

Classical Music

'Lammermoor' to Open Met Festival

NEW YORK — Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor" will open the special Metropolitan Opera June Festival on June 1. Featured will be Joan Sutherland, Placido Domingo, Mario Sereni and John Macurdy, Richard Bonyge conducting.

Another feature of the festival will be the celebration of Regina Resnik's 25th anniversary with the company, June 19. Miss Resnik will sing the title role of Bizet's "Carmen" that night with Sandor Konya, Mary Ellen Pracht, and Robert Merrill, Jean Morel conducting.

Other operas for the festival, which runs through June 19, will be "Cavalleria Rusticana" and "Pagliacci," "Turandot," "Aida," "Madama Butterfly," "Andrea Chenier," "La Traviata," "Tosca," and "Le Nozze di Figaro."

Among the other artists participating will be Birgit Nilsson, Pilar Lorengar, Martina Arroyo, Roberta Peters, Lucine Amara, Ruza Baldani, Franco Corelli, Richard Tucker, Carlo Bergonzi, Dorothy Kirsten, Raina Kabai-vanska, Ion Buzea, William Walker, William Dooley, Giorgio Tozzi, Robert Nagy, Dominic Cossa, Judith Raskin, Morley Meredith, Anna Moffo, Fernando Corena, Enrico DiGiuseppe, Nedda Casei, Nell Rankin, James McCracken, Frank Guarrera, Cornell MacNeil, Rosalind Elias, Paul Plishka, Coletta Boky, Theodor Uppman, Marie Collier, and conductors Francesco Molinari-Pradelli, Martin Rich, Kurt Adler, Jan Behr, and Ignace Straszewski.

RCA Vivaldi 2-LP Pkg.

NEW YORK—RCA Records is issuing a two-LP set of Vivaldi's eight concertos for viola d'amore featuring Walter Tramplet on the vintage instrument. Alberto Lysy conducts the Camerata Bariloche.

Also on Red Seal is a Schumann album by pianist Artur Schnabel, Leopold Stokowski and the Chicago Symphony in Shostakovich, and a program by Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops.

The low-price Victrola label has pianist Felicia Blumental in a Czermy LP and two monaural pressings: Arturo Toscanini and the New York Philharmonic in Beethoven, and tenor Lauritz Melchior in Wagner with Eugene Ormandy and the Philadelphia Orchestra.

London Philharmonic Tops

NEW YORK — The London Philharmonic, clearly one of the world's leading orchestras, displayed its consummate ability at Carnegie Hall, April 24. Bernard Haitink, who records for Philips, was in complete command from the opening overture to Glinka's "Russian and Ludmilla" to the closing Shostakovich "Symphony No. 4," a lengthy, perhaps over-long, work.

The Russian program also

contained Rachmaninoff's familiar "Piano Concerto No. 2," which had Ivan Davis, a London Records artist, as the capable soloist in the clear interpretation. The Shostakovich was a performing gem as solo as well as ensemble sections were played masterfully. Among the London Philharmonic's principal labels are Angel, Columbia, Philips, London and Deutsche Grammophon.

FRED KIRBY

Nonesuch's Organ Set

NEW YORK — Nonesuch Records is continuing its "Master Works for Organ" series this month with the eighth volume. This set has Arno Schoenstedt playing Bach, Jascha Horenstein, who previously recorded Mahler's "Symphony No. 1" in a monaural version, has a new version in stereo with the London Symphony.

Violinist Raphael Hillyer is the soloist in a pairing of Bartok and Hindemith with Akeo Watanabe and the Japan Philharmonic. A Handel album features violinist Susanne Lautenbacher, harpsichordist Hugo Ruf, and Johannes Koch on viola da gamba. The Explorer Series has folk music of Bulgaria and South America.

FESTIVAL CASALS DATES TO SALUTE BEETHOVEN

NEW YORK — This year's Festival Casals will consist of 12 concerts, all devoted to Beethoven, in keeping with the observance of the Beethoven bicentennial. Pablo Casals will conduct the first concert May 31, along with Alexander Schneider. Pianist Eugene Istomin will be the soloist and will perform with violinist Isaac Stern and cellist Leonard Rose as the Istomin-Stern-Rose Trio. These artists also will appear later in the festival, which runs until June 15.

Other soloists during the series include pianists Mieczyslaw Horszowski, Claudio Arrau and Rudolf Serkin; sopranos Ludmila Dvorakova and Olga Iglesias; violinists Henryk Szeryng and Schneider; tenors Jon Vickers and Sergije Rainis; contralto Flavia Acosta; baritone Donald McIntyre; and basses Pablo Elvira and Justino Diaz. Zubin Mehta and Victor Tevah also will conduct. Other performers will include the Guarneri String Quartet and the chorus of the Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico.

