

Letters to the *RECORDINGS* Editor

The Thousand Club

SIR: I would like to commend your suggestion of the "Thousand Club" and to wish it success. If it matures, it may be more satisfactory than the "Societies" of the past, operation of which I never understood. . . . I am willing to subscribe to the following: "Die Junge Magdt" (Hindemith), "Symphony No. 3" (Sibelius), a new recording of "Das Lied von der Erde" (Mahler), Duparc songs (Panzer album), and "Legends," Opus 22, (Sibelius). . . . With best wishes for success. . . .

D. T. MACROBERTS.
Shreveport, La.

SIR: I am constitutionally opposed to joining things, but you will have to put me down for your "Thousand Club." . . . As a nomination, how about an abridged version of Victor M-60, the big album of excerpts from "Götterdämmerung"? Omitting from it portions which are readily available in more modern recordings—the "Rhine Journey," "Immolation," etc.—would bring it down to manageable proportions and restore to the catalogue music that has been totally unavailable for years.

HARRY WARNER, JR.
Hagerstown, Md.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Reader Warner's observations are more in line with the projected purpose of the "Thousand Club" than those of reader MacRoberts for the simple reason that new recordings would have to be underwritten by considerably more than a thousand buyers to make them financially possible. But, for the Kajanus "No. 3" of Sibelius, and the "Götterdämmerung" album, both "Skol" and "Prosit"!

Boston in Carnegie?

SIR: In a recent RECORDINGS you state that Koussevitzky and the Boston Symphony recorded Prokofiev's "Classical" in Carnegie Hall. Doesn't the Boston group do all of their recording in Symphony Hall in Boston?

MARION W. BECKNER.
Arlington, Ind.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Traditionally, yes; but during 1947 Koussevitzky was prevailed upon to do some recording in Carnegie Hall, where certain works sound to greater advantage than they do in Symphony Hall—especially in respect to string tone. The "Classical" was one, and others are likely to come along from time to time.

FDR on Discs

SIR: I am interested in purchasing recordings of speeches by the late President Roosevelt and would appreciate your advice on where I could buy good recordings. What do you think of the quality of the records issued by Linguaphone? Are there better recordings available and if so where may they be purchased?

BEN L. OWENS.
Washington, D.C.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The quality is excellent, allowing for discrepancies in

the broadcast quality of the speeches, since they are wholly derived from public occasions, or fireside chats. My only objection to this series is the interpolated comments, à la radio, and some use of musical "bridges." However, this is a much richer representation of the material than is available in any other collection. Some isolated documents are available separately (such as the "Day of Infamy" Declaration of War) but they are hard to track down. Linguaphone is easier, much more comprehensive.

Ormandy's Strauss

SIR: In a recent BASIC LIBRARY no mention was made of the Ormandy version of "Death and Transfiguration." Was this an omission or is it that bad?

MARVIN BLITZ.
New York, N. Y.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The forgetfulness was of the sort generally termed Freudian. It was an omission, but we are not a partisan for the Ormandy version, even so. For that matter, we would not recommend any currently available issue. Patience and fortitude!

Cagey on LP?

SIR: I . . . am finding it an increasing source of irritation that Columbia is being so cagey with its LP releases. I'm not sure where I first heard it, but when I bought the attachment I believed that Columbia was to issue LP recordings of each new classical release simultaneously with the shellac recordings. . . . In any case, you can surely understand my resentment, on reading the October an-

nouncement of LP releases, at all the Dickens and Morton Gould!

JOHN E. HUGHES.
Princeton, N. J.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We believe Columbia intends to make that practice general, and recent releases (since reader Hughes's letter) suggest that the intention is approaching realization. However, Mr. Hughes also makes mention of the Brahms "Requiem" (Von Karajan) as something desirable on LP which has not yet appeared. I understand that its transference (along with the Berlioz "Requiem") to LP is under study, but there are obvious difficulties where the original cut was only the conventional one.

Mozart Rarity

SIR: Your December issue publishes extracts from the diary of Ignatz Leitgeb which show Mozart to have been a practical joker of no mean ability. This reveals a facet of Mozart's personality heretofore unnoticed by biographers, and I. G. Mattingly is to be congratulated for bringing these diaries to light.

GUSTAV OLSON.

Toledo, Ohio

EDITOR'S NOTE: To Mr. Olson and other Mozartians whose pulses have quickened at the thought of newly discovered biographical material a speedy elucidation is in order. "Mozart and the Cheesemonger" was nothing but sheer fantasy. For unadulterated Mozart biography Jahn or Einstein can still be considered respectable sources.

A summary of the year's best recordings will be published in RECORDINGS next month.

