

Billboard Album Reviews

MARCH 21, 1970



SOUNDTRACK
AIRPORT—
 Airport.
 Decca DL 79173 (S)

Alfred Newman has written a soaring score for "Airport." It's geared to a big picture but it is so well-fashioned that standing alone, it makes a big soundtrack package. Decca has its big promotional guns behind it, so its takeoff chances are solid.



POP
THE TEMPTATIONS—
 Psychedelic Shack.
 Gordy GS 947 (S)

With their smash "Psychedelic Shack" as the headliner, this album can't miss for the Temptations. They're at their very best with a solid rock program that also includes their unique interpretations of "Friendship Train," "You Need Love Like I Do (Don't You?)" and "Take a Stroll Thru Your Mind," which lasts more than 8 minutes.



POP
STEVIE WONDER LIVE—
 Tamla TS 298 (S)

The fantastic Stevie Wonder has been captured in all the excitement of a live performance, and it includes some of his greatest performances. From "Shoo-Be-Do-Be-Doo-Da-Day" to his recent "Yester-Me, Yester-You, Yesterday" it's a powerhouse of action, and is sure to ride straight to the top of the sales charts.



POP
FRIENDS OF DISTINCTION—
 Real Friends.
 RCA Victor LSP 4313 (S)

The four Friends of Distinction have jumped into the thick of the Pop-soul races and are rapidly moving to the head of their class, now ruled by the slick Fifth Dimension. But a quick succession of gold disks have made their new single, "Love or Let Me Be Lonely," an instant hit, and matched with "Crazy Mary" and "Just a Little Lovin'," the album could push this soulful, high-energy group to the top.



POP
BEACH BOYS—
 Good Vibrations.
 Capitol ST 442 (S)

Truly a "greatest hits" collection, this LP covers an enviable time period of Beach Boys prosperity, from "I Get Around" and "Barbara Ann" to "I Can Hear Music" and the classic "Good Vibrations," from the simple harmonies of the surfing sound to the intricate complexities now the rage in pop music. Sure to be a collector's item.



POP
HERB ALPERT & THE TIJUANA BRASS—
 Greatest Hits.
 A&M SP 4245 (S)

"Lonely Bull," "Taste of Honey," "Whipped Cream" and "Zorba the Greek" are only four of the dozen hits here that will supply Alpert fans with excitement. Greatest they are, not just as showmen, but in musicianship as well. Top chart item here.



POP
GLADYS KNIGHT & THE PIPS—
 Greatest Hits.
 Soul SS 723 (S)

Here's solid gold in the bank! Not only are the top hits featured such as "I Heard It Through the Grapevine," "Nitty Gritty," "Friendship Train," and "I Wish It Would Rain," but the wild new single, "You Need Love Like I Do" is spotlighted as well. They're all winners, and the package spells top of the chart action.



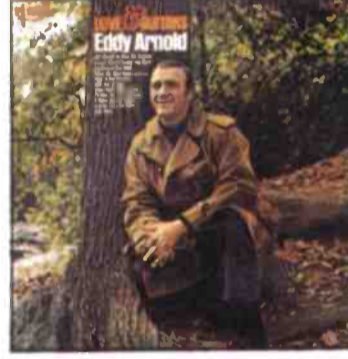
POP
MANTOVANI TODAY—
 London PS 572 (S)

Mantovani can do anything. This may be superfluous but here once again he proves it, this time turning his baton and taste to today. His artistic touch is everywhere, flying like in "Up, Up, and Away" or breezy as in "Blowin' in the Wind."



POP
LOU RAWLS—You Made Me So Very Happy.
 Capitol ST 427 (S)

Rawls puts out one good record after another with surprising rapidity. But then maybe it's not so surprising at that. He's got the soul and the vocal body that rings with talent. "All God's Children," "Mama Told Me Not to Come" and "Hurtin'" tell the story. New single hit, the title tune adds strong sales appeal.



POP
EDDY ARNOLD—
 Love & Guitars.
 RCA Victor LSP 4304 (S)

Eddy Arnold has surrounded himself here with some super-guitar backing that helps enrich an already splendid ballad repertoire. Arnold's style is as warm and winning as ever, and such familiars as "with Pen in Hand," "Leaving On a Jet Plane," and "Mary in the Morning" benefit by his handling. Current single "Soul Deep" is featured.



