

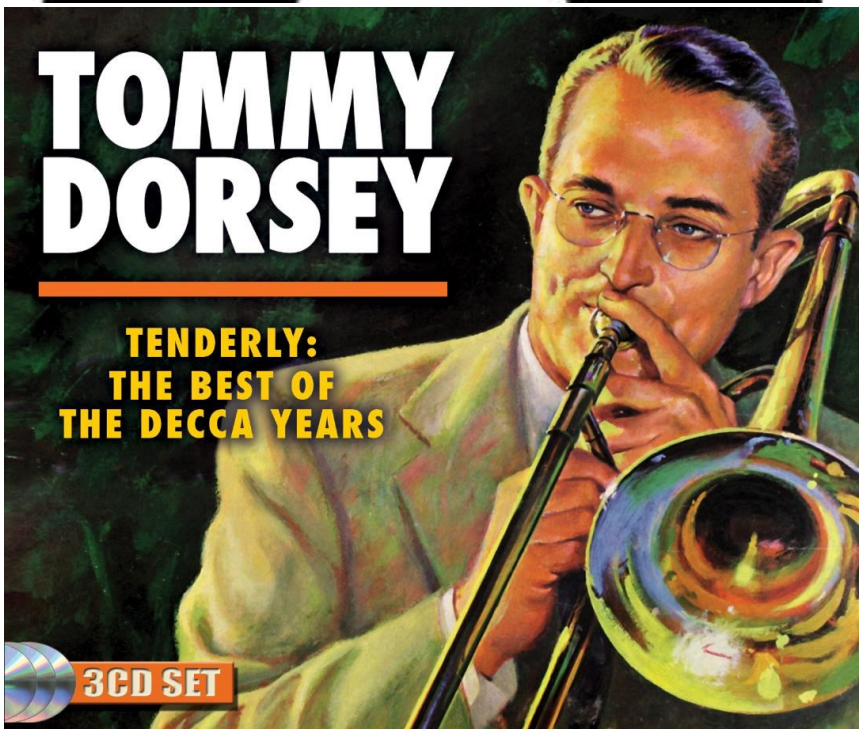
APRIL 2018



BIG BAND NEWS

by Music Librarian **CHRISTOPHER POPA**

DORSEY ON



Well, it's about time! 70 of Tommy Dorsey's best Decca recordings, made from 1950 to 1953, have been collected in an exemplary manner on 3 CDs by Sepia Records of England. Rather than the horrible-sounding and cheap-looking Ajaz / Ajazz LPs titled "The Later Tommy Dorsey," this is the fitting way to honor Dorsey's memory: in great sound, with interesting notes and quotes, period illustrations and a fine cover portrait of Tommy done in the '50s by Hector Garrido, accurate recording data, even corrected spellings of band member's names, and a list of Dorsey's 1950-53 sidemen who are still living.

Besides *Opus Two* and *T.D.'s Boogie Woogie*, swinging follow-ups to past successes, there are two new versions of Tommy's theme, *I'm Gettin' Sentimental Over You*, a reunion with former band vocalist Jack Leonard, Dorsey's final chart hit *The Most Beautiful Girl in the World*, and choice jazz by Dorsey's Clambake Seven.

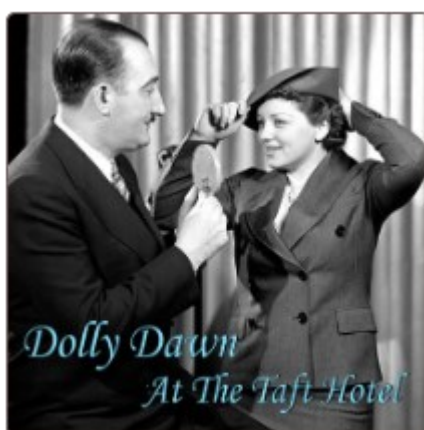
In fact, this retrospective contains no less than five complete 10" Decca albums released while Tommy was alive: "Ecstasy: Tommy Dorsey: Trombone Solos: With Victor Young and His Singing Strings and Orchestra," "Your Invitation To Dance: Classic Dances in Modern Dance Tempo," "Tenderly: love songs in waltz time," "in a sentimental mood," and "You and the night and the music: Tommy Dorsey And His Orchestra plays the musical comedy hits of Howard Dietz and Arthur Schwartz."



