

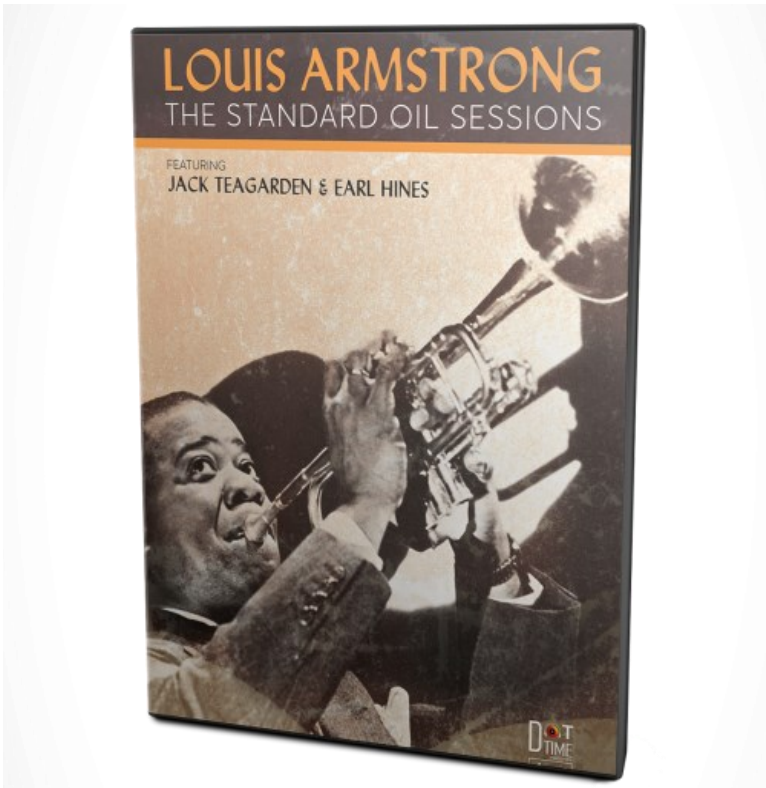
JULY 2017



BIG BAND NEWS

by Music Librarian **CHRISTOPHER POPA**

A RARE BATCH OF SATCH



At least four previously-unheard Louis Armstrong performances are planned to be issued on compact disc (as well as vinyl LPs and digital downloads), through a licensing agreement between Dot Time Records and the Louis Armstrong Foundation, Inc. The first of the releases, “Louis Armstrong: The Standard Oil Sessions,” is now on sale.

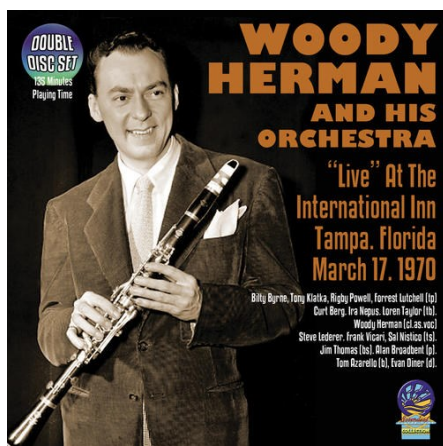
Recorded in San Francisco in January 1950 and, along with Armstrong, featuring fellow bandleaders Jack Teagarden and Earl Hines when they were members of his All-Stars, it was intended for broadcast on “Musical Map of America,” a radio show sponsored by the Standard Oil Company.

But the episode never aired and Armstrong was given acetate copies of the sessions. The material was discovered in the archives of Queens College which houses the Louis Armstrong Collection.

The package includes a 20-page booklet written by Ricky Riccardi, Director of Research Collections for the Armstrong House Museum and author of the 2011 400-page biography [What a Wonderful World: The Magic of Louis Armstrong's Later Years](#).

REviews AND PREviews

THE 1970 HERMAN HERD



A 2-CD set, “Woody Herman And His Orchestra: ‘Live’ At The International Inn Tampa, Florida March 17, 1970,” Sounds of YesterYear (UK) DSOY2062, offers 2 hours and 15 minutes of playing time, but in kind of muffled sound and without liner notes. Besides Woody on clarinet, alto saxophone, and vocals, this edition of the Herd included Bill Byrne (trumpet), Sal Nistico (tenor sax), and Alan Broadbent (piano).

