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ERCONA CORPORATION

(Electronics Division)

16 W. 46 Street, Dept. 85, New York 36, N. Y.
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Stereo Directionality: Excellent
Stereo Depth: Very good

This is topnotch modern jazz and the fact that it was recorded from actual concert may have actually enhanced the stereo effect, which is altogether excellent—piano to left, bass and drums to the right, with trombone and cornet somewhat more to center. J. J. introduces his own numbers which range from originals by Thelonius Monk (*Misterioso*) and Charlie Parker (*Now's the Time*) to highly intellectualized and virtuosic treatments of such standards as *Laura* and *What Is This Thing Called Love*. J. J.'s trombone is the last word in lyrical refinement and Adderly's cornet can really soar when the occasion demands. There are arid spots here and there, but on the whole this disc represented post-Parker modern jazz at its best. D.H.

● **MARX MAKES BROADWAY.** With Flute and Friends featuring Buddy Collette, Frank Capp, Carson Smith, Red Mitchell, Irving Ashby, Howard Roberts. Tunes from *Most Happy Fella*; *Mr. Wonderful*; *Kiss Me Kate*; *Guys and Dolls* and other shows. Omega OSL 2 \$6.95

Musical Interest: For show-tune addicts
Performance: Good ensemble
Recording: Couldn't be better
Directionality: Tasteful
Stereo Depth: Good

Marx Makes Broadway is the title of the disc, and this young pianist who is causing so much talk manages to make some extremely good music with his "flute and friends." The arrangements are clean and musical, the ensemble and recording technique couldn't be better. This is one of the few recordings of this type music that has about all you can expect from a disc. There just aren't any weaknesses, and I am very happy to recommend it. Mr. Collette plays a flute styled to fit the music like the notes on the page, Howard Robert's guitar is superb, Red Mitchell and Carson Smith present a powerful bass team, and finally there is nothing to quibble about with Frank Capp's drums either. Of course, Dick Marx is the standout. Thing about his playing is that he makes so many subtle dynamic changes. Most piano playing of this type plunges along without much variation, and tends to be mostly concerned with digital gymnastics. Not so Mr. Marx. His playing is fluid and sensitive. He traveled to Hollywood to make the disc with some of the best musicians around those busy musical parts. The result will speak for itself. Recommended. J.T.

● **GREAT SONG HITS OF THE GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA**—In The Mood; Tuxedo Junction; Stardust; String Of Pearls; Little Brown Jug; Sunrise Serenade & 5 others. All Star Alumni Orchestra, Bobby Byrne cond. Grand Award GA 207 SD \$4.98

Musical Interest: Truly some great hits
Performance: Perfect
Recording: Brilliant. Too close
Stereo Directionality: Good
Stereo Depth: Hampered by close sound

You put together musicians who played under Glenn Miller before his tragic death over the English channel in 1944, you add members of the Army Air Force band

Miller led just before his disappearance, you get Trombonist Bobby Byrne to conduct, and you select some of the great hits. Then you record it in brilliant hi-fidelity stereo sound, and you have a record that just barely misses being historic, and it may well be looked upon in the future as one of the great recordings of the time. The playing is sheer perfection, and you'll never hear it done better. Arrangements will bring a tear or two for those who remember Miller with affection. All the gang is there, Drummer Purtill, Trigger Alpert (bass), Mastren and D'Annolfo (trombones), Freeman (alto sax), Thaler (baritone sax), Priven (trumpet), Mastren at the guitar. They play with a togetherness and musical know-how and rapport that is just not around anymore. Grand Award has a terrific release here, marred somewhat by sound that buries you, flattens you, and it could have been sweeter and more resonant if it (the sound) was not so darn close. Trumpets shatter a bit. Otherwise all is top drawer. Buy this record. You won't hear live playing like it. J.T.

● **RE-PERCUSSION**—The Percussive Art Ensemble. Richard Schory, cond. *Crocodile Crawl*; *Cymbalation*; *Pantatonic Clock*; *Moonlight Reflection*; *Woodpile Polka*, & 5 others. Concert-Disc 21 \$6.95

Musical Interest: Good example of melodic possibility in percussion
Performance: A virtuoso ensemble
Recording: Very good, exceptional
Directionality: In good taste
Stereo Depth: Good, aided by acoustics

More than 60 elements of percussion are used in the recording, from the familiar piano, string bass, guitar, and xylophone, to such things as antique finger cymbals, temple blocks, and a coo-coo whistle. The people who play records to draw visitors to hi-fi booths at fairs and music shows should order a gross of *Re-Percussion*. It is sort of a dream come true for the exhibitionists of the art. I say this more because of the conglomerate collection of percussive sound available under one label, and no intent of criticism of the scoring is intended. The music varies considerably, from a rather familiar ground for massed percussion, to the strange and bizarre effects of *Amazon Tributary*, perhaps the best item on the disc.

You can listen many times over and still hear something new. Engineering is happily quite good, much better than anticipated. Stereo effect is splendid, on all counts and all sides. Recommended. J.T.

● **MITCH MILLER & THE GANG—SING ALONG WITH MITCH.** That Old Gang Of Mine; Down By The Old Mill Stream; By The Light Of The Silvery Moon; Sweet Violets; Bell Bottom Trousers & 11 others. Columbia CS 8004 \$5.98

Musical Interest: For parties & kids
Performance: Appropriate
Recording: OK
Stereo Directionality: Good enough
Stereo Depth: Fairish

This is not for longhair music or sound connoisseurs but for convivial occasions, be they class reunions, 'teen age parties, or weekend parties. A very pleasant disc with a rather startling end to Side 2. D.H.

HIFI & MUSIC REVIEW