

The Beginning of an Odyssey

By late 1955, the Chess brothers were well aware of the pattern. Disc jockeys at radio stations that played pop music were reluctant to play anything from Chess or Checker unless it was already showing evidence of popular appeal. The Chess labels were known as "R&B labels," and for good reason, but that left them out of potentially reaching wider audiences more quickly. Therefore, they conceived of a new label that would cater to a pop audience.

That label they named Marterry, after the Chess brothers' sons: Marshall and Terry. They released one album by Al Hibbler in November 1955. After that, the Chess brothers decided that Marterry needed an official startup. On December 17th, they announced the rationale behind Marterry and an official startup at the beginning of 1956.

By that time, Leonard Chess had planned to reissue songs from the Crystalette Records (1949-1954) catalog – including specifically the pre-Capitol Kay Starr recordings that Crystalette had obtained from Lamplighter Records. That idea seemed not to get past the planning stage, for Crystalette reopened in 1956 and began pressing new singles.

Having released just one album, the plan called for Marterry to release one by Kay Starr and another by Pinky Winters. After the deal for Starr's masters fell through, Leonard Chess rethought the concept for Marterry – a label that released just two singles in February 1956. This led to Marterry becoming Argo Records.



Chess Bros.' Marterry Label To Hit Stands

CHICAGO, Jan. 28.—The first releases on the new Marterry label, to be launched here by the Chess Brothers, will hit the stands next week. Initially, the company will put out two pop singles, and two 12-inch LP's will be ready for shipment on February 15.

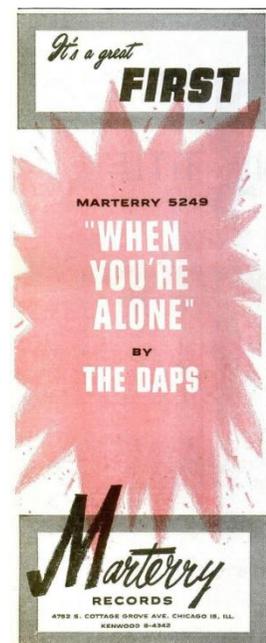
The label, which has been planned in order to insure pop coverage and exposure on material turned up by the brothers' Chess and Checker operations, will be sold thru an entirely different set of distributors (The Billboard, December 24). Chess and Checker are mainly rhythm and blues oriented.

Last week, Leonard Chess returned from a trip to the West Coast, bringing with him the entire old Crystalette record catalog, which he purchased there. This includes 28 Kay Starr masters, plus several erstwhile hits by Mr. Goon Bones, including "Sweet Georgia Brown."

In addition to the previously reported signing of thrush Savannah Churchill for Marterry, the label has inked ballad singer Bull Moose

Jackson, formerly with King, and the Daps, a vocal group. Bobby (Later Alligator) Charles, whose current hit is on Chess, will be shifted to Marterry. In the jazz line, Chess signed "cool" thrush Pinky Winters in California.

The first two LP's will carry programs by Misses Winters and Starr.



Argo Label Styles

Label 56

Black-and-white label with a drawing of the Argo, the ship that Argus constructed for the Argonauts – who sailed with Jason in search of the Golden Fleece.



Label 57

ARGO runs vertically down the left side, with “ULTRA HIGH FIDELITY.”

Mono: Black label with silver print

Some copies (from mid-1958 on) have the additional print “Audio Odyssey by Argo” at the top.

Records with and without the “Audio Odyssey” print appear through 1959.

The presence or absence of the additional words varies by pressing plant, but which printers used the additional words seems to vary from album to album.

Stereo: Gold label with black print

Albums have the print “Stereo Odyssey by Argo” at the top.

This label was used only on stereo records, beginning in 1958.



Label 60

ARGO runs vertically down the left side, with "ULTRA HIGH FIDELITY."

Mono: Gray label with black print

"Audio Odyssey by Argo" at the top.

This label was used on mono albums from spring 1960 until 1965.

Stereo: Blue label with black print

ARGO runs vertically down the left side, with "ULTRA HIGH FIDELITY."

"Stereo Odyssey by Argo" at the top.

This label was used on stereo albums from spring 1960 until 1965.



Label 64

Mustard, pink and white label

"Audio Odyssey" at the top.

This label was used (somewhat randomly) on a few albums in 1964.