I applaud Sounds of YesterYear for issuing something less common by Woody (he plays a few tunes from the ‘40s, but the emphasis is on stuff like *Light My Fire*, *Aquarius*, *Smiling Phases*, *My Cherie Amour*, and *MacArthur Park*).

Also, they should have chosen a different, more appropriate picture of Woody—the one that was used looks like the 1940s instead of the 1970s, and, besides, they already had the exact same photo on another of their covers (DSOY2018) last year.



A 2-disc compilation of vocalist Don Cornell’s hits, Acrobat (UK) ADDCD3195, includes 18 of his sides with Sammy Kaye’s band.

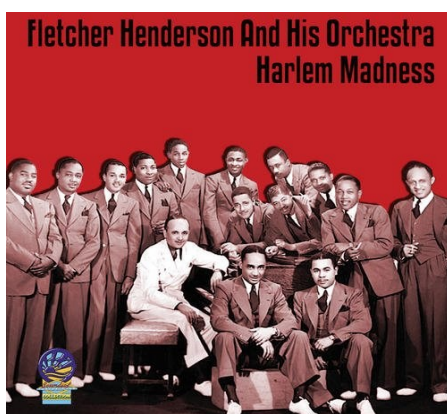
Cornell joined Kaye in 1946 and stayed until late 1949. By my calculation, during that period he sang on 58 recordings with Kaye for RCA Victor (so not counting transcriptions, broadcasts, etc.). The ones that sold the best are here, namely *It Isn’t Fair*, *Careless Hands*, *I Left My Heart At the Stage Door Canteen*, *Serenade of the Bells*, *I Came Here to Talk for Joe*, *Baby It’s Cold Outside*, and so forth.



This makes a good complimentary release to Avid's other 2-CD Sauter-Finegan collection, "Four Classic Albums: The Sound of the Sauter-Finegan Orchestra / Inside Sauter-Finegan / Under Analysis / Straight Down the Middle" (AMSC1212) which came out last year and Sepia's excellent single CD, "the return of the doodletown fifers & Pop Concert" (Sepia 1248), issued in 2014. Taken together, there have been no fewer than 11 Sauter-Finegan LPs reissued on CD! As is Avid's practice, the original sleeve notes have been reproduced in full.



Yet another volume in Sounds of YesterYear's series presenting the Kenton "Concerts in Miniature" radio broadcasts exactly as they were originally done. Catalog number (UK) DSOY2064 takes us through June 16th, 1953. Tunes include *Jump for Joe*, *Sophisticated Lady*, and *All About Ronnie*.



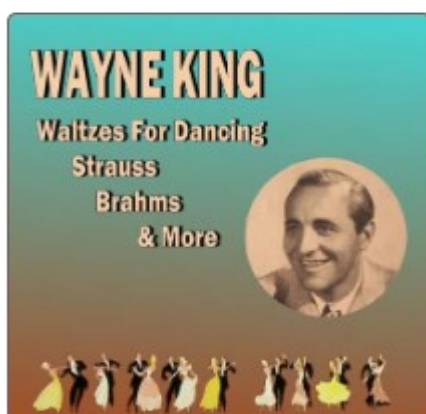
Fletcher Henderson's own big band is heard performing some swing classics on Sounds of YesterYear (UK) DSOY2066. Judging by titles such as *Sugar Foot Stomp*, *Rug Cutters Swing*, *Grand Terrace Rhythm*, *Radio Rhythm*, and *Shanghai Shuffle*, the time period is 1934 to 1937 with a mixture of Victor, Brunswick, Vocalion, and Decca sides.



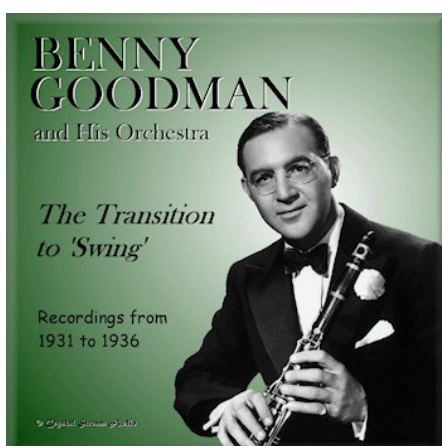
Originally a 6-LP Reader's Digest set with all new recordings by the big bands, this has some of my most favorite things. Yet here it seems, to my unexpected surprise, disappointing as now transferred to three CD-Rs by Music Boutique. To begin with, the original cover wasn't used, only a simulation (why?). There are no liner notes (admittedly, that would have been quite an undertaking). My jewel case doesn't even hold the discs well and won't close. But all of that could be forgiven if the sound wasn't so mediocre—these just don't seem as clear as they could be.



