

JUNE 2017



BIG BAND NEWS

by Music Librarian **CHRISTOPHER POPA**

AN ALL-COMPACT DISC REPORT

VAUGHN MONROE HIS GREATEST HITS



& SINGS THE
**GREAT
THEMES**
OF FAMOUS BANDS
AND FAMOUS SINGERS

IN
STEREO

My pick for compact disc of the month has to be Sepia's first-rate presentation combining two stereo albums by Vaughn Monroe: "His Greatest Hits" (originally Dot DLP 25131) and "Sings The Great Themes Of Famous Bands And Famous Singers" (Dot DLP 25470) along with a half-dozen "bonus" selections by Monroe from 45 rpm singles.

Appropriately, the CD opens with Monroe's voice and theme song, *Racing with the Moon*, then proceeds on with fresh renditions of many of his most popular songs such as *Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!* (which got a big boost in 1988 when it was used on the soundtrack of the action film "Die Hard"), an especially gorgeous version of the ballad *My Devotion*, and two of his very biggest successes, *Ballerina* and *There, I've Said It Again*, the latter complete with female vocal group. Then the contents switch to Monroe's vocals of well-known theme songs, most of which were rarely (if ever) heard with lyrics.

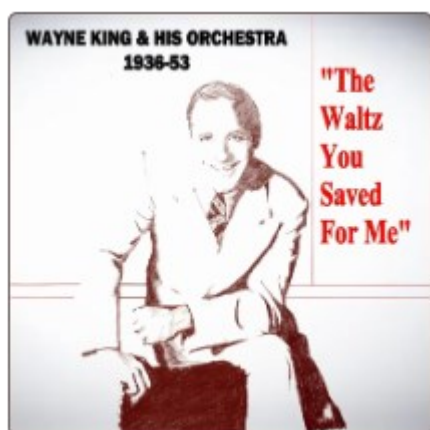
The six bonus selections include *If You Gotta Make a Fool of Somebody*, done at one of the sessions for "His Greatest Hits" album but issued instead on a 45 (Dot 16308), as well as the western-tinged *One Hour Ahead of the Posse* and *Love Me Forever* (adapted from a Tchaikovsky symphony).

An excellent value, with Monroe in fine voice throughout, crystal clear sound, and a nicely-produced booklet.

MORE REVIEWS AND PREVIEWS



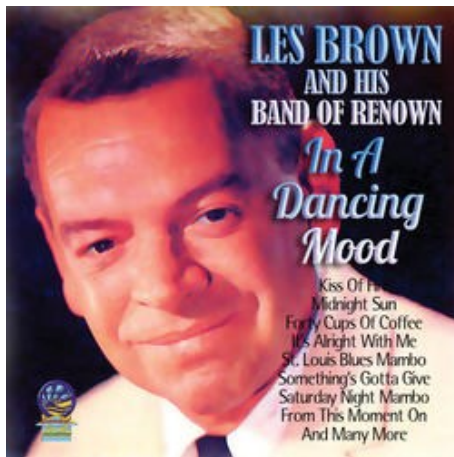
Jasmine has combined three old Vik albums and a bunch of singles by arranger Richard Maltby into the 2-CD set, “Make Mine A Maltby [sic] With Strings Attached” (JASCD 840). The LPs were “Make Mine Maltby” (LX-1038), “Maltby With Strings Attached” (LX-1024), and “Hue-Fi Moods” (LX-1051), while the singles start with his very first four for Vik, *Deep Blue Sea*, *Patrol Polka*, *Black Pearls*, and *Meadowlark*, recorded in January 1954. All of the selections were done in New York City with studio groups, so among the personnel are former bandleaders Billy Butterfield on trumpet and Bobby Byrne and Will Bradley on trombone, as well as people such as Hymie Schertzer and Al Klink on saxophones and Bob Haggart on bass. Be warned that the material is very close to what Montpellier once released on compact disc (MONTCD 023, MONTCD 071), but without the original artwork and welcome attention to detail that Jasmine has now provided.