It is similar to the label that Argo used on their singles.



See the end of this article for Cadet label styles.

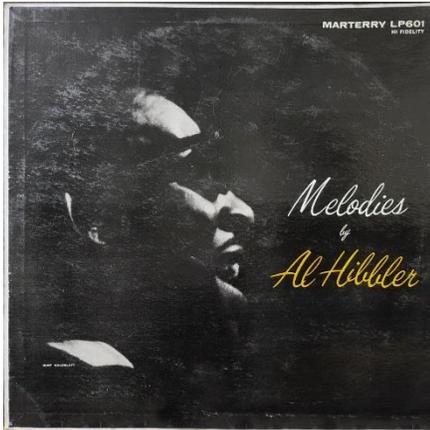
Melodies by Al Hibbler

Al Hibbler

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: November 12, 1955

This is a collection of singles that Hibbler recorded for the Sunrise label in the late 1940s, and which Chess purchased in February 1951 and reissued over the subsequent years.

Marterry 601



"MELODIES by AL HIBBLER"—Marterry LP 601 (12" LP)
 WHAT WILL I TELL MY HEART; POOR BUTTERFLY; MY LITTLE BROWN BOOK; FEATHER ROLL BLUES; I LOVE YOU; SOLITUDE; LOVER COME BACK TO ME; TREES; IT DON'T MEAN A THING; FAT AND FORTY.

It is very fortunate that sooner or later the great jazz singers are "discovered" by the non-jazz conscious record buyer—the pop music enthusiast. This year Al Hibbler made the jump when he clicked with his smash waxing of "Un-chained" and he's proving that he's not a one-timer as the tune "He" continues to climb the lists. On this album, we hear Hibbler as he sounded some years ago, singing standards, blues and swing numbers. The record could be tagged a collector's item and should reveal to all of Hibbler's newer enthusiasts, the many facets of the singer's great talent. Hibbler's former fans should also enjoy this greatly.

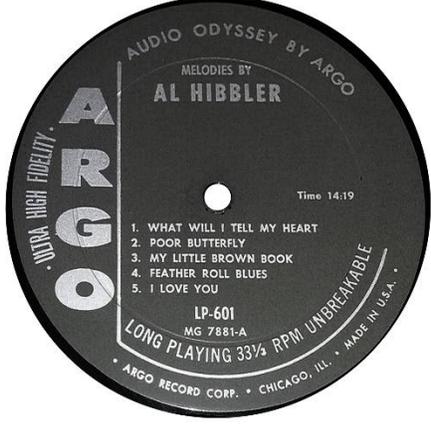
Reissued in 1957 on the Argo label:

Chess Pop Label Changes Name

CHICAGO — Len Chess of Chess and Checker Records is changing the name of his pop label, "Marterry" to "Argo".

The first release on the newly changed label, now being recorded, will feature James Moody and his alto sax with Eddie Jefferson doing the vocal chores on "Moody's Mood for Love".

After complaints from bandleader Ralph Marterie, who was based in Chicago (as was Chess), Leonard Chess suggested in mid-March that he was seeking to change the name of the label. Within two weeks, they had selected the name Argo.



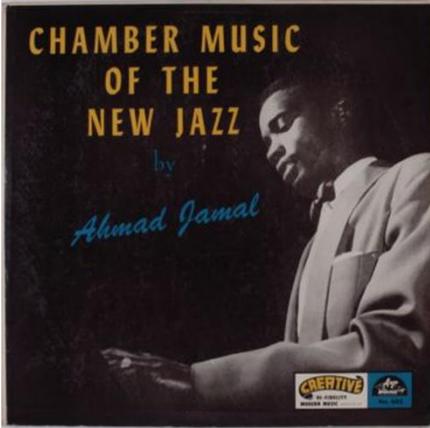
Chamber Music of the New Jazz

Ahmad Jamal

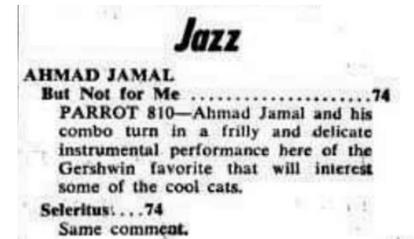
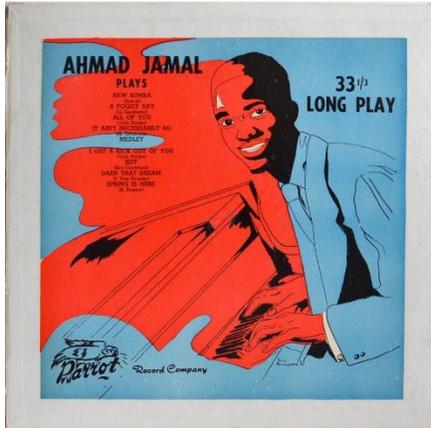
First Appearance in Trade Magazines: August 18, 1956

