

RECORD SHOPPING LIST THIS WEEK:

by Stan Twist

Well, Christmas is in the air and here with some helpful gift suggestions is your electric Santa Claus, Stan Twist. The record companies have been good to their buyers in the last few weeks, releasing torrents of new LPs in preparation for the Xmas rush. How thoughtful of them. Of course, as usual, 99 per cent of all the LPs are pure shit, but that 1 per cent makes up for it.

First, for that one time country boy who's head has been completely turned around by stimulants of one kind or another, there's the first album by "The New Riders of the Purple Sage". Grateful Dead's Jerry Garcia and ex-Airplane Spencer Dryden join NRPS to make this the best damn shit kickin' country-rock album of the year. NRPS sound like the middle period Byrds both instrumentally and vocally. A great debut.

Speaking of Jerry Garcia, the Dead have a new double LP out. The Dead have a reputation of being the best group in the world to see live, and this LP goes all the way in making that point. Whether doing other people's material (Chuck Berry's "Johnny B. Goode") or their own ("The Other One") the Dead play no tricks. Oh yes, you should tape a blotter to the cover of this one, it may help the happy receiver enjoy it that much more.

Humble Pie, who's musical prowess has improved by leaps and bounds in the last few years, have finally lived up to their billing as a super group with the release of "Performance-Rockin' the Fillmore". Their live versions of "Stone

Cold Fever" and "Rolling Stone" make the studio versions pale in comparison. And you ain't heard nothin' till you listen to Steve Marriott whip the entire Fillmore audience into singing "Rolling Stone" with him.

Rick Nelson (remember him?) has been making a comeback for the last 2 years, though most people seem to be unaware of the fact. Rick probably numbers among the top 5 in the soft-rock fields, though he as yet hasn't gained the success he deserves. Rick, with the help of ex-Buckaroo Tom Brumley and ex-Buffalo Springfield Randy Meisner, churns up some pretty tight country flavored tunes on "Rudy the Fifth".

B.B. King has recorded an album with some of the best young British Bluesmen going: Peter Green, Ringo Starr, Gary Wright, Klaus Voorman, etc. Just so happens that this is the best LP Mr. King has recorded in recent memory. There's no grandstand attempts by any of the sidemen either, they merely provide solid backup with B.B. wailing away like a bastard.

Van Morrison has released a new album "Tupelo Honey". Van has an entirely new band on this one and they seem to be perfect for him. The production on this one is excellent also. There's a noticeable Impression influence throughout this semi-soul outing, especially on "Tupelo Honey", which has got to number among the best songs Mr. Morrison has recorded.

Canada's own Chilliwak have released a new LP on a new label for them (AM). Now down to 3 from the original five (When they were known

as the Collectors) Chilliwak have brought their music back to the level it was when they had five. There are 2 LPs in this set (for the price of one) One a set of commercial tunes, the other a sort of experimental record. Bill Henderson has improved greatly as a guitarist and Clair Lawrence finally bought a Hammond organ. What more could you want from an already great group. They're tied with Brave Belt for the title of "Best Canadian Rock Group" in my book.

Well, there they are children, a pile of goodies to choose your Xmas gifts from (you can cc; one for yourself on the side if you want) Merry Christmas and good luck on those exams.

Art works for sale

The annual December Choice exhibition of works for sale will be shown at Memorial Hall from December 1 until December 20. More than twenty Fredericton and Saint John artists and craftsmen will each show a few small works in a wide price range designed for Christmas shopping.

A Meet-The-Artists Reception will be held at the Art Centre beginning at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, December 3, for anyone who wishes to attend.

Contributors will include the potters Bill Norman, Alan Crimmons, John Knapp and Tom Smith. Mr. Smith and Peter Walcott will be exhibiting sculpture. Rae Demopolous and Nancy Holland will be showing weaving and Ivan Crowell and Carole Gulan will contribute pottery. Among those who will be showing paintings, drawings and prints are Marjory Donaldson, Bruno Bobak, Molly Lamb Bobak, Norman Cody, Mary Pacey, Brigid Grant, Mary Chan, Fred Ross, Barbara Smith, Faye Cameron, Don Gould, Dave McKay, Karl Brun, Anne Hale, Norene McCann and Mrs. Toby Graser.

