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*** indicate an outstanding performance, ** a competent performance, * an acceptable performance. \$\pm\$‡‡ denote exceptional recording, \$\pm\$‡ efficient recording, \$\pm\$ poor recording.

ORCHESTRAL

**‡‡‡ Die Meistersinger, Wagner: Entrance of the Guilds and Dance of the Apprentices (RCA-Victor, one 10-inch record, \$1.50). A sonorous and well-paced performance of two excerpts from the third act of Wagner's great operatic comedy. Eugene Ormandy gets Stokowskian co-operation from the Philadelphia Orchestra, also superior assistance from the engineers.

**‡‡ Portsmouth Point Overture, William Walton: (Victor, one 10-inch record, \$1.50). A vigorous jeux d'esprit by England's most talented young composer, plentifully dissonant, but not unreasonably so. Well played by the B.B.C. Symphony Orchestra, ably led by Adrian Boult.

PIANO

***‡‡ Well-Tempered Clavichord, Volume Two, Preludes and Fugues, Nos. 35 to 43, Bach: (Victor, seven 12-inch records, \$14). A continuation of the Bach Society enterprise, which will eventually embrace the entire work. The splendid pianist is Edwin Fischer.

***‡‡ Sonata in E Minor, Opus 90, Beethoven: (Columbia, two 12-inch records, \$3). One of the loveliest of Beethoven's piano sonatas, beautifully played by Egon Petri. A thoroughly desirable recording for those who do not possess the Schnabel performance.

VOCAL

****‡‡ Die Entführung aus dem Serail and Ach, Ich Liebe and Martern Aller Marten (Mozart): (Victor, one 12-inch record, \$1.50). Margherita Perras, a Greek soprano unknown here, has the unenviable task of singing these two difficult airs. However, she acquits herself remarkably well, especially in Martern Aller Marten, one of Mozart's most exacting creations. Bruno Seiller Wolkies directs the assisting Berlin

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RECORDED MUSIC

State Opera Orchestra, and the results are in every way exceptional.

***‡‡ L'Africana O Paradiso! (Mayerbeer) and Carmen: Flower Song (Bizet): (Victor, one 12-inch record, \$2). Another of this company's efforts to superimpose accompaniments of modern strength and fullness on old recordings by Enrico Caruso. The synchronization has been accomplished with high skill, but illusion is destroyed by the needle scratch heard in all the vocal passages. However, the singing is supers, and both arias were Caruso specialities.

DANCE

My Last Affair and The Mood I'm In: (Victor, 10-inch, \$.75). Lionel Hampton, vibraphone virtuoso of the Goodman quartet, here makes a debut at the head of his own orchestra. An entertaining affair, not only for the Hampton performance, but also for the excellence of the band.

Evenin' and Shoe Shine Boy: (Vocalion, 10-inch, \$.35). Two familiar tunes vigorously swung by one of the best small bands on records, Jones-Smith, Inc., an ensemble based on the talents of the remarkable Count Basie (at the piano). The first has an excellent vocal by James Rushing.

Where or When and Johnny One Note: (Victor, 10-inch, \$.75). First excerpts from the new Rogers-Hart musical, "Babes in Arms", expertly done by Ruby Newman and band. The lyric Where or When represents most of the quality of this disc, for the reverse is fairly mechanical hot-stuff. Ray Heatherton is the able vocalist.

Southern Holiday: (Columbia, 12-inch, \$1.25). The latest effort of Reginald Forsythe, he of Dodging a Divorcee and Serenade for a Wealthy Widow. Don't let that deceive you, however, for this is no more than pseudo-Gershwin, rather laboriously concocted. There is here and there a superior idea, thoroughly subdued by the surrounding banalities. Henry Hall directs the B.B.C. Dance Orchestra, and Forsythe is the solo pianist.

Pennies from Heaven and For Sentimental Reasons: (Columbia, 10-inch, \$.75). Neither tune is remarkable, but the singing by the lady known as Hildegarde is superior of its highly sentimental sents only 1000. ★ VICTOR RECORDS

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