ALP-602

Label 56

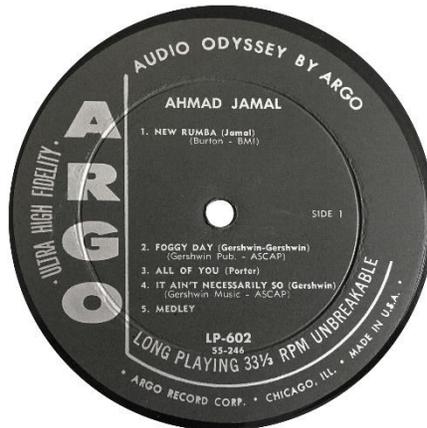
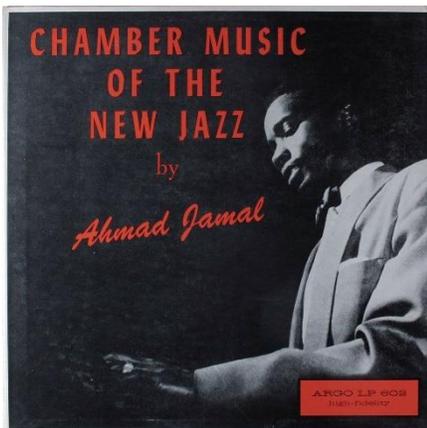


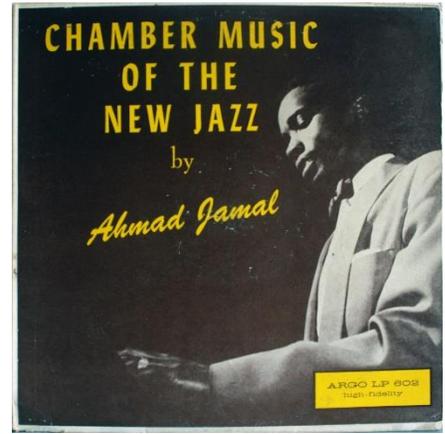
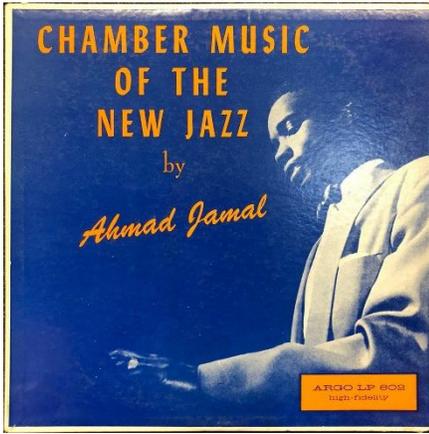
After some success in early 1955 on the Parrot label, Ahmad Jamal recorded an album, which was released later in the year. Argo bought the masters for the album and signed Jamal to a recording contract. *Chamber Music of the New Jazz* was Argo's release of the Parrot album.



Label 57

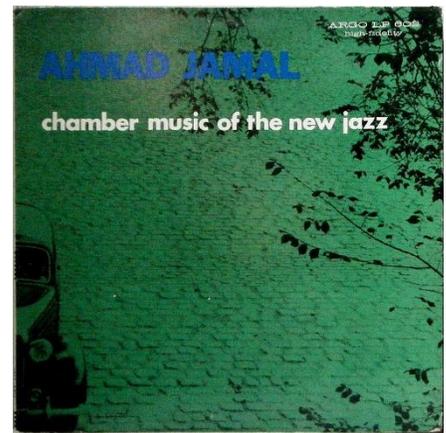
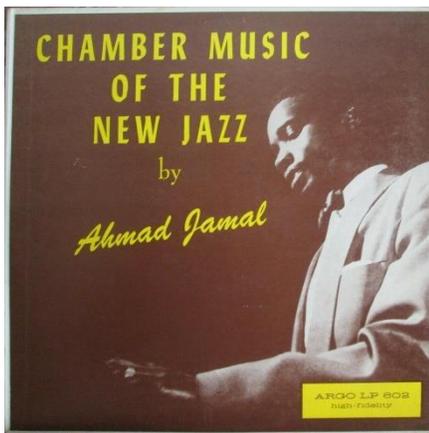
LP-602





