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Make This A Record Year

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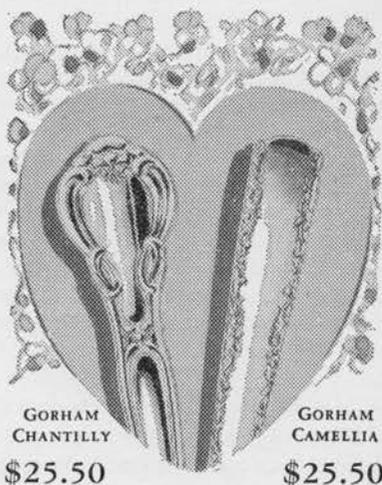


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Make This a RECORD Year

by Peggy Krenck

HAVE YOU ever said, "I don't know much about music, but I know what I like when I hear it?" That's a funny thing about music—it vanishes into thin air once it is heard. If those ever-evasive titles and composers slip your mind, that music won't come back until you just happen to hear it again. But with each hearing it becomes more a part of you, and it can be yours just for the listening.

A well-rounded record library may grow to be a vital part of any home. Begin your collection with a few favorites, and go on from there. If you plan carefully, you will lay a foundation of all forms of music. Then even a small collection will wear well and never grow old.



An overture is always a good beginning. As a curtain-raiser for an opera or drama, it sets the mood and implies what is to come later. Most fun are the Rossini Overtures played by Toscanini and the N. B. C. Orchestra in the Victor album. "Fingal's Cave" from "The Hébrides" by Mendelssohn is also an old favorite.

Or there is no better place to start than with Mozart's "Symphony No. 35 in D Major." Better known as the "Haffner" symphony, it was written to be played at a celebration for Sigmund Haffner, a rich merchant and burgomaster at Salzburg. You will find its festive spirit contagious.

While you are still suffering from the symphony bug, be sure to try Tschaiakowsky's "Symphony No. 5." Its melodies are the kind that will stay with you. Or if it's slam-bang music you want, you might try Tschaiakowsky's "Symphony No. 4." Its last movement does all but tear off the roof.

Beethoven's your man if you like music with beautiful themes developed and reworked many

times. Of his sonatas, a wise beginning choice would be the "Pathetique."

Grieg's "Piano Concerto in A minor" might well be chosen next. Of the wide range of piano concertos, its appeal ranks high. Since a concerto is written for a solo instrument with orchestral accompaniment, you may choose your favorite instrument to star.

Musical Cocktails

Most everybody likes the "Roumanian Rhapsodies 1 and 2" by Enesco. These might be considered the musical cocktail of your collection.

You can't go wrong on Kriesler's violin album called "My Favorites." It includes "Liebesfreud," "Liebesleid," "Caprice Viennois," "Tambourin Chinois," "An Old Refrain" and "Fair Rosemary." Fritz Kriesler played this group of concert pieces as encores for years without telling that they were his own compositions.

For the best concert treatment of the ever-popular Strauss waltzes, Ed Wegener, production manager of WOI recommends the album by Eugene Ormandy and the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra. It includes "Tales of the Vienna Wood," "The Blue Danube," "Acceleration Waltz" and the "Gypsy Baron" and "Die Fledermaus" overtures.

Ballet Music

With ballet music comes "Swan Lake" by Tchaikovsky. It brings to life all the charm and fantasy of fairy-tale days with a prince and enchanted princess. Along with this music that tells a story comes the suite. Some of the best music of this type is national-

istic, such as "The Moldau" by Smetana. It tells the story of the beautiful river which flows through Czechoslovakia.

For really modern music, there is "El Salon Mexico" by Copeland, which describes the composer's impressions of Mexico in music. "You don't have to poke around in his music to get it out," according to Mr. Wegener. Another of Copeland's compositions is the ballet called "Rodeo."

If you have a yen for George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue," be careful which recording you select. The many recordings vary. And don't stop with "Rhapsody in Blue." Listen to "Concerto in F" before you decide.

Christmas Carols

If it's choral music you want, the Victor Choral under the direction of Robert Shaw has turned out some fine work. One of their best is an album of the traditional Christmas carols done with new life and vitality.

In sacred music, the two albums of "Oratorio Arias" sung by Richard Crooks and Eleanor Steber are excellent.

Don't overlook the many fine single records. "The Nutcracker Suite," done by Fred Waring on two sides of an unbreakable record, is a nice addition to a collection.

With Christmas just around the corner, these suggestions may also help you select gifts for your friends. Presents can be so much nicer if they have a thought to go with them. And you will find music to fit every personality and mood.



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