

ABC Sets 11 Classical LP's

LOS ANGELES — A new Audio Treasury album by Beverly Sills, who will make her Metropolitan Opera debut in March, highlights ABC Records' first classical release this year, announced Kathryn King, director of classical a&r at the firm. The album, "The Three Queens," features arias from Ms. Sills' previously-released recordings of Donizetti's "Roberto Devereux," "Anna Bolena" and "Maria Stuarda." To be supported by an extensive consumer advertising campaign, it is one of 11 LPs in the release, the remainder on the Westminster Gold label.

Four of the albums in the release were licensed from the Soviet Union's classical label, Melodiya. They are "Trios," featuring pianist Emil Gilels, violinist Leonid Kogan and cellist Mstislav Rostropovich playing trios by Schumann, Haydn and Beethoven; "Kabalevsky Conducts Kabalevsky," which contains performances of orchestral works by Soviet composer Dmitri Kabalevsky; "The Young Gilels," containing historic piano recordings made by Emil Gilels in the 1930's, and "Modern French Orchestral Miniatures," which features performances of works by Milhaud, Satie, Poulenc and Ibert by the Chamber Orchestra of the Leningrad State Philharmonic under the direction of Gennady Rozhdzesznski.

The remaining LPs in the release include three of piano music: works by Scriabin, Liszt and Ginastera played by David Bean; Liszt's Piano Concertos Numbers One and Two, played by Edith Farnadi, and "Mozart in Minor," featuring short works by Mozart played by Daniel Barenboim. There are also two other orchestral albums: one featuring works by Richard Strauss and the other, "Songs and Orchestral Interludes," containing miscellaneous works by Henry Purcell and featuring performances by vocalists Maureen Forrester and Alexander Young.

Lastly, the current release includes Volume II of Fernando Valenti's performances of Scarlatti harpsichord sonatas. As was Volume I, this is a three-record set.

Ember Sets Feb. Release

HOLLYWOOD — Ember Records has set four albums for release in February, announced to Jeffrey Kruger, label chairman.

The albums are "The Dubliners," "The Shadows," "La Nina De Los Peines" and the "Serge Prokofiev Concert."

The Dubliners LP includes titles such as "Dirty Old Town," "Gentleman Soldier," and "I Know My Love." "Walkin'," "All My Sorrows," "Sweet Dreams," and "Running Out Of World" are included on the Shadows album.

Buddah Jan. Release Stresses Diversity

NEW YORK — Ten albums will be released by the Buddah Group in Jan., it was disclosed by the company's president, Art Kass. Kass said, "There are two major considerations facing everyone in the industry. The first, obviously, is the economy. The second, masked by the economic question but perhaps just as important, is that we have reached the half-way point in the '70's, a time of new audiences and new tastes. The new artists released on Buddah, like Ben Vereen, Melba Moore, Walter Heath and Karen Beth are aimed at meeting these challenges."

The Jan. Buddah release includes: Melba Moore's "Peach Melba," Walter Heath's "You Know You're Wrong Don't You Brother," Ben Vereen's "Off-Stage," Barbara Mason's "Love's The Thing," The Futures "Castles In The Sky," Karen Beth's "New Moon Rising," "Winners: The American Song Festival," Rod McKuen's "Love Songs," Paul Anka's "This Is Anka," and Grady Tate's "By Special Request."

Hannon To Direct CBS Regional Sales

NEW YORK — Don Van Gorp, regional sales director at CBS Records' midwestern region, has announced the appointment of Dennis Hannon to sales manager in the Detroit area.

Hannon will be responsible for the sales and promotional activities for the Columbia, Epic and CBS Records Custom Labels and the Detroit market. He will also coordinate special programs and merchandising plans on all CBS Record and Tape product. He will report directly to Van Gorp.

Purple Gold

NEW YORK — Deep Purple's current Warner Bros. album, "Stormbringer," has been certified gold by the RIAA.

"Stormbringer" is the latest in the group's succession of gold records, which include the albums "Burn," "Made In Japan," "Who Do We Think We Are," and "Machine Head," as well as the single "Smoke On The Water."



IT'S MY JOB NOW — The hottest young comedian to surface in recent years, Freddie Prinze, co-star of "Chico and the Man," has added another dimension to his performing talents by signing a Columbia Records recording contract. The album will go into production next month. Pictured at the signing are: Irwin Segelstein, president of CBS Records, Prinze, Bruce Lundvall, vp and general manager Columbia Records, Don Ellis, vp A&R west coast for Columbia, and Ron DeBlasio, Prinze's manager.

