

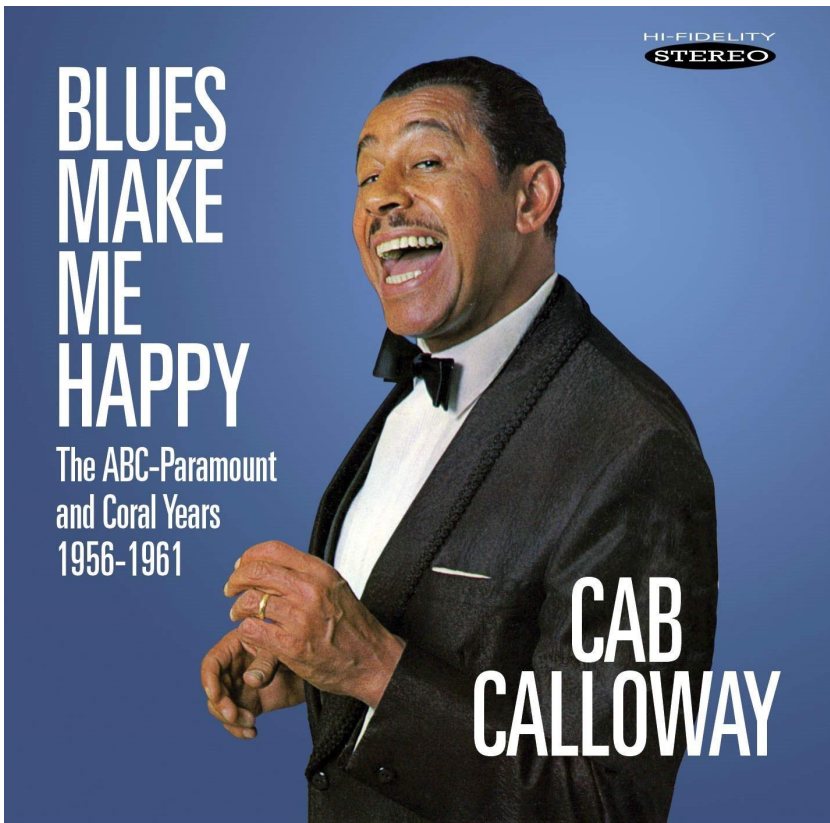
AUGUST 2018



BIG BAND NEWS

by Music Librarian **CHRISTOPHER POPA**

Something You MUST Buy



**and There's
Hardly a
Hi-De-Ho
On It!**

It's one of two new, highly-recommended CDs this month from the Sepia label in England.

"Blues Make Me Happy: The ABC-Paramount and Coral Years 1956-1961," Sepia 1329, presents 24 of Calloway's high-fidelity and stereo recordings. Half are the album "Blues Make Me Happy," including *Blues in the Night*, *Learnin' the Blues*, *St. Louis Blues*, and so forth. But what's really exciting are the dozen bonus singles that have never been on CD, such as *Little Child* (sung with Lael Calloway, one of his daughters), *Chigger Chigger Wa Wa*, and *The Music Goes Round and Round*. This latter portion has some of the most atypical recordings that Cab ever made, with swing songs, ballads, inspirational, r&b, novelties, and even rock'n'roll—and hardly a "hi-de-ho"! It's really something to hear them!

The sound quality is very good, the liner notes pertinent, and the images from the period of the recordings, including a very handsome picture of Cab in a white tuxedo.

It all equals a very fine job by Sepia!



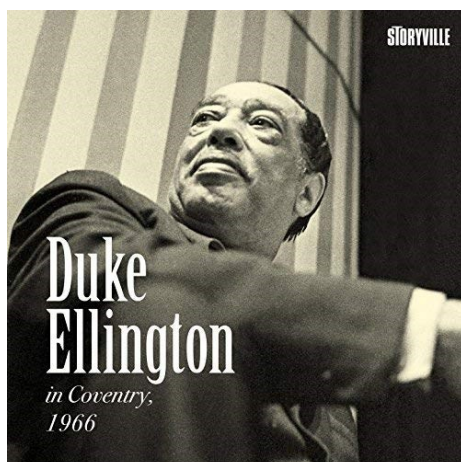
And as they say, "But wait! There's more!"

