

SEPTEMBER 2018



# BIG BAND NEWS

by Music Librarian **CHRISTOPHER POPA**

## Announcing the First Raymond Scott Festival



Taking Place  
September 8th in  
Los Angeles

To celebrate Raymond Scott's pioneering influences on music, technology, and culture, his family and their Reckless Night Music company are hosting "ScottWorks," a one-day festival in Los Angeles on the 8th of this month. Scott was born 110 years ago in September 1908.

The daytime portion of the Festival will focus on Scott's creative and technical legacy, featuring panel discussions and interactive exhibits.



Among the guests will be Irwin Chusid, Raymond Scott historian; Chuck Haddix, Curator of the Raymond Scott Collection at the Marr Sound Archives at the University of Missouri-Kansas City; Jeff Winner, historian and album and concert producer; and Jeroen van der Schaaf, Managing Director of Basta Music.

That evening, there'll be a concert of Scott's music.

As Scott's son, Stan Warnow, told me, "We see the festival as a celebration of the life and work of our father, in particular, a way to increase public awareness of who Raymond Scott was and the magnitude of his contributions to 20th century music and technology. Our father was really an introvert and uncomfortable in the spotlight, which no doubt limited his wider recognition during his active years, now with ScottWorks we have a chance for us to illuminate our father's creative legacy and recognize his place in modern history."



# THE NEW HOME OF COUNT BASIE



The Institute of Jazz Studies at Rutgers University in New Jersey has acquired nearly 1,000 personal artifacts of Count Basie, including his pianos and Hammond organ, clothes, scrapbooks, press clippings, business records, correspondence, photographs, concert programs, awards, and other materials.

The collection will be available for students, scholars, writers, researchers, and aficionados “in the near future.”

# THE OLD HOME OF BENNY GOODMAN



The one-time residence of Benny Goodman, his 6,445-square foot “Pound Ridge” home at 20 Rock Hill Way in Bedford, New York, is now for sale.

He had it built in 1940, then sold it in 1948.

The listing price for this country manor, which includes a swimming pool, is \$2,699,000.



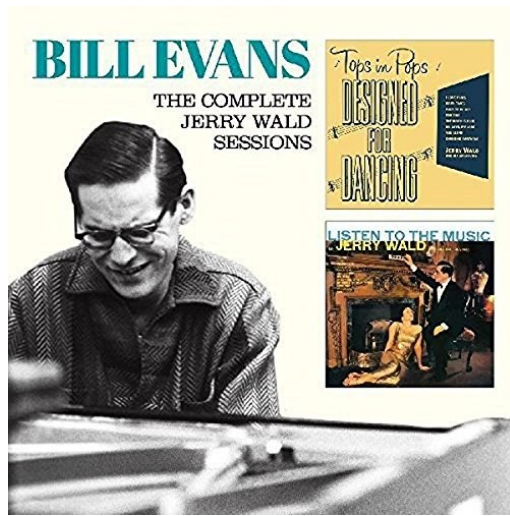


After last month's new (and excellent) Vaughn Monroe "Singing Guns" DVD, I'm happy to add another new title. Tommy Dorsey and His Orchestra appear in "Thrill of a Romance," the new Warner Brothers Archive Collection "MOD" ("manufactured-on-demand") DVD of the 1945 motion picture. The musical selections include *Song of India*, *I Should Care*, and *Opus No.1*.



Whether you're a fan of the big bands or enjoy old-time radio programs, you'll like Radio Spirits' new release, "The Phil Harris & Alice Faye Show," with the program's first 20 episodes which began October 3rd, 1948 (these were the "Rexall years"). "What's a Rexall?" Frankie Remley asked Harris. There are 20 episodes on 10 CDs to find out.

The Radio Spirits catalog number is 47892.



Essential Jazz Classics offers a pleasant surprise with a new compact disc, EJC55738, “Bill Evans: The Complete Jerry Wald Sessions.” While I might object to them minimizing Jerry Wald’s role, I understand that today’s market is very tough for big bands and if focusing it on Evans’ name as pianist for the Wald band helps to make the music available, then I guess it’s okay. (That’s what RCA and others did for a lot of Frank Sinatra recordings as vocalist with Tommy Dorsey’s band.) Besides Wald’s two LPs, “Tops in Pops: Designed For Dancing” (the 10” Lion E-70014) and “Listen To The Music Of Jerry Wald” (the 12” Kapp KL-1043), there are some bonus 45 rpm Kapp singles, *Mesa Verde*, *Frenchman’s Creek*, *Dancing Castinets*, and *Valley of the Redwoods*. The “Listen To The Music Of Jerry Wald” portion was already available on a CD, Solar Records 4569954, made in 2014, which also gave top billing to Evans.

## ARTIE SHAW: A SURE SHOT



Among Artie Shaw’s many talents, besides being “The King of the Clarinet,” he was a skilled marksman. In 1962, when an opportunity came for him to invest as a partner in a gun shop, retail store, and shooting range, Shooters Service and Dewey, Inc., located at 2450 Salt Point Turnpike in Clinton Corners, New York, he did.

According to a recent story by Anthony P. Musso in the Poughkeepsie Journal newspaper, Shaw invested a total of \$50,000 in the operation.

The business closed in the mid-1960s, and is now an educational facility for the Evangelical Free Church.