

## LETTERS TO THE RECORDINGS EDITOR

### CHAY ON TRANSLATIONS

MARIE CHAY's criticism of the unfortunate translations provided for Italian opera texts (SR Feb. 23) is a point well taken. But it should not be forgotten that the German language has suffered equally at the hands of so-called translators. I have noted to my dismay many examples of German-English atrocities as horrible as anything produced by G. Ricordi and Co. One pathetic example: the outrageous text for "Die Meistersinger" which accompanies the London recording. I have found more success struggling through the German with the aid of a dictionary than attempting to make some sense out of the so-called translation.

DAVID KESSEL.

Ann Arbor, Mich.

### HOW WEIRD THE DREE

I VIGOROUSLY agree with Marie Chay's aggrieved grandmother: almost all libretto translations are execrable. (I would exclude the Angel opera album libretti from the opprobrium.) If the sense is not minced, diced, and spiced by the curious art of translatorship, it is dried out into a few wisps of antiquarian's prose. But my favorite example is not from Italian opera translation, but from a popularly sold (and here, generously, unnamed) libretto of "Die Walküre." Wotan's second-act concession to Fricka (as regards the protection of Siegmund), "Er geh' seines Weg's" ("Let him go his way . . .") is rendered:

WOTAN: (*Lowering his voice.*) His weird he shall dree!

ERIC ROTHSTEIN.

Cambridge, Mass.

### MOZART, SR. ON DISCS

SO FAR I HAVE looked in vain for any recorded music of Leopold Mozart. Does any exist? I know it is pretty useless to ever think I will hear his music in a concert hall.

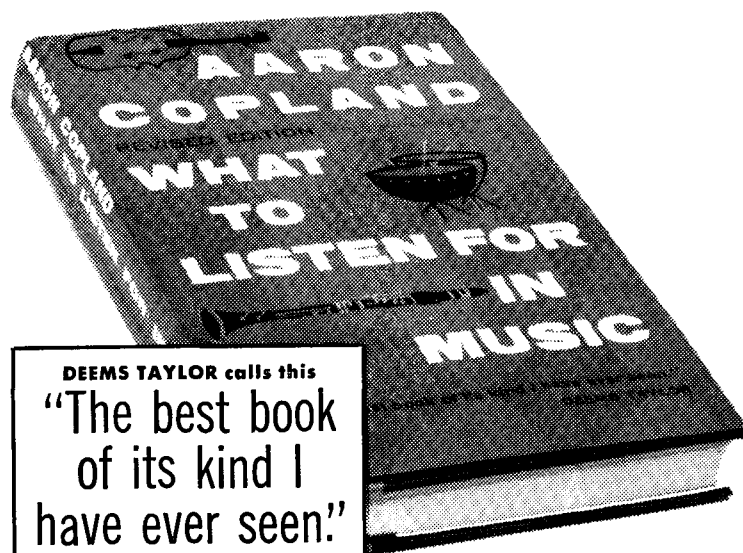
PHIL LEAVITT.

Hartford, Conn.

EDITOR'S NOTE: It is the present belief that "Haydn's" Toy Symphony is a composition of Mozart, Sr.

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Chicago, Ill.

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ERNEST GILBERT.

Detroit, Mich.

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**CHASINS ON BRAILOWSKY**

I HAVE JUST finished reading Abram Chasins's article on Brailowsky. Coming as it does, while the dust and debris raised by the Ciardi article are still floating in the critical air, I think it is peculiarly worthy of comment.

I believe that if people were even one-half as ready to praise as they are to blame, the volume of mail resulting from this article should equal that raised by Mr. Ciardi's controversial piece. Please pass my bravos on to Mr. Chasins, and accept my thanks for printing a stimulating and informative article.

RALPH MARTIN FREYDBERG.

New York, N. Y.

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