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Records Over the Nation

A Dealer Survey of Top Record Sellers

City and Store	Popular Singles	Popular Albums	Classical Singles	Classical Albums
BERKELEY, CALIF. (Berkeley Music House)	Buttons and Bows (C)	Samba with Cugat (C)	Prokofieff Toccata (RCA)	L'Enfant et Les Sortilèges (C)
BOSTON (Boston Music Co.) (Chas. W. Homeyer)	Slow Boat to China (C) Buttons and Bows (C)	Glenn Miller (RCA) Manhattan Tower (D)	Because (RCA) Bachianas (C)	Hamlet (RCA) Hamlet (RCA)
CINCINNATI (Steinberg's, Inc.)	Buttons and Bows (C)	Merry Christmas (D)	Adagio—Samuel Barber (RCA)	Mahler Ninth (RCA)
DALLAS (The Record Shop) (Whittle Music Co.)	Buttons and Bows (C) Buttons and Bows (C)	Dorothy Shay (C) Merry Christmas (D)	Dream of Olwen (C) Bluebird (RCA)	Damoiselle Elue (C-LP) Chopin Favorites (RCA)
DETROIT (Campus Record Shop) (Doubleday Book Shops)	Buttons and Bows (C) My Darling (Cap)	Rhumba da Cuba (Cap) I Can Hear It Now (C)	Fauré Pavane (C) Bluebird (RCA)	Pictures at an Exhibition (RCA) American in Paris (RCA)
KANSAS CITY (Jenkins Music Co.)	Buttons and Bows (C)	Merry Christmas (D)	Polonaise (RCA)	Piano Quartet Encores (RCA)
LOS ANGELES (J. W. Robinson Co.)	Buttons and Bows (C)	Roses in Rhythm (C)	Jalousie (RCA)	Rachmaninoff Concerto No. 2 (RCA)
MEMPHIS (Words & Music)	Little Bird Told Me (D)	Roses in Rhythm (C)	Paganini Variations (RCA)	Piano Quartet Encores (RCA)
MINNEAPOLIS (Don Leary's Inc.)	Cuanto La Gusta (D)	Cocktail Capers (Cap)	Clair de Lune (RCA)	I Can Hear It Now (C)
NASHVILLE (MU Sound System)	Buttons and Bows (C)	Dorothy Shay (C)	Bluebird (RCA)	Chopin Favorites (RCA)
NEW ORLEANS (Van Husen Music Co.)	Buttons and Bows (C)	Merry Christmas (D)	Mignon—DiStefano (RCA)	Piano Quartet Encores (RCA)
NEW YORK (Doubleday Book Shop) (Dynamic Electronics) (Haynes Griffin) (Heins & Bolet) (Rabson's)	Buttons and Bows (C) Buttons and Bows (C) Little Bird Told Me (D) All I Want for Christmas (RCA) Buttons and Bows (C)	I Can Hear It Now (C) Hungarian Airs (RCA) Previn Plays (RCA) Merry Christmas (D) Merry Christmas (D)	Carmen—Bjoerling (RCA) Thais Duet (RCA) Manon—Albanese (RCA) Buxtehude Cantata (RCA) Mignon—Di Stefano (RCA)	Hamlet (RCA) I Can Hear It Now (C) I Can Hear It Now (C) I Can Hear It Now (C) Hamlet (RCA)
OMAHA (Lyons & Healy, Inc.)	Buttons and Bows (C)	Night Before Christmas (D)	Lord's Prayer (C)	I Can Hear It Now (C)
PHILADELPHIA (Jacobs Bros.) (The Record Shop)	Buttons and Bows (C) Buttons and Bows (C)	Rhumba with Cugat (C) Allegro (RCA)	Hansel—Dream Pantomime (RCA) Goyescas—Intermezzo (RCA)	Hamlet (RCA) Saint-Saëns Concerto No. 2 (RCA)
PORTLAND, ME. (Cressey & Allen)	All I Want for Christmas (RCA)	Merry Christmas (D)	Ave Maria—Anderson (RCA)	Masquerade Suite (RCA)
PORTLAND, ORE. (The Record Shop) (Sherman Clay & Co.)	Buttons and Bows (C) Buttons and Bows (C)	Emperor Waltz (D)	Warsaw Concerto (RCA) Clair de Lune (RCA)	Pictures at an Exhibition (RCA) Chopin Favorites (RCA)
WASHINGTON, D. C. (Brentano's)	All I Want for Christmas (RCA)	Rue Pigalle (V)	Warsaw Concerto (RCA)	I Can Hear It Now (C)

Key: C—Columbia C-LP—Columbia Long Playing Cap—Capitol D—Decca RCA—Victor V—Vox

Leaders: "Buttons and Bows" (Dinah Shore) is a clear winner for the second month in succession, its eighteen entries almost placing it in the "Nature Boy" class. After many months of scattered buying there is at last a popular album worthy of the name best seller. Bing Crosby's "Merry Christmas" draws this honor with seven stores to its credit. The spoken voice has triumphed over music in the "Classical Album" category this month. Columbia's phono montage "I Can Hear It, Now" claims first place, with the Olivier "Hamlet" album a close second. Note that two stores elect to put "I Can Hear It" in the "popular" column.