



It's the Christmas season, and, not to be outdone by other commercial endeavors, the record industry has released a barrage of Christmasy tunes. Here's a few you may want to listen to as you open your presents, or wrap someone else's...

"Christmas Follies" by the Salsoul Orchestra on Salsoul Records. The group does a good job of putting a disco beat to classical Christmas tunes like the "Little Drummer Boy" and "Silent Night."

Others have tried, but this is the first album I've heard where old tunes with today's best still give the feeling of Christmas.

... "Soul Christmas"; This is a collection of special Christmas tunes done by the likes of B.B. King, Charles Brown, and Floyd Dixon.

Some of these songs would be hard to find if you had to look for them on separate albums, so this is a good collector's item.

Some of the favorites include "Merry Christmas, Baby" by Brown, and Dixon's "Silent Night."

...CHRISTMAS WITH MAHALIA JACKSON on Columbia Records. Traditional songs with the traditional sound. It includes Mahalia's famous version of "Silver Bells," and also "Do You Hear What I Hear," and "White Christmas."

"GIVE ME YOUR LOVE FOR CHRISTMAS," is a new Christmas album from Johnny Mathis, also on Columbia. Johnny's mellow, easy-going style seems to fit in well with the holiday season...especially on "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas."

There are some other good sounds out...not the Christmas sound...but they would still be nice gifts. Jazz fans would be happy to receive Harold Vick's "After The Dance." Harold puts together some invigorating saxophone solos on "Ghetto Fantasy" and "You Are Everything"...and another highlight is "A Touch Of Your Love."

Jazz fans have also grown to appreciate Jean-Luc-Ponty's talents as an electric violinist and pianist in recent years...those talents will be appreciated even more after listening



Jim Berry

to his latest ENIGMATIC OCEAN...on Atlantic Records.

Ponty takes us on a voyage in that ocean for all of side two on this album...Highlight on side one is a stirring cut called "Trans Love Express."

You'll have a chance to stock up on some good jazz for the rest of this month at the SOUL SHACK. They're having a super sale on albums featuring Grover Washington, Freddie Hubbard, Airtio, Herbie Hancock, and many others.

The best buys among those sale albums are a couple of live, two-record sets...and it's also a good chance to stock up on some old things you may have missed.

Hiram Bullock's guitar solo on David Matthew's "Theme From Star Wars" makes Matthews' DUNE album worth getting. If you're confused by all of the versions of "Star Wars," you're not alone.

There are at least five versions out now...the latest being the actual soundtrack from the movie that has music, dialogue, and all of the sound effects.

The first, most popular version of the "Star Wars" Theme is Meco's "Star Wars and other Galactic Funk." It's the best disco version...Matthews' is the best jazz.

George Benson and Bob James are the featured soloists on Maynard Ferguson's CONQUISTADOR. Ferguson's trumpet is busy, as usual.

This album contains Ferguson's version of "Gonna Fly Now," from the movie Rocky.

Benson's solo is on "Mr. Mellow"...and Bob James races up and down the keyboards on a couple of the other cuts.

"Mad Bull" Is WBTV Special

Alex Karras and Susan Anspach star in an appealing love story about a hulking wrestler whose bizarre life in the ring has little meaning until he meets a woman who sees him as a warm, sensitive person instead of the booed "villain" who arouses the fans' fury, in "Mad Bull," a revealing two-

hour film drama, to be broadcast on "The CBS Wednesday Night Movies," Wednesday, December 21, at 9 p.m. on WBTV, Channel 3.

Karras, who has appeared in the motion pictures "Paper Lion" and "Blazing Saddles," probably is best remembered for his portrayal of another

wrestler, George Zaharias, who was the husband of athletic great Babe Zaharias, in the award-winning drama, "Babe" on the Network.

Miss Anspach, who starred in the motion picture, "Play It Again, Sam," has received critical praise for her dramatic performances in "I Want To Keep My Baby" and "The Life of John Chapman," both on the Network.

"Mad Bull" takes a penetrating look behind the scenes of wrestling, with its "good" and "bad" guys, its multitude of deceptions and its dedicated, sometimes eccentric, fans who can be driven to acts of violence.

House Without Xmas Tree" Returns

"The House Without a Christmas Tree," Christopher Award-winning drama focusing on the conflict within a Nebraska family during a Christmas season in the 1940's, will be rebroadcast as a holiday family special, Friday, December 16, at 9:30 p.m. on WBTV, Channel 3. The drama stars Jason Robards, Mildred Natwick and Lisa Lucas.

Since its original broadcast, "The House Without a Christmas Tree" has been rebroadcast twice during the Yuletide season on the Network. It is the sensitive story of a precocious tomboy, Addie Mills, who lives with her stern widowed father (Robards) and compassionate grandmother (Miss Natwick). Their small-town Nebraska home becomes the scene of conflict one Christmas during the 1940's, when Addie's yearning for a Christmas tree is vetoed by her staunchly unsentimental

father. The understanding they reach, with the gentle help of the grandmother, carries a warm holiday message that won critics' praise as "memorable," "unusually sensitive," and a "holiday treasure."

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