

NOVEMBER 2018



BIG BAND NEWS

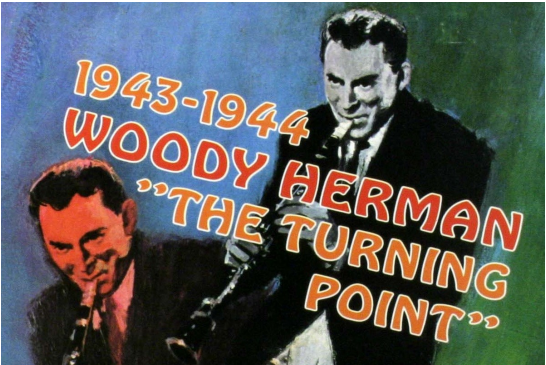
by Music Librarian **CHRISTOPHER POPA**

Mosaic Reads a New Woody Herman Set!



*"The Complete Woody Herman
Decca, Mars, MGM Sessions (1943-1954)"
Mosaic MD7-267*

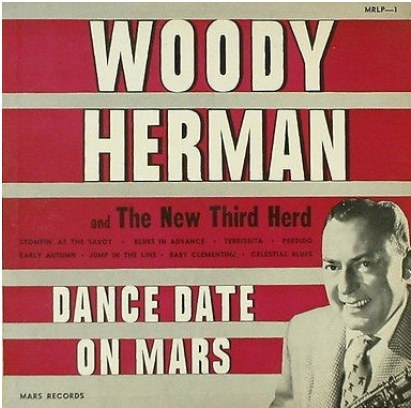
This new boxed set contains some very diverse material, as it comes from three different companies—beginning with Decca (including World Transcriptions, Coral, and Brunswick issues) recorded in 1943 and 1944, such as *Who Dat Up Dere?*, *I've Got You Under My Skin*, and *Milkman, Keep Those Bottles Quiet*. In 1967, some of these selections had been gathered on a 12" Decca "Jazz Heritage Series" LP so aptly titled "The Turning Point."



Mosaic's set then moves to the MGM label (starting with a Carnegie Hall concert in 1946 and jumping to studio recordings from 1951 and 1952), like *Blue Flame*, *New Golden Wedding*, and, with Billy Eckstine, *Life Is Just a Bowl of Cherries*).



The last portion of the set was recorded for Mars (Woody's own label from 1952 to 1954, plus a few titles that didn't come out until Clef, Verve, or Discovery), including *Mother Goose Jumps*, *Four Others*, and *Mambo the Most*).



As was stated in Mosaic publicity, "Through its diverse material and the evolving nature of the personnel, Woody's point of view remains consistently crisp, energetic, youthful and relevant. His commitment to big bands was never nostalgic or locked in time, but always looking ahead."

Mosaic will be limiting the total pressing of this 7-CD set to 2,000 copies.

MORE NEW COMPACT DISCS



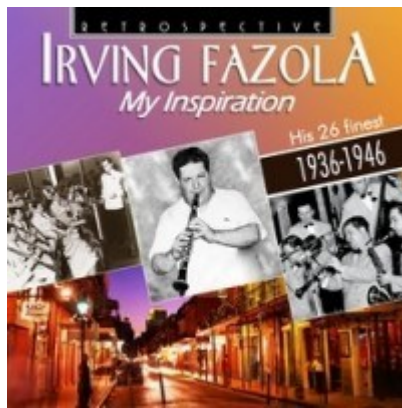
What might determine whether the new CD above, “Louis Jordan: The Absolutely Essential 3 CD Collection,” Big 3 BT3199, is *really* essential would be which of his performances you already own. This collection offers 60 songs, but I’ll bet if you like Louis Jordan you’ve already got them all from MCA or Bear Family.



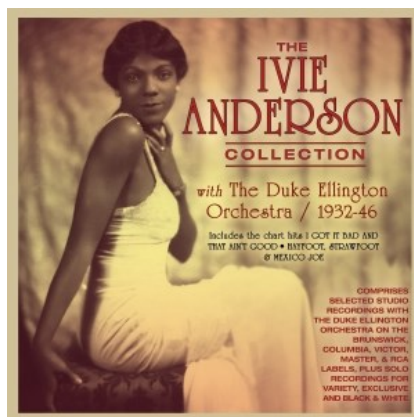
The cover art of Sounds of YesterYear’s new Sammy Kaye CD, “Featuring 25 Hits From The Big Band Era: Lavender Blue” (DSOY 2108) is attractive, but the material covers very familiar ground, mostly from RCA Victor and Columbia. Sammy Kaye had a great band, but this stuff has been packaged and re-packaged multiple times. The shame is that there is still *lots* of different (that is, different songs and different versions) of Sammy Kaye material that has *never* been on CD.



Again, I congratulate Sounds of YesterYear for making a nice cover for their Lionel Hampton “Hamp’s Boogie Woogie: Live In Stuttgart January 5th and 6th 1958 Plus Bonus Tracks” (DSOY 2120), though it doesn’t go with the period of the music on the disc. At least this is some Hampton music that hasn’t had wide circulation. The titles include *New Orleans Woman*, *Almost Paradise*, and *Howard Rock*.



Retrospective in England has compiled a CD featuring clarinetist Irving Fazola (RTR 4337) with many different groups, including several big bands, namely Bob Crosby (for example, *My Inspiration*, *Skaters' Waltz in Swingtime*, *Hindustan*, and *Spain*), Ben Pollack (*Song of the Islands*), Glenn Miller (*Humoresque*), and Muggsy Spanier (*Can't We Be Friends?*, *Hesitating Blues*). Total playing time is 78 minutes.