Album Reviews

★★★★ 4 STAR ★★★★★

POPULAR ★★★★★

BOBBY MERRITT—Out of the Crowd. Musicor MS 3180 (S)
JILL WILLIAMS—RCA Victor LSP 4314 (S)
JUANITA HALL—Monmouth Evergreen MES 7020 (S)
JOSEPHINE BAKER—Monmouth Evergreen MES 7023 (S)

CLASSICAL ★★★★★

MOZART: PIANO CONCERTOS Nos. 27 & 1—Anda / Camerata Academica des Salzburger Mozarteums (Anda). DGG 139 447 (S)
C.P.E. BACH: 4 SINFONIAS—English Chamber Orch. (Leppard). Philips 839 742 LY (S)
BEETHOVEN: EARLY PIANO MUSIC—Joerg Demus/Norman Shelter. DGG 139 448 (S)
DVORAK: SERENADE FOR STRINGS/KUBELIK: QUATTRO FORME PER ARCHI—English Chamber Orch. (Kubelik). DGG 139 443 (S)
IMPROVISATIONEN—Gruppe Nuova Consonanza. DGG 137 007 (S)
PROKOFIEV: TWO SONATAS FOR VIOLIN & PIANO—Wilkomirski/Schein. Connoisseur Society CS 2016 (S)
PURCELL: SONGS—Frank Patterson. Philips 802 852 (S)

SOUNDTRACK ★★★★★

SOUNDTRACK—Bloody Mama. American International ST-A-1031 (S)

LOW PRICE CLASSICAL ★★★★★

THE SOUND OF THE MOZART PIANO—Demus/Shelter. RCA Victrola VICS 1495 (S)

JAZZ ★★★★★

RICHARD (GROOVE) HOLMES/ERNIE WATTS—Come Together. World Pacific Jazz ST 20171 (S)
JIMMY McGRUFF—The Way You Look Tonight. Solid State SS 18063 (S)

POLKA ★★★★★

MAX SAMBROSKI ORCH—Max Sax's. Fantastik 1201 (S)

GOSPEL ★★★★★

LEW CHARLES—An Evening Prayer. Word WST 8470 LP (S)

RELIGIOUS ★★★★★

RALPH CARMICHAEL—His Land. Light LS 5532-LP (S)

SPECIAL MERIT PICKS

POPULAR

BOBBY HEBB—Love Games. Epic BN 26523 (S)

That man of "Sunny" fame marks his move to the Epic label with a strong, commercial package with much potential for both soul and pop charts. With all the numbers by the composer-performer the standouts include the driving blues of "Love Bird Has Flown" and "S.S. Soul—Part 1 & 11." His "I'd Do Anything for You" is a ballad beauty.

COUNTRY FUNK—Polydor 24-4020 (S)

Clean country rock is the forte of this new foursome, as they blend slick harmonies with fine rock instrumental work to earn their name. Gifted with AM-length tunes and with a musicianship sure to catch underground attention, Country Funk emerges as a tight, confident outfit who let their presence be known on Paris & Taylor originals, "Really My Friend," "For Me" and ten more.

THE ADVENTURERS—Symbolic SYS 9000 (S)

The triple threat combination of Quincy Jones, the Ray Brown Orchestra, and music by Antonio Carlos Jobim make this album a vast adventure in sound. The story of Robbins novel is well portrayed by the music contained on this album. And the music here is well tempered Brazilian motion arranged by one of the best in the business.

MARK STEIN/THE PIGEONS—While the World Was Eating Vanilla Fudge. Wand WDS 687 (S)

Before they were the Vanilla Fudge, Mark Stein, Tim Bogert and Vinnie Martell were the Pigeons, another group following in the footsteps of the Rascals. Both Stein's singing and the Pigeon's repertoire echoes the Rascals ("Mustang Sally," "Midnight Hour," "Good Livin'") and though the sound is not at all what it was to become as the Fudge, Mark Stein's vocals and organ work are clearly warm-ups to the magic that followed.

TRAPEZE—Threshold THS 2 (S)

Produced by the Moody Blues' John Lodge for the group's new Threshold label, the five-man Trapeze act comes off as a rib and reflection of the Moody's, but with a strong rock personality all their own. John Jones and Mel Galley are the chief songwriters, but Glenn Hughes is most memorable with "Nancy Gray" and "Am I." Definitely a candidate for big chart action, the group stars on "Send Me No More Letters" and "Fairytale."

GAINSBOROUGH GALLERY—Life Is a Song. Evolution 2012 (S)

The group hit it big with their "Life Is a Song" single in Canada, and this follow-up LP is full of the same rollicking rock sounds. In addition to the title song, highlights are "It's Growing," "House on Soul Hill," and the moving "I Need Someone."