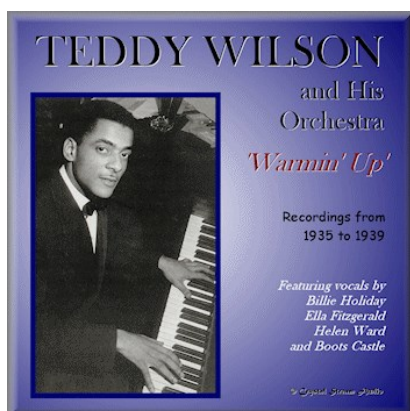
Squatty Roo offers another glimpse of Illinois Jacquet's big band, with more music from his March 1987 engagement at the Village Vanguard in New York City. The tunes on Volume 4, SR283, include *How Inensitive*, *Blues for Louisiana*, *Ol' Man River*, and *Three Buckets of Jive*.



Never officially issued on CD, so Music Boutique has taken it upon themselves to make a CD-R of the 1962 Capitol LP. Like Stan Kenton's "Wagner" album, this was somewhat controversial, too, with mostly country and western standards done up in a big band style.



For George Hall and Dolly Dawn fans, Music Boutique has "Dolly Dawn At The Taft Hotel," with 19 songs such as *It's a Sin to Tell a Lie* and *Robins and Roses*. That's Hall pictured on the cover on the left and Dawn on the right.



If you can't afford the 7-CD Mosaic box of Teddy Wilson's Brunswick and Columbia recordings (or just want a sampling), you might like this. Crystal Stream Audio, from Australia, always does a good job with sound. Unlike the Mosaic set, which does not include Billie Holiday's vocals with Wilson, this CD has 13 of them, along with vocals by Ella Fitzgerald, Helen Ward, and Boots Castle.



My friend Tony Eaton has written the liner notes for the very latest Glenn Miller release on Sounds of YesterYear, from England. The "75th Anniversary Tribute", catalog number DSOY2094, is called that, because it's the 75th anniversary of the forming of Miller's famous AAF orchestra. The tunes include *Spring Will Be a Little Late This Year*, *I'm Headin' for California*, and *With My Head in the Clouds*. It's all well-done, including the simple but nice cover, Michael Highton's choice of repertoire, and, of course, Tony's notes.



28 performances by Ralph Flanagan's band are on "Flanagan's Boogie," Sounds of YesterYear DSOY2095. They include some unusual choices; for example, *Hi Neighbor R&B* and *Hi Neighbor Mambo*, two special disc jockey songs, both sung by the Singing Winds vocal group with Flanagan and recorded in 1955; Flanagan's own forgettable singing voice on the 1952 *A-L-B-U-Q-U-E-R-Q-U-E*; and *Out Last Night*, a 1956 RCA Victor single.



This is the original cover artwork from a 1960 Decca album, “Jerry Lewis Sings: Big Songs For Little People” (DL 8936), which was conducted by former bandleader Sonny Burke. Sepia has just released a CD of Jerry Lewis, which combines recordings from this Decca LP with another of his albums, “More Jerry Lewis” (Decca DL 8595), from 1957, along with some bonus tracks. Children of my generation had a soft spot in their hearts for Jerry Lewis, both because of his comedic films and his work with the Muscular Dystrophy Association. As far as the new CD (which is # 1323), Sepia has done its usual fine job (and there have only been a couple of CDs with Sonny Burke ever made by any label before).



Squatty Roo has sent out another volume in its “Illinois Jacquet Files” this month. Like the others, Volume 5 presents Jacquet’s big band live at the Village Vanguard in New York City. The tunes on this release include *Bubbles* and *Smart*.

coming up later this year

“Big Band News”

about

Will Bradley

Billy May

Les Brown

Freddie Slack

Ray Anthony

Stan Kenton

Woody Herman

Ray McKinley

PLEASE MARK IT ON YOUR CALENDAR:

“IS EVERYBODY HAPPY?”

A MULTIMEDIA EXTRAVAGANZA

ABOUT ENTERTAINER

TED LEWIS

IS THIS MONTH



Don't forget that Joseph Rubin, Curator of The Ted Lewis Museum in Circleville, Ohio will be the special guest at Chicago Public Library on Thursday, April 19th. Mr. Rubin will take the audience on a musical journey through the life and times of "The High-Hatted Tragedian of Song," Ted Lewis (1890-1971). The program is going to take place in the Library's Cindy Pritzker Auditorium starting at 6:00 pm, and we hope to see you there!

LET'S END THIS MONTH WITH ANOTHER PHOTO:

**THE FABULOUS
JIMMY DORSEY ORCHESTRA**

IN 2018



Here is a picture of the new leader of The Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, trumpeter—singer David Pruyn [r.]. His wife, Michele James-Pruyn [l.], is the band's featured vocalist. I wish them good luck and many bookings for years to come!