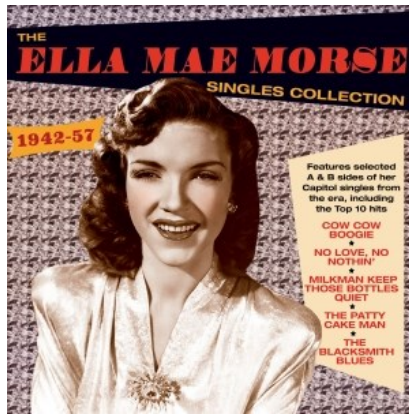


Also from England, the Acrobat label offers the voice of Ivie Anderson, mostly with Duke Ellington's band, from 1932-46 (ADDCD3267). It's a 2-CD set with 50 selections in all, such as *It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)*, *Ebony Rhapsody*, *All God's Chillun Got Rhythm*, and *Swingtime in Honolulu*.

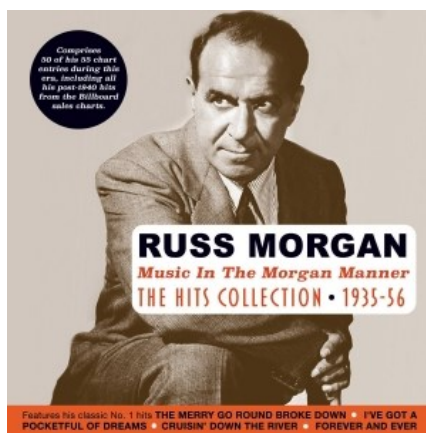


It's nice to see vocalist Dolores Hawkins getting her own collection, "Ooh Wee! The Rare Singles," 2-CDs courtesy of Jasmine in England (JASCD 862). She sang with Gene Krupa's band from 1947 to 1949, and included here are her Krupa vocals of *Teach Me, Teach Me, Baby / You Turned the Tables On Me / Bop Boogie / Watch Out (Whatcha Tryin' to Do) / Swiss Lullaby* / and select broadcast excerpts like *Let Me Off Uptown / Gene's Boogie*.

58 songs total –however, understand that the majority of them are Hawkins as a solo singer, after she left the Krupa band.



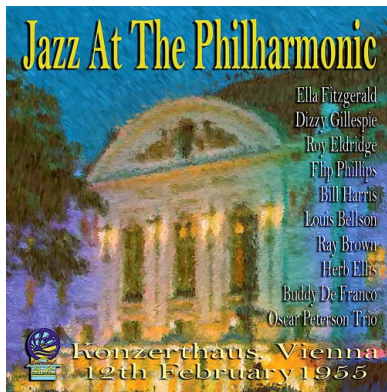
Acrobat in England has compiled a CD featuring vocalist Ella Mae Morse, “The Ella Mae Morse Singles Collection: 1942-57” (ADDCD3256) which has nine songs by her and Freddie Slack (including *Cow Cow Boogie*), three songs with Billy May, and 42 other selections (including *The Blacksmith Blues*). The original label for everything was Capitol.



There’s a big dose of “Music in the Morgan Manner,” 50 tracks on 2 CDs by Russ Morgan and His Orchestra, “The Hits Collection: 1935-56,” on Acrobat ADDCD3277. The majority are vocals by Russ, Red Jessup, Judy Richards, Mert Curtis, Dave Franklin, Jimmy Lewis, Lewis Julian, Bernice Parks, Carol Kay, Al Jennings, The Morganaires, The Skylarks, The Heartbeats, and even two sides with a vocal by The Ames Brothers, *I’m Looking Over a Four-Leaf Clover* and *Bye Bye Blackbird*.



Vocalist Helen Humes was associated with Count Basie’s band and also made records with Harry James and Benny Carter and Red Norvo. But none of them are on the new CD, “Helen Humes: Today I Sing The Blues: 1944-1955,” Jasmine JASMCD 3106. Instead, her musical associates include Teddy Wilson and many more jazz and blues men. The song titles include such intriguing and / or suggestive titles as *It’s Better to Give Than to Receive*, *Flippity Flop Flop*, *Woojamacooja*, *Real Fine Daddy*, and *I’ll Surrender Anytime*.



Three men who at one time led big bands, Dizzy Gillespie, Roy Eldridge, and Louis Bellson, are among the stars heard on “Jazz At The Philharmonic,” Sounds of YesterYear DSOY 2119. But, rather than with their orchestras, they are part of a group of all-stars, promoted by Norman Granz, and presented at the Konzerthaus in Vienna on February 12, 1955.



A combination of Hal Kemp recordings from Columbia and Victor make up the new Sounds of YesterYear CD “A Star Fell Out Of Heaven” (DSOY 2121). With so many of his famous hits included here, I am surprised that they left out *Got a Date with An Angel*.



Live performances of Duke Ellington, from a London appearance on February 20, 1964 and a Stockholm date on February 8, 1966, are the basis of “Harlem Suite” from Sounds of YesterYear (DSOY 2124). Though these exact versions are different, the program is, for the most part, familiar Ellington concert staples of the period, including *The Opener*, *Perdido*, *Caravan*, *Isfahan*, *Rockin’ in Rhythm*, and *Take the ‘A’ Train*.

SNEEK PEAK

Next month, I’ll wrap things up for 2018 with some odds and ends plus some overdue thank-yous.

Happy holidays!