

A catalogue of current cuts for Christmas giving

By MARK PEEL

Asking a critic to compile a Christmas list is like asking Scrooge to pick out a turkey: one is likely to be disappointed with the results. Those of you who read my review of Eric Clapton's *Backless* probably question whether even a crumb of Christmas spirit could survive in the steely recesses of my cold, cold heart. Let me assure you that I am, indeed, capable of harboring a certain amount of holiday cheer, despite the advancing cold weather that finds me without even a decent overcoat. I only hope that I don't exhaust my store of goodwill in preparing this brief catalog.

Stan Getz: Another World
Bill Evans Trio with Warne Marsh and Lee Konitz: Crosscurrents
Pete Christlieb and Warne Marsh: Apogee
Dexter Gordon: Manhattan Symphonie

A pattern runs through these four tenor sax dominated albums: a refusal on the part of the musicians to capitulate to the temptation to go after the quick buck. Each album is an elegant rebuttal to fusion-jazz's claim to legitimacy, and it is encouraging that each appears on a major label that has invested heavily in the jazz-rock market.

Stan Getz's *Another World* presents the most consciously conceived argument for jazz as something more than merely electronic foot-tapping music. Getz states his case by employing the very weapons of

fusion to expose that genre's deficiencies. Although he plays an unadorned tenor for most of the album, Getz uses a Digital Delay with Moog Echoplex on several cuts to "out-Klemmer Klemmer" as one band member put it. Getz lifts the equipment above gimmickry, creating improvisations of stunning harmonic richness.

Both *Apogee* and *Crosscurrents* feature the tenor sax of Warne Marsh in single and duet improvisatory settings. Marsh developed his rhythmically sophisticated (not to mention complex) style playing in Lennie Tristano's post-bop groups. But where Tristano positively prohibited swinging, Marsh found new ways of doing it.

On *Crosscurrents* he teams with another Tristano crone, the brilliant Lee Konitz, as the front men for Bill Evan's trio of Eddie Gomez and Eliot Zigmund. Evans, of course, is among the most graceful and



'Another World'

records

eloquent of jazz pianists. *Crosscurrents* is a synthesis of cool lyricism and post-bop cerebral swing. The duet between Marsh and Konitz that introduces Cole Porter's "Night and Day" is a splendid example of the subtlety and magic of these two musicians.

Apogee shows us another side of Warne Marsh. The hard-swinging album's decidedly bebop orientation presents a marked contrast to the warmth of *Crosscurrents*. This album pairs Marsh with *Tonight Show* soloist and Tom Waits sideman Pete Christlieb, a straight-ahead swinger. The unison blowing on this album is smooth and precise, demonstrating awesome technique. Hard boppers can't afford to ignore this album, as no one else seems to be playing bop these days. A great gift for anyone who misses Charlie Parker.

Finally, Dexter Gordon's *Manhattan Symphonie* displays the lyrical tenor of the "repatriated" saxophone giant. The album is slanted toward ballad-tempo material, the effect being a kind of swinging impressionism. Even the generally up-beat Coltrane standard "Moment's Notice" is handled more gently than I've ever heard it. Remarkably lush for an ensemble this size (Gordon is fronting a quartet here, featuring the compositions and piano of George Cables along with the standards rendered), *Manhattan Symphonie* is emotive and engaging.

Bobby Hutcherson: Highway One

It's difficult to be number three on an instrument for which only two musicians are universally known, but vibraphonist Bobby Hutcherson is a victim of such an unjust



'Suite for Violin and Jazz Piano'

misfortune. It is only in popularity, however, that Hutcherson is eclipsed by Gary Burton and Milt Jackson, for *Highway One* is a soft, suggestive album of exceedingly rich tone color and melodic interest.

Hutcherson is backed on the album by Hubert Laws and Freddie Hubbard, two musicians of unquestioned ability if somewhat inconsistent output. This album also features George Cables on piano, and Hutcherson performs three of Cables' compositions. The only time I've ever seen Cables live, he was playing with Freddie Hubbard and was pitifully drunk. It's nice to see him amounting to something.

Claude Bolling: Suite for Violin and Jazz Piano

Sequels are almost never as satisfying as the originals that spawn them. I learned that hard lesson sitting through all eight offspring of *Planet of the Apes*. Now and then,

see RECORDS on page 5

SPECIAL

Mon & Tues nights • 5pm 'til close

All-you-can-eat!



All-you-can-eat Spaghetti Dinner

Includes:

- Special meat sauce
- Parmesan cheese
- Toasted Grecian bread

\$2⁷⁹



All-you-can-eat Fried Chicken Filets with Sweet 'N Sour sauce

Includes:

- Boneless filets of all white meat.
- Sweet 'N Sour Sauce
- French fries
- Toasted Grecian bread

\$3²⁹



Both include All-you-can-eat Salad Bar

Make-it-yourself from 21 items including garden-fresh vegetables • seasoned croutons • crackers • choice of dressing.

Shoney's will offer this special Mon. & Tues. nights Dec. 11 & 12; 18 & 19. And Shoney's wishes everyone a very merry Christmas.




You're gonna love

SHONEY'S

of Chapel Hill




At Chapel Hill Store
132 W. Franklin St. 929-2115



Phidippides


ATHLETES' FOOT-WEAR & ACCESSORIES

RUNNING — TENNIS — BASKETBALL
BASEBALL — SOCCER



Specializing in Adidas Footwear.

Phidippides wishes Everyone a Merry Christmas!



RACKET STRINGING — ROAD RUNNING — TRACK INFORMATION
RACQUETTE BALL — HANDBALL ACCESSORIES
— TWO LOCATIONS —

UNIVERSITY SQUARE
West Franklin St.
Facing Granville Towers
Chapel Hill
942-1073

HOLLY HILL MALL
Burlington, N.C.
584-0109