Beginning in 1957, Argo reissued the album several times. The first major change replaced the “Creative” tag on the front cover with what was then a more typical Argo designator. The album cover changed color configurations several times, with the last one appearing to be the one with yellow print.

Label 60



In about 1960, Argo redesigned the album’s sleeve art.

Cadet reissued the album in rechanneled stereo in 1967 (Label 65) and again in 1975.

ARGO
The home of
"CREATIVE"
Hi-Fidelity Modern Music.

WHERE TOP-SELLING
ALBUMS ARE
CREATED
MORE OFTEN
FOR YOUR
PLEASURE.

ARGO #602
LP ALBUM
"CHAMBER MUSIC OF THE NEW JAZZ"
(12 live selections)
with
AHMAD JAMAL
Piano music at its best with one of the country's top musicians.
\$3.98 LIST

ARGO #603
LP ALBUM
"FLUTE 'N THE BLUES"
(10 fine selections)
with
James Moody
and his flute
Eddy Jefferson, vocal
The finest combination of its kind making music that hits the hearts of everyone. Should be a big seller.
\$3.98 LIST

ARGO #604
LP ALBUM
"LONELY ONE"
(11 beautiful selections)
with
Pinky Winters (Miss)
One of the finer feminine voices that has ear appeal—mellow and soothing. A great album.
\$3.98 LIST

ARGO #605
LP ALBUM
"WITHOUT SAUCE"
(12 top selections)
with
The Dick Lane Quartet
One of the most versatile groups in the country. Vocal and Instrumental.
\$3.98 LIST

ARGO RECORD CO. 4750 South Cottage Grove Ave., Chicago 16, Ill., Phone: KENwood 8-4342

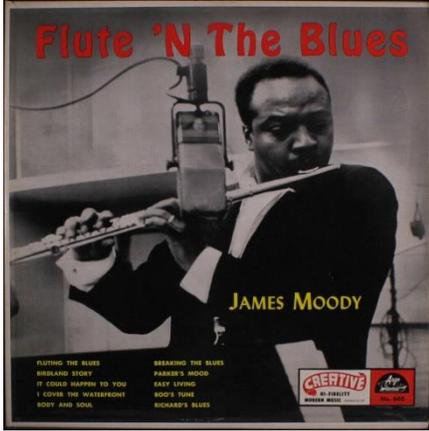
Flute 'n the Blues

James Moody

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: August 18, 1956

ALP-603

Label 56



FLUTE 'N THE BLUES

W HILE it is a pleasure to high up on the record label of James Moody's "Flute 'N The Blues" the pleasure of listening to the music is even greater. The album is a masterpiece of jazz and blues, and it is a pleasure to hear James Moody play the flute with such skill and feeling.

COVER THE WATERFRONT - THE BIRDLAND STORY - THE FLUTE 'N THE BLUES - THE BODY AND SOUL - THE IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU - THE I COVER THE WATERFRONT - THE BODY AND SOUL - THE RICHARD'S BLUES - THE EASY LIVING - THE PARKER'S MOOD - THE BREAKING THE BLUES - THE JAMES MOODY.

by Joe Segal

Titles	
FLUTE 'N THE BLUES	4:17
BIRDLAND STORY	3:30
IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU	4:40
I COVER THE WATERFRONT	3:40
BODY AND SOUL	3:30
RICHARD'S BLUES	4:17
EASY LIVING	3:30
PARKER'S MOOD	3:30
BREAKING THE BLUES	4:17