Resident Musicians concert

The Resident Musicians will present their second concert of the year at Memorial Hall on Sunday, December 5 at 8:15. The String Quartet will perform two numbers in the first half of the program and Arlene Nimmons Pach will join Joseph Pach, Andrew Benac, James Pataki and Ifan Williams in the second half for a piano quintet.

The program for the evening will begin with a Quartet by Hayden in C Major, Opus 33 no. 3. This piece is called "The Bird" because it seems to chirp. It is an extremely relaxing and pleasant piece, and the last movement is one of Hayden's wittiest.

By contrast the next work is a very serious and tragic work, though the tragedy is resolved in the last movement. String Quartet in A Minor is one of Schubert's great instrumental works.

The piano quartet is by Dvorak and is one of that composer's most sunny and melodious pieces.

Steven Saryk performs

The Atlantic Symphony Orchestra presents its second special musical program of the year on December 9 with a concert by the famed violinist Steven Saryk. The concert will be at the Base Gagetown Theatre. For transportation, phone 475-5925.

Steven Saryk is referred to a latter-day Paganini because he plays with such quicksilver skill, fire, authority and mastery of tonal beauty that he mesmerizes the public. The New York Times evaluates him as "irreproachable and superb!"

This internationally acclaimed Canadian artist has an exciting program for the evening of Thursday, December 9:

Suite from "Water Music"	Handel
Violin Concerto, E Minor	Mendelssohn
Deux Esquisses	Maurice Dela
Symphony No. 41 (Jupiter)	Mozart

UNB Drama success

Reviewed by Catherine Campbell

The UNB Drama Society has been doing better things in later years. Last weekend's presentation of four one-act plays, while it lacked a certain unity, showed talent and enthusiasm on the part of the actors, and points to better things to come.

The plays could have done with a larger audience, better behaved, and more comfortable facilities. But these factors were due for the most part to the poor weather and the slow work on the Playhouse, not to lack of preparation on the parts of the players.

"Dark Lady of the Sonnets" by George Bernard Shaw seems to have been a hit with audiences since it was performed for the Theatre on the Green, where I saw it for the first time. Because it is a good vehicle for a few actors to be at their best, each successive performance adds to, rather than detracts from, its effect of sustained irony. Richard McDaniel as the upstart Will Shakespeare appeared comfortable, to say the least, in his part, while Joan McDaniel as Elizabeth I parried his remarks with ease. The play, which requires strong main characters and convincing peripheral ones, was fulfilled in this respect.

Harold Pinter's "The Applicant" was a frightening contrast, which left this reviewer tense, on the edge, or rather under, his seat. Hugh Cannell and Kristine Furlough sustained the atmosphere of civilized inhumanity, with Miss

Furlough giving an excellent, memorable performance; Mr. Cannell's role was appropriately muted at the right places, for a brief glimpse of low-key terror.

The ordering of the plays was particularly effective, as Jean-Claude von Hallie's "The Hunter and the Bird" followed "The Applicant", almost as a comment upon it. This very brief selection is full of much tongue-in-cheek humors, visual activity and above all continual irony, a very effective view of human enigmas. The two actors showed convincingly the contrasting characters of barbarity and delicacy, confusion and simplicity.

The final play of the evening, Ted Givan's "Dionysus" was amusing, and much of the satire seemed to hit home. Of course, the play lacked a bit of polish, a little more working out of its problems, but was enthusiastically presented, which usually is the case where the cast feels a certain amount of sympathy with the roles and situations, and this made up for most of the technical difficulties. The characters were varied and interesting, and the play form, borrowed from Greek drama complete with chorus, was a vehicle just ludicrous enough for comic effect.

As a whole, the plays conveyed a good variety in styles as well as effects, and with a little more work and better luck could have been a memorable presentation.

inside the inside

music	2
films	3
drama	2
features	3,6,7
story	4,5
poetry	8

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Merry Christmas from the INSIDE to the OUTSIDE.

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