An unusual LP, made for Imperial in 1958, by Ralph Flanagan with his piano and rhythm and a tenor saxophone, and not at all in the Glenn Miller style. If you're a completist, this is the only place to get this on a CD, from Music Boutique.



Don't be put off by the simplistic cover. Music Boutique has taken 22 of Wayne King's 1941-49 RCA Victor recordings and combined them into a CD-R. They are a combination of the 10-inch LP "Wayne King plays Johann Strauss for dancing" (LPM-17), the 78 rpm set "Wayne King plays Brahms waltzes for dancing" (P-208), a 78 single *When the Nightingale Sings / No More, No Less* (20-2860), and the 78 rpm set "Wayne King Waltzes: Volume 2" (P-171). This is a much better value than Music Boutique's previous two King CD-Rs, and I applaud them for this.



The contents have been out multiple times over the years, though Crystal Stream Audio, from Australia, always does a clean job. Total playing time 78:56, including things for various labels from 1931 to 1936. Among the familiar Victor recordings are *King Porter Stomp*, *Goody Goody*, *House Hop*, *Bugle Call Rag*, and *Goodnight My Love*. Release no. IDCD356.



Another repackaging of Goodman recordings, Halcyon (UK) 176 contains performances from 1934 such as *Junk Man*, *Breakfast Ball*, *Nitwit Serenade*, *Stars Fell On Alabama*, and so forth. Familiar stuff for longtime collectors and unnecessary for them to buy this.



Just in case you hadn't heard about this one, a European import recorded in Rome in February 1981 by Benny Goodman but now with an entire disc of alternate takes and different mixes. Not really essential BG, but at least it's something less common that hasn't been done to death. And even the late Goodman bio-discographer Russ Connor was left confused by it all.



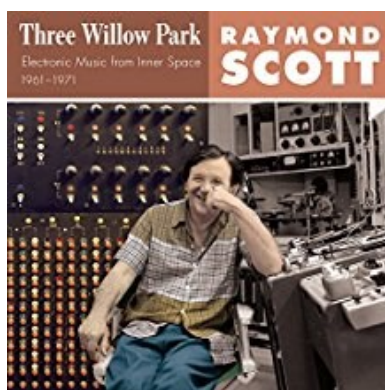
A Glenn Miller motif CD by Sounds of YesterYear, catalog no.DSOY 2068, gathering such songs as *Stairway to the Stars*, *Moon Love*, *Star Dust*, *The Man in the Moon*, *Moonlight Sonata*, and so forth. More than a dozen have vocals by Ray Eberle.



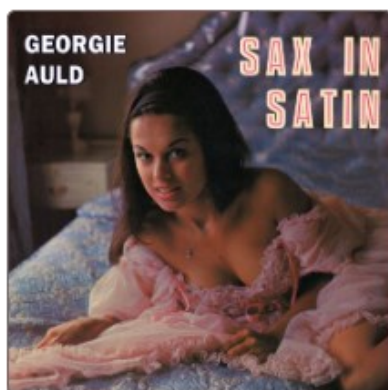
Never previously on CD, this is another CD-R by Music Boutique, from a 1961 Coral album by Flanagan in which he returned to the Glenn Miller sound. But Coral's extreme stereo separation, meant to simulate the sound of a live band, comes off, instead, as tinny and annoying.



