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BIG BAND NEWS

by Music Librarian **CHRISTOPHER POPA**

FIRST TIME EVER!

"A SONG IS BORN" SOUNDTRACK

WITH MANY BONUS SELECTIONS

The star-studded film soundtrack from the 1948 RKO motion picture "A Song Is Born" is released as a stand-alone CD for the first time, including Benny Goodman (*Stealin' Apples*), Tommy Dorsey (*I'm Gettin' Sentimental Over You*), Louis Armstrong and Lionel Hampton (*Goldwyn Stomp*), and the so-called Leaders' Orchestra with Goodman, Dorsey, Armstrong, Hampton, and Charlie Barnet (*A Song Was Born* and *Flying Home*), from original Goldwyn Studios acetates.

The label is Sepia and the catalog number is 1342.

There are also different versions of selections from the film such as Barnet's *New Redskin Rhumba*, recorded for the Cardinal label, and Hampton's *Hawk's Nest,* made for Decca and named for the film's director, Howard Hawks.

Accompanied by detailed notes and period images, this is the nicest presentation that the music has ever had, and should be a part of every serious big band collector's library.

MORE NEW CDS

Squatty Roo Records has two new Duke Ellington CDs, “Solo Piano Concert 1964” and “Instrinsic Explorations of the 1960s.”

The first was taped at Columbia University in New York City, with Duke playing *Fleurette Africaine (Little African Flower), Melancholia,* and *Bird of Paradise* as solos, and a medley of Ellington hits accompanied by Ernie Shepard on bass and Sam Woodyard on drums.

The second comes from Ellington’s vault of recorded masters and unmixed sessions during the period 1962 to 1966. Included are portions of an Ellington album that was planned as a feature for trumpeter Ray Nance, a couple studio versions of songs that Duke was playing on the road, and a small group led by his son, Mercer, featuring Chick Corea on piano.

The 1957 Ames Brothers album “Sweet Seventeen,” with Bill Finegan leading the band, is part of Sepia CD no. 1340. The other main portion is the Ames Brothers singing songs made famous by other quartets such as The Modernaires (*Moonlight Cocktail*) and The Pied Pipers (*I’ll Never Smile Again*).

NEW DVD

Bob Crosby takes the starring role in the motion picture “Let’s Make Music,” filmed for RKO in September 1940. He and his Bobcats perform *Big Noise From Winnetka, Central Park, You Forgot About Me,* and *Fight On, Newton High*.

ITINERARIES

THE GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA (USA)
directed by Nick Hilscher

July 13, 2019, Crown Theatre, Fayetteville, NC
July 14, 2019, Stevens Center, Winston-Salem, NC
July 15, 2019, Meymandi Concert Hall, Raleigh, NC
July 17, 2019, Southern Vermont Arts Center, Manchester, VT
July 18, 2019, The Gracie Theatre, Bangor, ME
July 20, 2018, Uptown Knauer Perf Arts Ctr, West Chester, PA
July 23, 2019, Lake Superior State Univ, Sault Ste Marie, MI
July 24, 2019, Cheboygan Opera House, Cheboygan, MI
July 25, 2019, Overlander Bandshell, Portage, MI
July 27, 2019, Spanish Ballroom, Glen Echo, MD
July 28, 2019, Harvester Performance Ctr, Rocky Mount, VA
July 31, 2019, Tim McLoone's Supper Club, Asbury Park, NJ

THANK YOU, TIM MALLEY!

Recently, a man named Tim Malley, who lives in a small town called LeRoy, NY, wrote to his local newspaper, The Daily News, about one of his favorite types of music— big bands.

In Mr. Malley's opinion, " . . . music from the Big Band Era still endures because its sophisticated and classy . . . music from the Big Band Era remains so special because its so lasting and enduring (and syncopation, rhythm and an excellent sense of phrasing were the unique characteristics of music from the big band era), and refined . . . Music from the Big Band Era remains so special because its musicianship, songwriting and the songs themselves that were produced during that era were second to none."

