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ORCHESTRAL

*** !!! Variations on a Theme by Handel, Brahms: (RCA-Victor, two 12-inch records, \$4.50). Another remarkable performance by Toscanini and the New York Philharmonic-Symphony, flawed only by the knowledge that the number of unreleased recordings by him is now minute. Perhaps that will be remedied during his next Winter's visit. The superbly modulated dynamics and lovely phrasing lavished by Toscanini on this work would be a welcome embellishment of any score in the repertory, but it is doubly welcome here, since a firstrate recording of the Variations has been wanting.

*** !!! Khowantchina (The Introduction), Moussorgsky: (RCA-Victor, one 12-inch record, \$2). One of the earliest examples of impressionism in music, finely performed by Serge Koussevitzky and the Boston Symphony.

VOCAL.

** ‡‡ Bauern Cantata (No. 212), Bach: (RCA-Victor, two 12-inch records, \$4.50). An abridged version of the most humorous and charming music Bach over wrote. Unfortunately, a French text is used, there are several excisions from the complete score, and a piano is used in the recitatives instead of an instrument more nearly resembling those of Bach's time. These things are particularly deplorable since Jeanne Guyla and Martial Singher, the soloists, are excellent. Gustave Bret conducts with plenty of spirit.

CHAMBER MUSIC

** tt Quartet in D (opus 44, No. 1), Mendelssohn: (Columbia, three 12-inch records, \$5). Though much of this composer's music has faded, his mastery of his craft, as displayed in such a work as this, remains an object lesson for any aspiring composer. The Stradivarius Quartet offer their sound

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RECORDED MUSIC

abilities for what they are worth, but the results are not very stimulating.

VIOLIN

***‡‡ Concerto in D, Tschaikowsky: (RCA-Victor, four 12-inch records, \$8). Jascha Heifetz enjoys a fiddler's field-day with this venerable showpiece, also contriving to give it more character and profile than it ordinarily possesses. Altogether, a musical and technical accomplishment of a high order. John Barbirolli conducts the London Philharmonic in a sonorous and well-disciplined recording.

DANCE

Symposium of Swing (RCA-Victor, four 12inch records, \$1.25 each). America's current vogue, ennobled by an album which includes performances by such eminent practitioners as Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, "Fats" Waller, and Bunny Berigan. Most of the merit in this volume is confined to the Goodman free fantasy on Sing, Sing, Sing - one of the most original and ingenious disks that swing has produced and the Dorsey account of Stop, Look, and Listen and Beale Street Blues. However, swing being the personal matter that it is, there will no doubt be those who will enthuse about Berigan's I Can't Get Started With You and Waller's Honeysuckle Rose.

Blues (Brunswick, one 10-inch record, \$.75). This diverting job by Art Shaw and his band is worthy of a place in the Symposium above, for it is quite the best thing Shaw has accomplished. Bright ideas and warm performance add to its attractions.

You and I Know and Goodbye, Jonah, Goodbye. (Victor, one 10-inch record, \$.75). Not the best of Arthur Schwartz's tunes, these two from Virginia are nevertheless well above ordinary. Tommy Dorsey and band perform dexterously, and there are vocals with each.

I Gotta Right to Sing the Blues and Ain't-cha Glad, Texas Tea Party and Dr. Heckle and Mr. Jibe (Columbia, two 10-inch records, \$.75 each). Re-issues of performances by an all-star swing ensemble, the players including Benny Goodman, Jack Teagarden, Gene Krupa, Dick McDonough, Artie Bernstein, and Joe Sullivan. Not for neophytes, these disks belong in every swingsters library. Each has a vocal by Teagarden.

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