POP
SANDPIPERS—
 Greatest Hits.
 A&M SP 4246 (S)

The Sandpipers, consistent chart riders since the release of their debut hit, "Guantanamera," is assured of success with this release of all their great hits on a single LP. Given the magic Sandpipers touch are beautiful and immortal tunes like "Misty Roses," "And I Love Her," "Yesterday" and of course, "Guantanamera."



POP
JOHN B. SEBASTIAN—
 Reprise RS 6379 (S)

His initial entry for the label finds the former Lovin' Spoonful member in a heavy commercial bag that will put him right up the chart with solid sales impact. Most of the material, including updating of "She's a Lady," and "You're a Big Boy Now," is powerful. Standouts are the driving, "What She Thinks About You," the swinger "Baby Don't Ya Go Crazy," and "Room Nobody Lives In." Exceptional LP cover.



POP
SPOOKY TOOTH/PIERRE HENRY—
 Ceremony.
 A&M SP 4225 (S)

This highly unusual album teams Spooky Tooth, a British underground group with a good album track record, with Pierre Henry, one of the foremost electronic composers of today. The result is a set that will draw considerable underground and college attention. This is music of today carried a step farther. The electronic effects of selections such as "Jubilation" stand out as do the group's strong vocals and instrumentalations.



POP
ROBIN GIBB—
 Robin's Reign.
 Atco SD 33-323 (S)

Robin Gibb, formerly of the Bee Gees, makes his solo debut with this album, and it should take off like wildfire. The creative quality that was the Bee Gees' trademark is very evident in this collection of Gibb's originals, and all are outstanding. A good singles bet is the opener "August October," but "Give Me a Smile" and "Saved by the Bell" should not be overlooked.



COUNTRY
DAVID HOUSTON—
 Baby, Baby.
 Epic BN 26539 (S)

The title tune took him right to the top of the singles chart, and this exceptional package should prove equally successful on the album chart. Along with the hit, Houston is in top form with the Dallas Frazier ballad beauty, "Watching My World Walk Away," as well as with Jerry Chetnut's "You're Always the One." Tom T. Hall's "Homecoming" and an original, "True Love's a Lasting Thing," are also gems.



COUNTRY
BILL ANDERSON & JAN HOWARD—
 If It's All the Same to You.
 Decca DL 75184 (S)

Devotees of the country duo will find this a fascinating album. Top talent sings top tunes. The material includes a sprinkling of Bill Anderson songs, including "If It's All the Same to You" and "The Untouchables," plus such standards as "Since I Met You Baby."



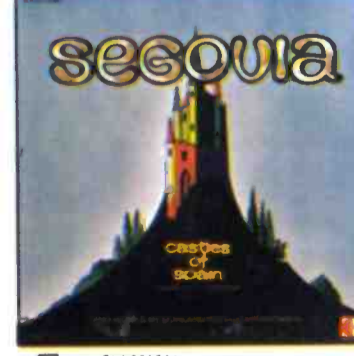
COUNTRY
PORTER WAGONER & DOLLY PARTON—
 Porter Wagoner and Dolly Rebecca.
 RCA Victor LSP 4305 (S)

This great country duo does "Tomorrow Is Forever," their current smash single, in addition to "Forty Miles from Poplar Bluff," "Silver Sandals" and others. It is a powerful package, full of true country flavor.



COUNTRY
JACK GREENE—
 Lord Is That Me.
 Decca DL 75188 (S)

Make no mistake: This is going to be a giant selling album! "Lord Is That Me," penned by Dallas Frazier and Sange D. Shaffer, grabs you from the first and won't let go. "Try a Little Kindness," "I Fall to Pieces," and "She Even Woke Me Up to Say Goodbye" are strong songs, performed in the typically sensitive, unique Jack Greene style.



CLASSICAL
CASTLES OF SPAIN—
 Andres Segovia.
 Decca DL 710171 (S)

It's "Segovia Month" at Decca for guitar master Andres Segovia, and the 18-year label veteran features a new eight-movement suite, "Castles of Spain," penned for the maestro by the prominent Spanish composer, F. Moreno Torroba. Recorded this past December in Madrid, Segovia's latest also features works by Dowland, Schale, Weiss and Grieg, and should follow his other works into the mainstream of classic guitar repertoire.



CLASSICAL
BELLINI: NORMA—
 Sutherland/Horne/Variuos Artists/London Symphony (Bonyng).
 London OSA 1394 (S)

Joan Sutherland's "Norma," a recording gem, is being issued by London in conjunction with the success of the opera's new production at the Metropolitan Opera. Marilyn Horne, who has debuted at the Met in "Norma," also excels here.