

THE STEREO REEL THE STEREO REEL THE STEREO REEL

Reviewed by JOHN THORNTON

● **STRINGS BY STARLIGHT**—Tchaikovsky: Waltz from Serenade for Strings; Andante Cantabile; Grainger: Londonderry Air; Borodin: Nocturne; Bach: Air on the G String; Boccherini: Minuet; Barber: Adagio for Strings. Hollywood Bowl Symphony Orchestra. Felix Slatkin cond. Capitol ZF-95 \$14.95

Musical Interest: Good
Performance: Spirited
Recording: Usual high standard
Stereo Directionality: Well divided
Stereo Depth: Warm and full

The strings of the Hollywood Bowl deftly accomplish this potpourri of popular excerpts and arrangements. Barber's lovely *Adagio* is the single substantial piece. It somehow seems out of place, but be grateful for its inclusion.

Phrasing and attacks are carried off with spirit in the Borodin, best performance of the collection.

Slatkin conducts with good taste, and never falls into the sloppy sentimentalizing

so easy with most repertoire of this kind. Thank heavens too he performs *Londonderry Air* and Bach's well-worn "G-String" in a manner that is straightforward and to the point, with no silly exaggeration of dynamics to spoil the music. J. T.

● **CHABRIER: España Rapsodie; DUKAS: The Sorcerer's Apprentice; SMETANA: The Moldau; RIMSKY-KORSAKOV: Russian Easter Overture.** Concert Arts Symphony Orchestra, Erich Leinsdorf cond. Capitol ZF-96 \$14.95

Musical Interest: Colorful
Performance: A good "Apprentice"
Recording: Puzzling dynamics
Stereo Directionality: Good division
Stereo Depth: Distant, then close

Because record companies are obviously in the business to make money, Capitol feels that a tape of this kind will appeal to a large sector of the tape-buying public, and so out it comes—a fine collection of familiar music and a waste of a superb

conducting talent. Only in the Dukas score is Leinsdorf's ability really evident, and he makes this tonal narrative come really alive with his imaginative treatment.

He does not conduct *Sorcerer's Apprentice* with the same energy and fire as Toscanini, but his rendition is far ahead of all other competitors. Leinsdorf is one of our outstanding conductors, and I hope Capitol will use him for more serious things, like the wonderful *La Mer* he made for that label.

Rimsky-Korsakov's *Russian Easter Overture* has taken the public fancy in the last few years, but it is for me dull and repetitious. Not even Leinsdorf can do much with it. *Moldau* comes off next best, with a just-right tempo that doesn't lag. Engineering is puzzling—*pianissimo* sounds not just quiet, but far distant. Orchestral *fortes* shatter with thudding force. This tape is not up to Capitol's usual standard at all. J. T.

● **BACKGROUNDS FOR BRANDO**—Music from Marlon Brando films, Elmer Bernstein conducting. *Sayonara*; *On The Waterfront*; *Viva Zapata*; *The Men*; *Guys and Dolls*; *Streetcar Named Desire*; *Teahouse Of The August Moon*; *Désiree*; *Julius Caesar*; *The Wild One*. Omegatape ST 3020 \$14.95

Musical Interest: Movie moods to remember (?)
Performance: Professional, sleek
Recording: Splendid
Stereo Directionality: Good—both sides of the aisle
Stereo Depth: About fifth row, center

No matter how you figure it, movie music gains its real impact from the aid of what goes on the wide screen, musicals excepted. But the scores which are written to heighten emotion, when deprived of visual aid, seem afterward on record and tape pretty pale. So it is here, even though Mr. B. and orchestra play exceptionally well, and the sound is quite good. Deep-dyed Brandonians will love it. All the tape needs is the built-in home videotape projector predicted for the future. So get busy, Omega. Be first! J. T.

● **GIGI**—Highlights. Hollywood Radio City Orchestra and Hollywood Light Opera Society Singers. Thomas M. Davis cond. Omegatape ST-2036 \$11.95

Musical Interest: Tuneful
Performance: Not tuneful enough
Recording: Above average
Stereo Directionality: Fine
Stereo Depth: Splendid

Take a charming story that has been told before with slight variation, the magic of

HIFI REVIEW



You Pay More for Perfection ... and you pay it gladly

CONCERT-DISC

Stereo Albums Are the Perfect Christmas Gift

You can pay much less for stereo albums than the Concert-Disc price of \$6.95. But in recorded music, as in everything else, you get what you pay for.

There are many valid reasons why Concert-Disc stereo albums cost more than the common kind. The most important of these reasons is simply that the exclusive 'Sound in the Round' Balanced Acoustic

Stereo recording technique results in reproduction that is as nearly perfect as man has yet achieved. Give Concert-Disc stereo albums this Christmas to those who mean the most to you. You give a gift of recognized quality, a gift which will be prized for years. See the complete selection at your dealer's now. For complete catalog of stereo and monaural albums, write Dept. F-91

CONCERT-DISC

A Product of CONCERTAPES, Inc.
P. O. Box 88, Wilmette, Illinois
'Sound in the Round'®
BALANCED ACOUSTIC STEREO