NECROLOGY

JOHNNY AMOROSO, 88, trumpeter / vocalist, d.April 4, 2019. With T Dorsey ‘49-’51 / ‘53-’54; Flanagan ‘55 (*There’s Nothing Like Love*); Kaye ‘59 / ‘60 (*Welcome Home*).

SOL YAGED, 96, clarinetist, d.May 11, 2019. He was 12 when he first heard Benny Goodman, and remained a disciple for the rest of his life. “If it hadn’t been for Benny Goodman, I’d have been a juvenile delinquent,” Yaged often said. Because of his musicianship and knowledge of Goodman’s music, he was hired to coach Steve Allen how to play and hold the clarinet when Allen was cast in the title role of the 1956 movie “The Benny Goodman Story.” Yaged, who later worked with Jack Teagarden and Coleman Hawkins, stated, “All the great bandleaders, Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Tommy Dorsey, they were tough guys. If you didn’t cut the mustard, you were out.”

ON THE RADIO

Karl Pearson [above] advises me that he will be Steve Darnall's guest on the WDCB 90.9 FM "Those Were the Days" program from 1 to 5 pm CST on Saturday, July 6, 2019. The theme will be "Dance Bands On the Air."

ALL-STAR PARADE OF BANDS (12-31-54) Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians are heard in this remote from the Grill Room of the Hotel Roosevelt in New York City. The Royal Canadians plays some of the big hits of 1954 as the New Year approaches. Titles include *Hey There, Mister Sandman,* and *Hernando's Hideaway*. Vocals by Kenny Gardner and the Lombardo Trio; Bill Hanrahan announces. Sustaining, NBC. (15 min)

THE COTY HOUR (6-26-35) "The Coty Salute to Youth" featuring Ray Noble and his Orchestra, along with vocalists Al Bowlly and the Freshmen Trio in a studio broadcast from New York City. Selections include *The Very Thought of You, East of the Sun, Lying in the Hay,* and *The Saint Louis Blues*. Announcer is Nelson Case.
Coty Cosmetics, NBC-Red. (30 min)

GUS ARNHEIM AND HIS COCOANUT GROVE ORCHESTRA #4A (Mid-1931) "The Star of entertainers and entertainer of stars" and his band are heard in a studio broadcast from Hollywood. Tunes played are *Sing A Little Jingle, Nevertheless,* and *Little Girl*. Vocals by Donald Novis and Loyce Whiteman. Syndicated. (13 min)

ONE NIGHT STAND #471 (8-13-44) It's "Music by Martin" - Freddy Martin and his Orchestra play for dancers in Cocoanut Grove of the Ambassador Hotel on Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles. Selections include *The Last Time I Saw Paris, It Had to Be You,* and *Is You Is Or Is You Ain't (Ma Baby)?*. Vocals by Gene Conklin, Glenn Hughes and the Martin Men. Announcer is Coleman Wilson. AFRS rebroadcast. (30 min)

THE ENO PENTHOUSE (5-29-35) Hal Kemp and his Orchestra, along with vocalists Maxine Gray, Skinnay Ennis, Bob Allen, and Babs and Her Brothers, are featured in this studio broadcast from New York City. The Kemp band plays *Got a Date with An Angel, About a Quarter to Nine,* and *The Lady in Red*, along with other selections. Basil Ruysdael announces. Eno Effervescent Salts, NBC-Blue. (29 min)

YOUR SATURDAY DANCE DATE (7-2-49) Claude Thornhill and His Orchestra are heard in this remote from the Marine Ballroom of the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago, on the shores of Lake Michigan. Tunes played include Moonlight Bay, Robbin's Nest, Adios, and *Moonlight and Roses*. Vocals are by Nancy Clayton, Russ McIntyre and the Snowflakes. Bill Griskey announces. Sustaining, NBC Audition. (29 min)