Music Boutique presently has six Wayne King CD-Rs in their catalog, with the latest two pictured above—and I can’t recommend either. The one on the left was the uninspired LP Bandstand BS-7142 and I think the dates, as shown on the original album cover and replicated for the CD, may be wrong. Because *Speak Easy* was recorded for Victor in 1931 and *Why?* for RCA Victor was 1950, I think that date range might be more accurate. The one on the right was a 10” LP, RCA Victor LPM-3057, so even with one “bonus” track, there are only nine songs on it—a very poor value for the money!



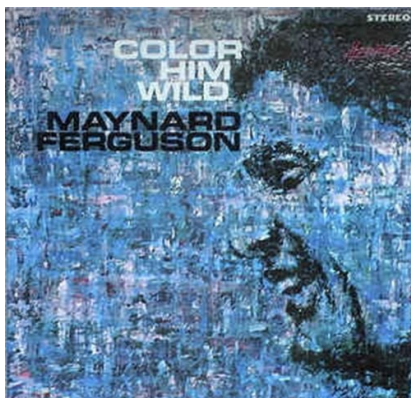
Jazzline from Germany offers the Dizzy Gillespie Quartet live at Onkel Po's Carnegie Hall in Hamburg in March 1978 (catalog no. N 77037). The 2 CDs include a number of lengthy instrumentals, namely *Sunshine* (9:04), *The Land of Milk and Honey* (10:20), *Brother K.* (10:00), *Diddy Wa Diddy* (19:22), and *Olinga* (14:42), among others. Incidentally, the venue closed in 1986 and is now occupied by a restaurant.



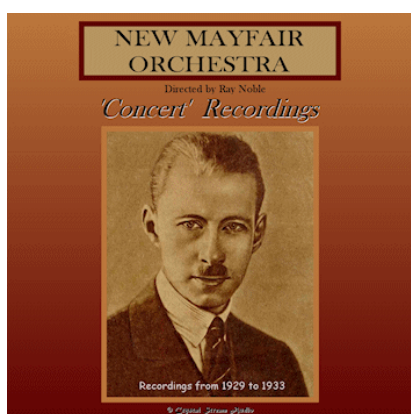
Sounds of YesterYear DSOY2062 puts the emphasis on Les Brown's recordings for the Coral label which took place from 1951-55, such as Skip Martin's arrangement of *It's Alright with Me*; *Forty Cups of Coffee*, sung by Jo Ann Greer; and Wes Hensel's arrangements of *St. Louis Blues Mambo* and *Saturday Night Mambo*. Always a fine dance band filled with renowned sidemen (Fagerquist, Sims, Libero, Pell, Sperling, et al).



Another superior job by Sepia combining two 1960-62 Decca albums from the "poet of the piano" for the first time on CD. The 29 tunes feature lots of standards and pops such as *Let There Be Love*, *Honeysuckle Rose*, *Fly Me to the Moon*, *Mack the Knife*, *I Fall in Love Too Easily*, and Debussy's *Clair de Lune*.



Lots of color, tone, and rhythm on this. Recorded in 1964 and originally released on LP by Mainstream the following year, Maynard and his band with Don Rader (trumpet), Rob McConnell (valve trombone), Willie Maiden (saxophone), and Mike Abene (piano) play nine originals and standards. Later reissued on LP and in 1991 on CD (MDCD 725) as “Dues.”



Select two-part “concert” recordings made for the His Master’s Voice label in London by the New Mayfair Orchestra conducted by Ray Noble, including selections from the Broadway show “No, No, Nanette” (then only a few years old) and a 1929 medley titled *Here Comes the Bride*. Compiled by Crystal Stream Audio in Australia (IDCD352) with a generous playing time of 76:48.



Another of those big Reader’s Digest boxed sets transferred to 6 CD-Rs by Music Boutique. The performers include Frankie Carle, but actually they are 9 of the 12 songs from his 1964 “Plays the Big Imported Hits” album (RCA Victor LSP-2920), rather than recordings made for Reader’s Digest itself.

In next month’s “News,” more desirable titles including the first of four CDs of unreleased Louis Armstrong performances and a double-disc set of Woody Herman live in 1970 with over two hours’ of music.