

NEW ALBUMS



**ON THE
POP
SCENE**

with
**Chris
Reynolds**

Success born of hard work

SOLOMON King is a giant of a man with a voice to match. Hear it run its full range on his first British album, *She Wears My Ring* (Columbia).

After 20 years in show business without recognition this is the number **Solomon King** recorded when he moved here from across the Atlantic. It has since sold close on two million copies in Britain alone.

This album offers a fine selection. Particularly impressive is **Solomon King's** own arrangement of the exciting Jewish folk song, *Howa Nagla*.

I am growing increasingly tired of the way our pop music we are supposed to endure, call clever even. If we were only honest with ourselves, it isn't music at all. Certainly, that is

the last thing you would call the latest offering from the West Coast Pop Art Experimental Band. I found it sick, and I don't propose to discuss it further. Other than to say that if you really must buy it, it's on Reprise.

O. C. Smith immortalised the fictitious town of **Hickory Holler** and the infamous life of one of its citizens in his latest single, *Son of Hickory Holler's Tramp*, which is still high in the charts.

This record introduces **Odie** to the wide English market, although he was known to many as **Count Basie's** resident singer.

Now he has made an album of songs all of which tell a story, like **Hickory Holler**. It's on CBS and tracks include *By the Time I Get to Phoenix*, *Honey, Sitting on the Dock by the Bay* and *Main Street Mission*.

Some years back I was privileged to be in the audience at a Palladium concert given by **Judy Garland**. On stage with her for part of the evening was a long-legged youngster with enormous vitality. Her daughter, **Liza Minnelli**.

The memory of her sparkle that evening still makes me feel happy. I look for her on every imported variety spectacular from the States; but, alas, she is rarely present. And that's why I treasure her new album **Liza Minnelli** (A and M). An artist of rare quality.

The **Bruder Organ** is one of the world's most famous funfair organs, built in 1915 by **Gebruder Bruder**. It is now owned privately by a Dutch collector, who made it available for **International Melodies** (CBS) an original LP of organ music.

The album contains traditional German organ melodies, plus some new ones from Broadway and, incongruously, **Mary Poppins**.

A slightly ironic look at love and life is taken by American singer arranger/composer **Randy Newman**, who is responsible for the album **Randy Newman** (Reprise). One of the tracks, *Love Story* is also out as a single.

Newman's style is so different that either you like it or you don't. I don't.

Ella Fitzgerald's first venture into country music on **Misty Blue** (Capitol) is a thrilling experience. She sings the best of the recent big country hits with a warm excellence that gives new depth even to superior ballads such as *It's Only Love* and *Turn the World Around*. Buy it!

Beautiful blonde Canadian singer **Joni Mitchell** composed all the tracks on her first Reprise album, **Joni Mitchell**.

Joni, who is 24, and wears her golden hair to her waist, passed her spare time at art college learning some chords on a ukelele.

The realisation dawned that she preferred singing to painting — and she set out for the **Mariposa Folk Festival** in Ontario.

She spent the three day journey from Calgary to the East Coast writing her first composition, a bluesy tune called *Day After Day*, which was timed to the noise of the train wheels on the tracks.

Since then she has composed over 60 songs, many of them recorded by top artists. You can hear a selection on her album; a pleasant collection that promises much for the future.

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