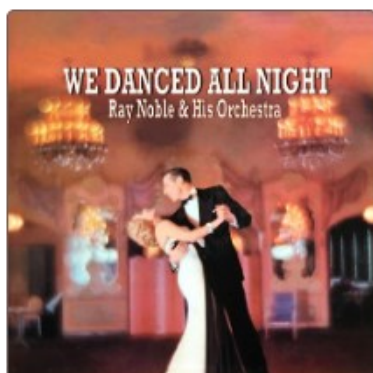
Formerly a Capitol LP with recordings made in 1953 and '54, now a Music Boutique CD-R. Tunes include *A Trumpeter's Lullaby*, *Amor*, *Trumpet Sorrento*, *Tango La Paloma*, and *The Brave Bulls*.



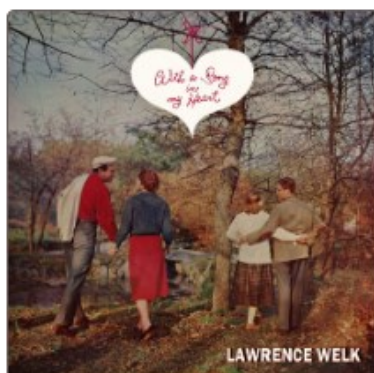
A new, 2-CD set from Basta Records, which has done a fantastic job keeping Scott's legacy going. As you can see by the title, this has unusual sounds which Scott created in his studio between 1961 and 1971.



Music Boutique has transferred to CD-R a dozen sexy Coral recordings by Georgie Auld, mixing standards (*Misty*, *Tenderly*, *Harlem Nocturne*) with songs made famous by fellow bandleaders (*Blue and Sentimental*, *You'll Never Know*, *Early Autumn*), and one original by Auld, *Your Kiss*.



They've also made a CD-R of an old Ray Noble RCA Camden, but it duplicates five songs (*Double Trouble*, *Way Down Yonder in New Orleans*, *The Touch of Your Lips*, *Dinah*, and *Chinatown*, *My Chinatown*) that Music Boutique already transferred to CD-R when they did the Ray Noble RCA Vintage album. If you bought the other, this latest CD-R has just seven "new" songs.



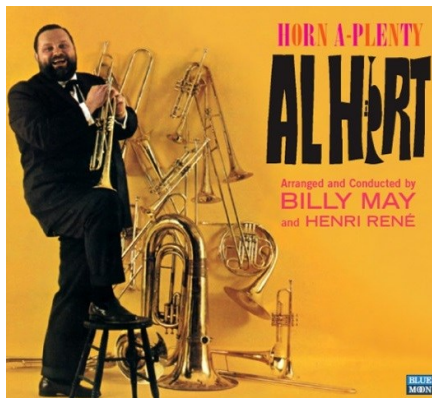
"With a Song in my Heart," the latest of an incredible 74 Lawrence Welk CD-Rs that Music Boutique has done, using Coral, Dot, or Ranwood albums as their sources.



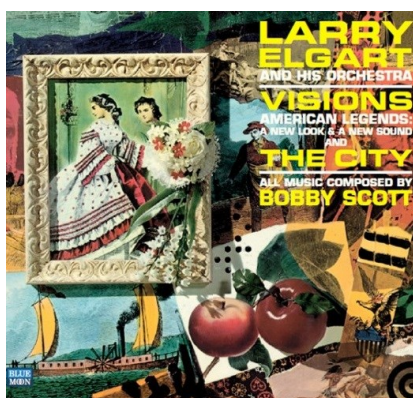
The usual fine job from Sepia, with the live Capitol "Ray Anthony Show" combo album and a plethora of added instrumental big band singles (Sepia 1313) in excellent sound.



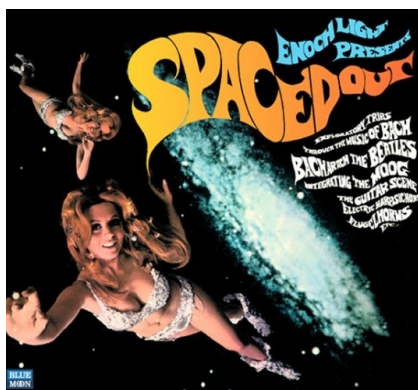
Judging by the tune titles chosen for this, it does have some of “The Essential Recordings” by Xavier Cugat—though Cugie made several versions of his hits for different labels. Anyway, this is Primo’s choice, 2-CDs with the catalog number 6219.



