

# AMPEX STEREO

SIGNATURE OF PERFECTION IN SOUND



An audio system is like a chain. For optimum performance, all the links must be equally strong... there can be no compromise with "weak-link" components in the system.

It was on this premise that the Ampex A122-SP Portable Stereophonic System was designed. Each link in the chain — from recording and playback heads to speaker — was forged to the same exacting standards and precision tolerances which guide the manufacture of world-famous Ampex professional recording and playback equipment.

**Heads** — Facing surfaces of head gaps lapped to an optical flatness so precise they reflect a single light band (1/2 micron) on flatness gage. This, plus initial surface polish of 6-8 micra-inches, insures sustained frequency response with negligible change in characteristics over many thousands of hours of operation — many times longer than with ordinary heads.

**Amplifier-Speakers** — Ampex-designed, Ampex-built as an integral part of system... yet may be used separately with other units of your system (has front-panel input switching for Tape, Tuner, TV, or Phono). Amplifier sensitivity 0.25 v for maximum power output; 20-20,000 cps  $\pm$  1/2 db output with well under 1% harmonic distortion. Speaker features unusually high total gap energy, converts a maximum of output power into sound energy, with smooth, peak-free response.

**Complete Specifications** — Write today for free new full-color brochure containing complete specification sheet and description of full line of unmounted units, consoles, modular table-tops and portables.

## AMPEX AUDIO, INC.

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- • "In a Monastery." Omegatape ST 55, 14 min., \$8.95.

This has nothing to do with Ketelbey's famous piece, but is a completely off-the-beaten-path documentation of the spacious acoustics of the Vendanta Society's Ramakrishna Monastery in Southern California and the chanting of its male choristers, variously accompanied by an Estey harmonium and Indian or Balinese percussion instruments. I can't find much genuine artistic substance in musical director James Barnes's own compositions, but the excerpts from the *Aratrika* Service and Bengali hymn *Kandana Baba Bandana* have considerable exotic fascination as well as unmistakably genuine fervor.

- • "Railroad Sounds—Steam and Diesel." Audio Fidelity AFST 1843, 26 min., \$12.95.

The motional illusions possible only in stereo give the present taping an incalculable advantage over its LP version, but nearly a half hour of these only too realistic switching-yard huffings and puffings, clankings and bangings, whistlings and hootings, is likely to be too much for all except fanatical railroad buffs or sheer-sound-fanciers.

- • "King of Organs." Bill Flynd, N. Y. Paramount Theatre Wurlitzer. Cook 1150 ST., 33 min., \$12.95.

The only recording in Emory Cook's stereo-tape-debut list not previously released in binaural-disc form furnishes irrefutable evidence that an Old Master can learn new tricks while forgetting none of his old ones. The program here is conventional intermission pops stuff, varied by a couple of sentimentalized spirituals and a quasi-exotic *Andalucia*; but Floyd eschews the worst excesses and "novelty" effects of his console colleagues, his famous Wurlitzer has uncommonly attractive tonal qualities, and the present recording—while never sensationalized—is the finest of its kind to date, especially in its authenticity to the expansive Paramount Theatre acoustics and the varied locations (in depth as well as lateral spread) of its multitudinous pipe-choir sound sources.

- • "The Merry Macs: In Stereoville." Stereotape ST 9, 12 min., \$7.95.

In spite of its somewhat gruesome program title, this group sings with infectious rhythmic vitality as well as professional precision and avoidance of overfancy barbershop mannerisms. The responsive passages of *Jingle Jangle* are particularly well suited for stereo reproduction, and the close recording is excellent of its kind except for its unduly heavy accentuation of the string bass in the accompanying rhythm section.

- • "Monk's Music." Thelonious Monk, piano. Riverside (via Livingston) RT 7-20 BN, 32 min., \$11.95.

Not everyone, least of all myself, can dig Monk's oddly original talents, especially in the baffling *Off Minor* and *Epistrophe* included here; but the way-