ANANDA SHANKAR—Reprise RS 6398 (S)

Shankar has taken the ancient instruments of his homeland, India, and added the electric moods of the Western World in

an attempt to combine the best of two civilizations. His experiment in sound is worthy of the attempt and creates cross currents and communication between two great peoples of the world.

LOW PRICE POPULAR

LES BAXTER/101 STRINGS—Million Seller Hits. Alshire S 5188 (S)

The hit maker of the 50's is right up to date with this program of lush treatments of some of today's tops in pops as well as some compelling originals. Baxter brings freshness to Bobby Herman's bubblegum hit "La La La" and comes up with a winning original "Girl on the Boulevard" which could prove another "Poor People of Paris." Another gem is "Jean."

COUNTRY

JIMMY DEAN—Jimmy—The Dean of Country Music. RCA Victor LSP 4323 (S)

Dean's latest LP is a well balanced program of country and pop songs, and his warm voice and dramatic qualities are the reasons for his consistent popularity. "Rainbow Girl," "Reuben James," and the sentimental narrative "When Judy Smiled," are outstanding cuts.

WAYLON JENNINGS—Don't Think Twice. A&M SP 4238 (S)

The stylist now riding high on the charts via his RCA product, offers much for sales and charts in this pop-country-folk program of earlier seasons. The material is exceptional and includes "Four Strong Winds," "Kisses Sweeter Than Wine," and "The Race Is On"—all delivered in top style.

CLASSICAL

HAYDN: THE CREATION—Various Artists/Berlin Philharmonic (Karajan). DGG 2707 044 (S)

Karajan's masterful conducting once again shines as in previous recordings. But this effort must be classed as one of his brightest in over-all strength and imaginative force. His baton is unyielding in its drive. The artists are tuned in properly, for excellent performance.

CAGE: ATLAS ECLIPTICALS/WINTER, CARTRIDGE MUSIC/SCHNEBEL: GLOSSOLALIE—Various Artists. (Riehn). DGG 137 009 (S)

Some fascinating John Cage electronic pieces are included here, such as "Dieter Schnebel: Glossolalie," a major work occupying the second side. "Cartridge Music" also makes ingenious use of spoken and other tape material, which is offered with "Atlas Eclipticals" and "Winter Music."

BLUES

J.B. LENOIR—Crusade. Polydor 24-4011 (S) Mississippi bluesman J.B. Lenoir died in 1967 at 38, and British blues devotee John Mayall brings Lenoir's musical life to record on his new Crusade label. Lenoir came to Chicago in 1948 and became a protege of Big Bill Bronzy, but Lenoir's versatility with the blues medium surfaces brilliantly as he reflects not only the social and political situation of the American Negro, but conveys it through folk-blues, subtle afro-rhythms and Chicago style. A striking disk.

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Action Records

Albums

★ NATIONAL BREAKOUTS

PAUL McCARTNEY . . . McCartney Apple STAO 3362

JETHRO TULL . . . Benefit Reprise RS 6400

ELVIS PRESLEY . . . Let's Be Friends RCA Camden CAS 2408

TOM JONES . . . Tom Parrot PAS 71037

BEE GEES . . . Cucumber Castle Atco SD 33-327

★ NEW ACTION LP's

BEATLES . . . In the Beginning Polydor 24-4504

JERRY REED . . . Cookin' RCA Victor LSP 4293

EDDY ARNOLD . . . Best of, Vol. 2 RCA Victor LSP 4320

DR. JOHN, THE NIGHT TRIPPER . . . Remedies Atco SD 33-316

IKE & TINA TURNER . . . Come Together Liberty LST 7637

DIANA ROSS & THE SUPREMES . . . Farewell Motown MS 708

NEIL DIAMOND . . . Just for You Bang BLP 217

JAMES BROWN . . . Soul on Top King KS 1100

MICHAEL PARKS . . . Long Lonesome Highway MGM SE 4662

FIFTH DIMENSION . . . Greatest Hits Soul City 33900

Singles

★ NATIONAL BREAKOUTS THERE ARE NO NATIONAL BREAKOUTS THIS WEEK.

★ REGIONAL BREAKOUTS

LAST OF THE WINE . . . Robbs, Dunhill 4233 (Trousdale, BMI) (Milwaukee)

ALBUM REVIEWS

BB SPOTLIGHT



Best of the album releases of the week in all categories as picked by the BB Review Panel for top sales and chart movement.

SPECIAL MERIT

Albums with sales potential that are deserving of special consideration at both the dealer and radio level.

FOUR STARS

★★★★ Albums with sales potential within their category of music and possible chart items.

The SIGN of great reading

MAY, 9, 1970, BILLBOARD