Sepia is also issuing a Guy Lombardo with two-LPs-on-one-CD, "By Special Request!" and "The Best Songs Are The Old Songs," which were two 1962 stereo Decca albums.

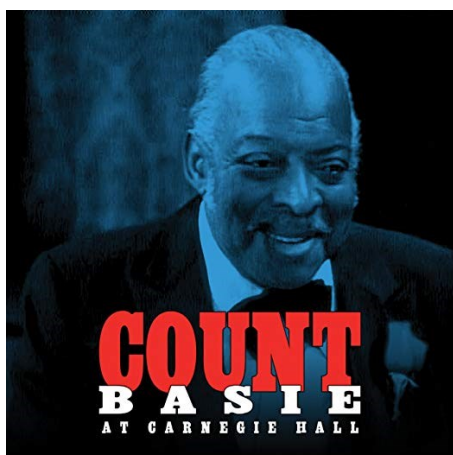
As a bonus, there's the unusual 1960 single, *Belly Up to the Bar, Boys* and *After You've Gone*, with guest stars Stan Kenton, Billy May, and Nelson Riddle singing the former with the Lombardo band and playing the latter with them. (Kenton on piano, May on trumpet, and Riddle on trombone.)

The booklet includes recording session personnel, dates, and other details, even a photo and listing of Lombardo's parents and brothers and sisters.

A great CD for sweet band fans!



A previously-unissued performance by Duke Ellington and His Orchestra is on Storyville 1018448, “Duke Ellington: in Coventry, 1966.” That’s Coventry Cathedral in Coventry, England, where they played several sacred pieces such as *New World A-Comin’*, *Come Sunday, Come Easter*, and *In the Beginning God*, along with *West Indian Pancake* and *La Plus Belle Africaine*. Total CD length 65:37.



This is the audio from a March 20, 1981 appearance at Carnegie Hall in New York City by Count Basie and His Orchestra with guests Joe Williams, Tony Bennett, George Benson, and Sarah Vaughan. To me, the best selections are the instrumentals *April in Paris*, *One O’Clock Jump*, and *Shiny Stockings*, as well as Joe Williams’ vocals on *Everyday I have the Blues* and *Alright, Okay, You Win*. The CD label is Rockbeat Records. The contents have also been released a couple times on DVD.



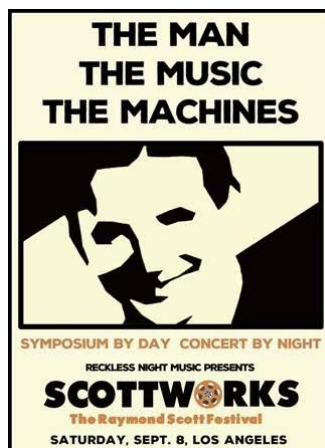
No shortage of duplicative Glenn Miller CDs, such as this one, catalog number Big 3 BT3191. However, some better ones are on the way from England, providing a new perspective on some Army Air Force Band material. (Details soon.)



Big band DVDs nowadays seem to be few and far between, so I was happy to learn of this, with Vaughn Monroe, “Favorite Of Millions On Radio And Records,” starring in the 1950 western “Singing Guns.” This was his acting debut, in the role of “Rhiannon,” a notorious stagecoach robber who wants to walk the straight and narrow. After falling in love with a saloon girl played by Ella Raines, and being deputized by the sheriff, he is tempted to abandon his reformed ways by robbing a gold shipment. As far as this release itself, it is described as “a brand new high definition master from a 4K scan of the original 35mm tricolor nitrate negatives by the Paramount Pictures archives.” (Call out members of The Vaughn Monroe Society!) Also available on Blu-ray.



Dennis M. Spragg, Senior Consultant with The Glenn Miller Archive at The University of Colorado-Boulder, recently completed a Miller family genealogy which traces Glenn’s ancestral heritage going back hundreds of years. One surprising find was that Miller was a direct descendant of Hon. Capt. Myles Standish, who came from England aboard the Mayflower and helped to form the Plymouth Colony of Pilgrims in Massachusetts. Excellent work, Dennis!



Next month’s “Big Band News” has information about ScottWorks, a celebration of Raymond Scott, on September 8 in Los Angeles.