Thanks to Billy May’s arrangements and conducting, this is a nice Al Hirt RCA Victor LP, “Horn A-Plenty,” combined with five cuts from “The Greatest Horn In The World” album. My favorite instrumental of those here is the melodic “*Theme From Carnival*” (*Love Makes the World Go 'Round*). Blue Moon BMCD 891.



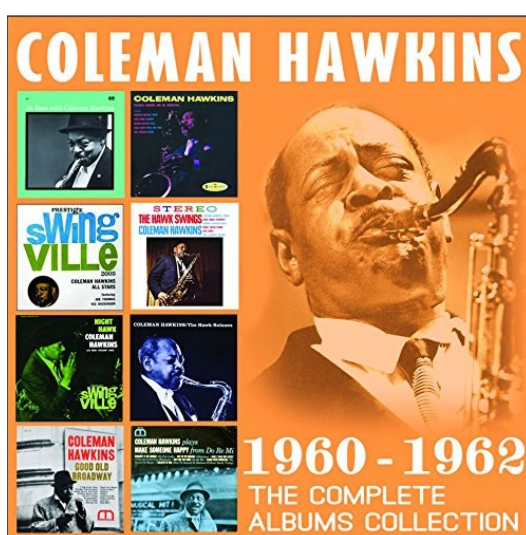
Blue Moon (Sp) BMCD 890 has two of Larry Elgart’s MGM albums, “Visions” and “The City,” done with their typical good job including original cover artwork and liner notes.



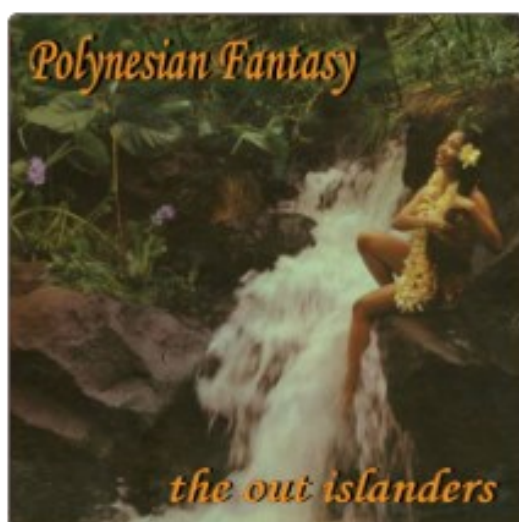
Another of the goodies from Blue Moon, BMCD 889 has the former Enoch Light Project 3 LPs “Spacedout” and “Charge!.” No complaints here—a very good job!



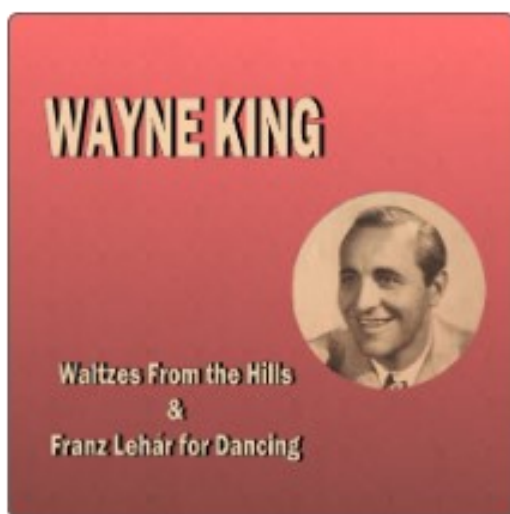
Acrobat (UK) ADDCD 3203 samples the work of Illinois Jacquet from 1942 to 1956, including some star assistance from Lionel Hampton, Dizzy Gillespie, Roy Eldridge, Gene Krupa, and Buddy Rich.



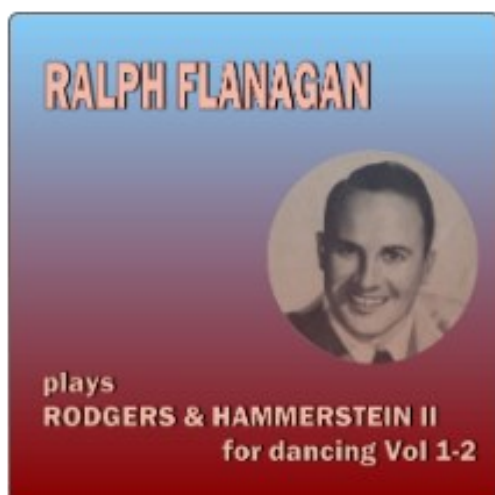
Since I mentioned saxophonist Jacquet, I'd better also tell about Coleman Hawkins. Enlightenment ENLT 9087 is actually the third "volume" of his albums on CD. The first covers 1945-1957, the second 1957-1959, and now this one 1960-1962. They are each 4-CD sets.



