him a starring role in a major Hollywood production.

Now there are more London hits in the wake of “Whole

World.” His latest disc hit—“I Gotta Robe” and “A Railroadin' Man” (R4426).

Peter Prince writes on Laurie's U.S. successes—P.2.



—AND AS TV VIEWERS SAW IT



HERE is the Golden Disc presentation ceremony as millions of televiewers saw it. Laurie is pictured with Mr. C. H. Thomas, Managing Director of E.M.I. Records Limited.

Johnny to star in film

Johnny Dankworth, Parlophone's poll-winning band-leader, has won the star role in a film about jazz. He has been signed by Dolphin Films to portray the character of “Johnny West”—an alto-sax player.

Producer Lionel Temple hit on the idea of using a musician to fill the leading role. Johnny took a screen test, and passed it with flying colours.

SENSIBLE STORY

Johnny comments: “The story is a good, sensible one about the personal problems of a jazz musician. It could do jazz a lot of good.”

As news of Johnny's new role was released his wife—singer Cleo Laine—was busy preparing for her leading part in the West Indian drama, “Flesh To A Tiger,” at the Royal Court Theatre. So “straight” acting has become a Dankworth family affair.

★ INSIDE!

Record Mail's exciting new
★PHOTO-FEATURE
takes you on-stage with the fabulous
★ JAZZ AT THE PHIL