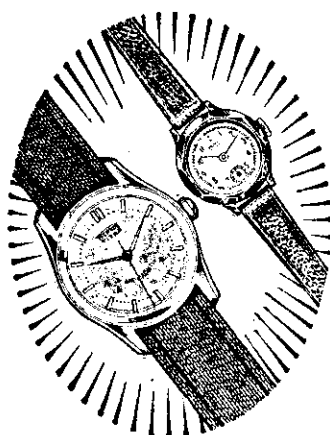


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New Recordings

ASPECTS OF SINGING

By OWEN JENSEN

Robert F. Denzler and l'Orchestre de la Société des Concerts du Conservatoire de Paris give a convincing performance (Decca LXT 5118).

Old music newly discovered and something in the way of treasure trove is to be found in Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra in A Flat, by Mendelssohn. Written when Mendelssohn was still in his teens, the manuscript was lost, to be fished out of the Berlin State Library some five or six years ago. It is a joyous work in Mendelssohn's best style. Pianists Orazio Frugoni and Annarosa Taddei, with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra conducted by Rudolf Moralt (Vox APL 7400) give a glittering presentation which is shown to the best advantage by the recording.

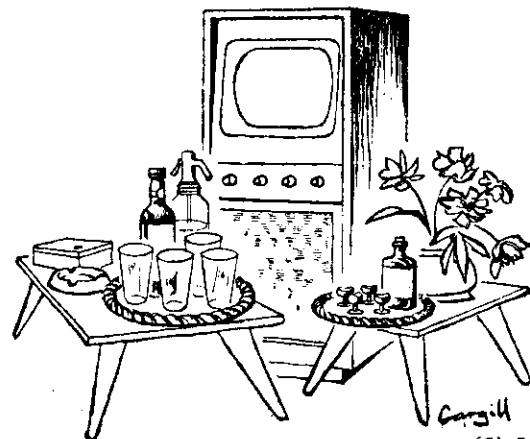
Peter Racine Fricker (born 1920) has rapidly established himself as one of Great Britain's most significant composers. His somewhat astringent style is not always the most ingratiating, but there is no doubt about the quality of music like his Symphony No. 2, Op. 14. It is well played by John Pritchard and the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra (H.M.V. DLP 1080).

Gina Bachauer brings both assured technique and poetry to a piano recital of music by Debussy (Suite: Pour Le Piano and Three Preludes), Ravel (Gaspard de la Nuit), and Mompou (Jeunes Filles Au Jardin) (H.M.V. CLP 1067). If the poetry is not quite as imaginative as, say, Alfred Cortot, this is still very fine playing.

The "45"

It is sometimes held against the long-playing disc that, with all its advantages of reproduction, you are still committed to buying 40 minutes or more of music, which may be all right for a symphony, but overmuch for a collection of shorter works.

The "45" extended play record seems to be the answer. Among a number of pieces recorded on these pocket edition discs are some attractive sonatas by the early Italian composer Tommaso Albinoni. Trio Sonata in A Major is coupled with a violin sonata by Vivaldi (Festival XP 45-929), and Violin Sonata in A Major with a cheerful quartet by Alessandro Scarlatti (Festival XP 45-917). They are played with excellent feeling for the style by members of the Societas Musica, Copenhagen.



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