

ly superior to that of disks. A pity that the music is not more worthy of it.

JOHN HALLORAN CHOIR

Now Let Every Tongue Adore Thee (Bach), *Little Boy Blue* (Nevin), *Cindy* (Folk), *Alleluia* (Thompson), *Skip To My Lou* (Folk), *The Lord's Prayer* (Malotte), *Come to the Fair* (Martin), *Mountain High, Valley Low* (Scott), *The Sleigh* (Kountz), *Witness* (Folk).

WBCOR 2922-1. 5 in. 7½ ips. 2 tracks. ("A"-15 min., 29 sec. "B"-15 min., 18 sec.)

Here is a well-trained *a capella* group with no more idea of how to sing Randall Thompson's *Alleluia* than does a metronome. However, most of the other songs come off quite well. The majesty of the Bach is not easily concealed, and Raymond Scott's *Mountain High, Valley Low* has a sort of earthy charm. The fidelity is very fine, the only possible complaint being that too-close mike placement has caused occasional sibilant "sssssss."

THE MIGHTY WURLITZER PIPE ORGAN

The Continental, Do It the Hard Way, I Could Write a Book, Bewitched, You Musn't Kick It Around, Circus on Parade, My Romance, Over and Over Again, Little Girl Blue, The Most Beautiful Girl in the World.

Gordon Kibbee at the console.

OMEGATAPE 7009. 5 in. 7½ ips. 2 tracks. ("A"-13 min., 25 sec. "B"-13 min., 36 sec.) \$6.95.

The mighty Wurlitzer indeed! 'Twas with hi-fi heart aflutter I read (on the tape box) that this "mighty Wurlitzer pipe organ is one of three such large organs ever built by Wurlitzer" and it has "five manuals, each having 61 keys for a grand total of 305 keys" and it has "256 stops and thousands [didn't have time to count them, I suppose] of pipes and percussions." "Forsooth," thought I, "all this and on tape, too." But be not alarmed, brethren. While I have no doubt that said mighty Wurlitzer has all these horrendous sonic powers, they surely aren't evident here. The "B" track has a few stops where the chimes bong richly and there are a couple of real lowdown (could be 30 cps) grunts from the pedals but the overall effect is disappointing. With all this meat available they have given us a big bag of potatoes.

FOLK MUSIC

by Howard LaFay

THE VANGUARD "FAMILY OF MAN" INTERNATIONAL FOLK MUSIC SERIES

A bumper release brings six disks from Vanguard's *Family of Man* series—a title cannily aimed at capitalizing on the success of Edward Steichen's photographic exhibit of the same name. Vanguard has supplied fine folk recordings from time to time in the past and the present series conforms, in general, to the company's high norm. It is regrettable, however, that with so much esoteric material Vanguard did not see fit to provide texts and translations.

Continued on page 112



DECCA Playbacks

In and out of the studio, Decca recordings sound better than ever. Decca records now feature revolutionary, silent polystyrene surfaces, superbly balanced full-scope sound, an exclusive new method of compression moulding. Taking full advantage of these technical developments, Decca combines recording perfection with brilliantly new entertainment to give you a New World of Sound.

No need to see your travel agent . . . for a zestful evening's vacation try *Let's Get Away From It All* (DL 8131). André Previn, a new Decca artist, displays his inimitable pianistic interpretations of such songs as "Moonlight in Vermont," and, of course, the album's title tune, "Let's Get Away From It All."



Here's an entirely fresh approach to ballet: *Music For Barefoot Ballerinas and Others* . . . a series of original impressions, designed to please high fidelity enthusiasts, lovers of exotic musical moods, parlor balletomanes, dancers and choreographers, and seekers after the unusual . . .

directed by Larry Elgart and composed by Charles Albertine (DL 8034). Worth investigating!

Segovia again exhibits his genius for interpretation in *The Art of Andrés Segovia* (DL 9795). That the guitarist is equally at home among a variety of musical forms is perfectly demonstrated by "Sonata No. 3" by Ponce and "A Fugue" by Bach.

Remember that time when you had just met "the one." The vibrant voice

of Sammy Davis, Jr. spotlights that feeling in *Sammy Davis, Jr. Sings Just For Lovers* (DL 8170). Such wonderful ballads as "Body and Soul," "Tenderly" and others are featured.



There's a lady who coirs such bon mots as "There are no withholding taxes on the wages of sin" at the flip of a fur. Spontaneous and ever-youthful, the brassy gaiety of this great lady has been captured in this sizzling new Decca disc *The Fabulous Mae West* (DL 9016). Wrapped in "plain brown paper" on request!

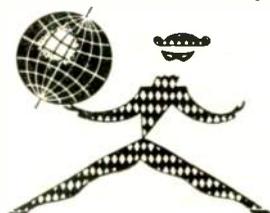
Everyone realizes 'there are no songs like the old songs' . . . and nobody sings them like Ethel Merman does in *Memories* (DL 9795), a rollicking collection of 40 great songs from the "Gay Nineties" to the "Roaring Twenties" by the First Lady of Musical Comedy.

We think you'll enjoy Vitya Vronsky and Victor Babin's sparkling *Dances For Duo Pianos* (DL 9028). The album encompasses dances of many countries presented in a glistening hi-fi performance.

A man among men, balladier Burl Ives has made a new contribution to the battle of the sexes. His previous album about *Women* required an answer and *Songs For And About Men* (DL 8125) is it. There's a bit of advice for every man from "When I Was Single" to "Frankie and Johnny."

All of these great albums have full-scope sound. All represent a new standard of recorded excellence.

P. S. Only on Decca can you hear the original Broadway cast recording of OKLAHOMA! (DL 9017).



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