Barry's 'Mandy' Garners Gold

NEW YORK — Barry Manilow's hit single, "Mandy," has been certified gold by the RIAA. "Barry Manilow II," the album from which the single was released, is currently bulletin at #15 on the **Cash Box** charts and is rapidly approaching gold status as well.



WELCOME VISITORS — Cash Box publisher George Albert (center) got a first-hand report about the "Queen Mary Suite" showroom scheduled to open in June, 1975, at the Cunard International Hotel in London from a pair of visitors to the publication's Los Angeles offices, Jeffrey S. Kruger (left) and Nicolas Vecchione. Kruger's Ember Concerts, division of Ember Records, will book the Las Vegas-styled showroom with artists of major caliber. Vecchione is managing director of Cunard-Trafalgar Hotels Ltd., whose other business interests include the "QE2" luxury liner.

Correction

In last week's single review section it was incorrectly stated that UA recording artist Vernon Burch played guitar with Stevie Wonder. He was rather, lead guitarist with the Bar-Kays and played lead guitar on "Shaft."

Vernon Expands U.S. Operation

HOLLYWOOD — Veteran record producer Mike Vernon, who was initially responsible for the discovery of David Bowie, Ten Years After, Fleetwood Mac, John Mayall, Savoy Brown, and Focus is currently looking to expand his production activities in the United States. Vernon, who has been working on the soundtrack of Bloodstone's forthcoming movie "Night Train" is currently represented on the soul charts by Jimmy Witherspoon's "Love Is A Five Letter Word," Olympic Runner's "Grab It," Freddie King's "Burglar" LP and Bloodstone's new single "My Little Lady." Vernon was also responsible for Bloodstone's million selling single "Natural High."

Vernon is looking to expand his production in the soul field and interested parties can reach him through his public relations firm, David Gest and Associates at: (213) 655-3614.

J5 To Radio City

HOLLYWOOD — The Jackson Five, Motown recording artists, have announced plans for a headline appearance at New York's Radio City Music Hall for one week, Feb. 6-12.

A spokesman for the group stated, "The Jackson Five will be bringing their very successful Las Vegas stage show to New York for the first time. This appearance will also mark the first time that their two younger sisters, Janet and LaToya, will be performing on stage with the group outside of Las Vegas."

The group's current single, "I Am Love," is presently bulletted across the board in the music trade publication charts.

Pickwick Launches 34 New LPs

NEW YORK — Pickwick International, Inc. is putting 34 new LPs and 28 new tapes in five musical categories into immediate release under the theme of "When Economy is Down — Economy is Up."

Rich Lionetti explained why budget LPs are so important today.

"In hard economic times," economy priced records provide a good portion of the entertainment many families are able to enjoy. Good quality LPs and tapes at reasonable prices are consistently marketable. Now, with every consumer dollar requiring careful allocation, the economy priced record album offers even more for the money in both quality and entertainment returns. We expect 1975 to be a very good year in terms of economy priced record sales and we're backing that conviction with a great new release that contains something for everyone and a dynamite promotion campaign to back it up."

Among the records in the Rock 'n Roll category are "Puzzle People," by the Temptations; "Chart Dusters," by the Impressions; and Paul Anka's "Puppy Love."

The country records include Charlie Rich's "Entertainer Of The Year"; "Wabash Cannonball," by Roy Acuff; and "Grand Ole Country," featuring Johnny Cash, Conway Twitty, and Patsy Cline.

In the pop category are Gladys Knight's "I Feel A Song"; "Rock & Roll," by Bill Haley; and "Breathless," by Jerry Lee Lewis.

Pickwick's soul parade features two gospel packages, "The Kendricks Gospel Allstars" and "Tommy Ellison & The Singing Stars"; and "Lester Young and the Kansas City Seven."



MUD RUNS THICKER THAN BLOOD — Shelter Records is proud to announce the signing of Mudcrutch to an exclusive longterm artist agreement. The group which rears from Gainesville, Florida, is being produced by Shelter President Denny Cordell. Members of the band from left to right in the photo above are: Michael Cambell (guitar), Tom Petty (bass and guitar), Randall Marsh (drums), and Benjamin Tench III (piano).

Their first single for Shelter "Depot Street" is scheduled for release on February 3, with an album due later this year. Mudcrutch is currently completing the basic tracks for their album here in Los Angeles.

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