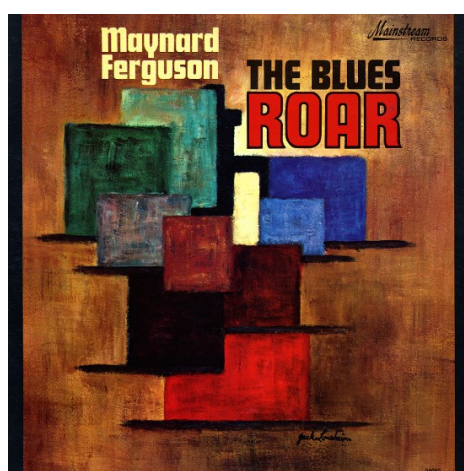
Originally on LP as Capitol ST 1595, this never did have an "official" CD release from Capitol, so perhaps Music Boutique's CD-R transfer will do. In case you don't recognize it, it was made in 1961, co-led by Charlie Barnet and Billy May (and with Alvino Rey tagging along on guitar) under the assumed name of "The Out Islanders." A dozen "island" songs in stereo, including *Honorable Rock of Hong Kong*, *Ebb Tide*, and *The Moon of Manakoora*, with abridged original liner notes here.



Music Boutique is at it again for Wayne King collectors, with a CD-R of material from two early 10" RCA Victor LPs, "Wayne King plays Franz Lehár for Dancing" (LPM-10) and "Wayne King: Waltzes From The Hills" (LPM-3010). An even dozen songs such as the *Tennessee Waltz*, *Waltz of the Winds*, *Down in the Valley*, *Red River Valley*, *Yours Is My Heart Alone*, and *Frasquita Serenade*. They haven't been available for more than 50 years!



Two more RCA Victor 10" LPs (LPM-16 and LPM-8), combined on a single disc by Music Boutique. One could pretty much consider all of the 12 songs as standards, including *Some Enchanted Evening*, *People Will Say We're in Love*, *It Might As Well Be Spring*, *That's for Me*, *If I Loved You*, and *The Gentleman Is a Dope*. A straightforward transfer to CD-R.



Another of Maynard Ferguson's Mainstream LPs (S/6045), recorded in 1964, reissued onto CD by Mainstream / Ultra Vybe in Japan. But it makes at least the third time on CD for this title—it was earlier done in 1991 (Mainstream MDCD 717) and also by Mobile Fidelity Sound Lab (MFCD 843).



This is another Larry Elgart reissue compiled recently by Jordi Pujol, two LPs now on one CD, Blue Moon (Sp) BMCD 887. Recorded in stereo for RCA Victor in 1958 (“Larry Elgart And His Orchestra,” LSP-1961) and RCA Camden (“Easy Goin’ Swing, CAS-575) in 1960. A good band playing nice dance arrangements and packaged well for CD with original cover artwork and liner notes. Recommended.



More recordings by a latter-day Light, originally on the Project 3 label, now Blue Moon (Fr) BMCD 886. The 25 pop tunes, such as *Soulful Strut*, *I Feel the Earth Move*, and *I’m Gonna Make You Love Me*, reflect the era. Includes original cover art and liner notes.



One of the pleasant duties of America's most famous announcers during the relatively short swing era of the big bands was to host late-night remotes from some of the most famous ballrooms throughout the country.

- Nick Clooney

DECORATIVE ITEMS

On the left, artist Faye Cummings has depicted bandleader Count Basie with a latex-based wall art canvas manufactured by Imagekind. The portrait comes in several different sizes.

On the right, Mundus Souvenirs has created a laser-engraved 8”x10” wood plaque that is a quote from broadcaster Nick Clooney, brother of the late vocalist Rosemary Clooney, about big band radio remotes.

Both items are available through Amazon.com.