

Lerner and Loewe, good ensemble work, and above average engineering and you have a tape that should satisfy you despite some spotty singing. The creators of the music of *My Fair Lady* have not in any sense repeated the same high standard permeating that remarkable score, but *Gigi* abounds with delight.

By far the most appealing tune is the title song, and the young man who sings *Gigi* is far and away the best of the Hollywood cast. The orchestra is well recorded—somewhat closely, to be sure, but nothing ever blasts. Recommended with the reservation that the vocal work is not altogether up to standard, above exception noted.

J. T.

● **ST. LOUIS BLUES**—Music of W. C. Handy, based on Paramount Picture. Nat 'King' Cole with orchestra conducted by Nelson Riddle. Overture; Harlem Blues; Chantrez Los Bas; Friendless Blues; Stay; Joe Turner's Blues; Beale Street Blues; Careless Love; Morning Star; Memphis Blues; Yellow Dog Blues; St. Louis Blues. Capitol ZD-59 \$12.95

Musical Interest: A classic collection
Performance: Perfect
Recording: Couldn't be better
Stereo Directionality: Perfect
Stereo Depth: Likewise

Some weeks ago I had the pleasure of hearing the Capitol stereo disc of the same performances that appear on this tape. The record was great, and the tape is only better by virtue of the natural advantages of tape over flat disc.

The late W. C. Handy has left us a precious musical legacy, and the combined efforts of 'King' Cole, the orchestra directed by Mr. Riddle, and Capitol engineering, have made an important document of it. I cannot think of a single artist who could make a better or more fitting contribution to this music than Cole. He professes a deep devotion for the composer, and it is apparent in every tune. You listen to this high order of music and realize that generations to come, all over the world, will love it. Handy's music, gathered from fields, waterfronts, saloons and slums, emerges as a contribution of great importance to American music. Engineering is all anyone could ask. Third channel mixing is so expert you can shift the solo artist from right to left, left to right, or dead center, by minute gain control change. Try it! Recommended highly.

J. T.

● **DOODLIN'**. Eddie Chamblee and Friends. Back Street; Stardust; Strollin' Sax; Solitude; Doodlin'; Long Gone. Mercury MVS3-11. \$7.95

Musical Interest: Man, it's good!
Performance: Three cheers!
Recording: And one for the engineers
Stereo Directionality: Just right
Stereo Depth: OK

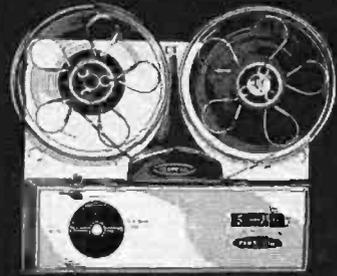
Mighty fine music making! Mr. Chamblee—he plays the sax like he was born with it. His arrangements are solid, and he leads a real nice sounding group. Relaxed and easy all the way, but never sloppy. Now if Eddie would stop trying to sing too, and just play, compose, and arrange, he can go a long, long way toward the very top. One of the best tapes of its kind I've heard. An exception. Chamblee is a 'natural' with sax, a virtuoso and his playing alone is worth the price.

J. T.

JANUARY 1959

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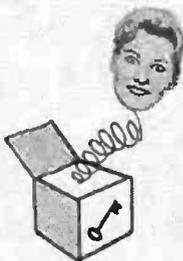
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