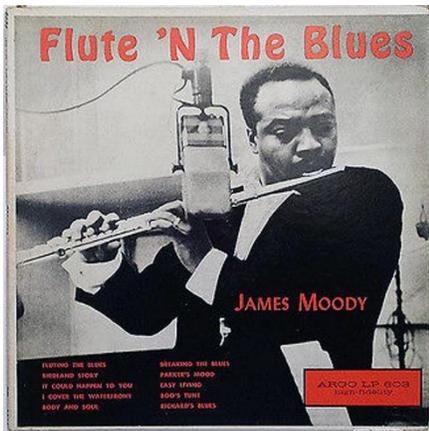
NEW ALBUMS - NEW STYLING

CHANGING MUSIC OF THE NEW JAZZ

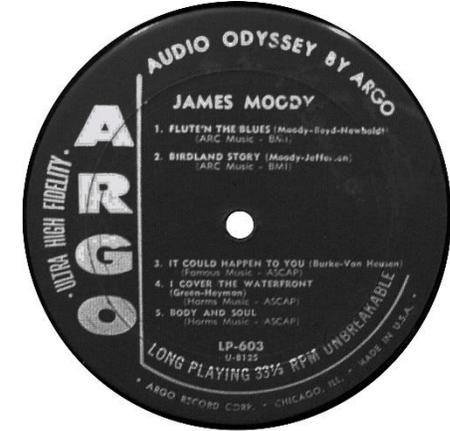
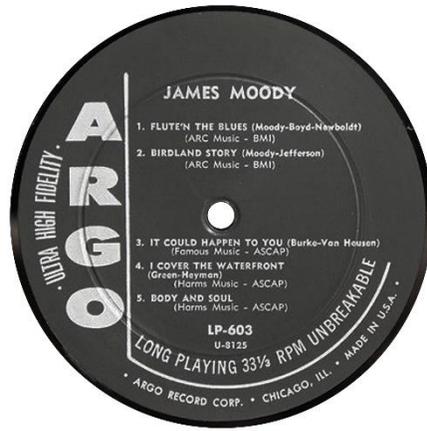
NEW MUSIC
A NEW SOUND
IF ANY INDESTRUCTIBLE
RECORDS COULD BE MADE
THEY WOULD BE THESE



Label 57



LP-603



Label 60



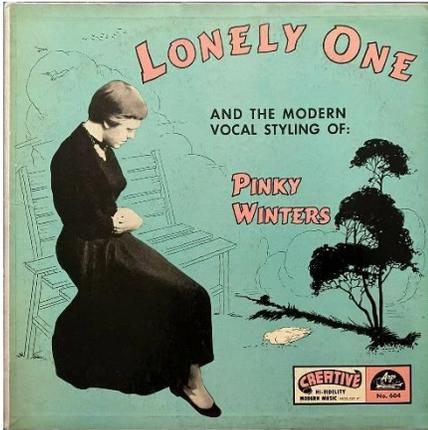
Cadet reissued the album in rechanneled stereo in 1967 (Label 65), in 1971, and again in 1975.

Lonely One
Pinky Winters

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: August 18, 1956

Label 56

ALP-604



The album was reissued later in 1956 with a different front cover. It did not appear on any of the later Argo label styles.



Ms. Winters (Phyllis Wozniak) recorded only two albums during the 50s. This album from 1956, and a ten-inch LP from 1954 (Vantage VLP-3).

Doorway to Dixie

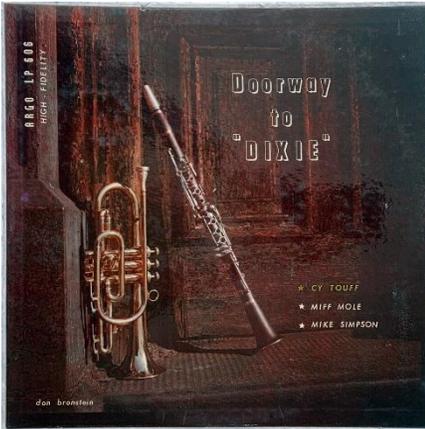
Cy Touff & Miff Mole

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: March 23, 1957

Reviewed April 29, 1957

LP-606

Label 57



DOORWAY TO DIXIE 66
Cy Touff, Miff Mole and Mike Simpson (1-12")
Argo LP 606
 Contrasting sides of current and older way with Dixieland (unidentified on label 'ut unmistakable). Four Mole numbers, vintage 1949, have vitality and authority lacking in the Cy Touff efforts, but young bass trumpeter acquires himself well ("Basin Street Blues"). Not top merchandise, but salable.

Norman Simmons Trio

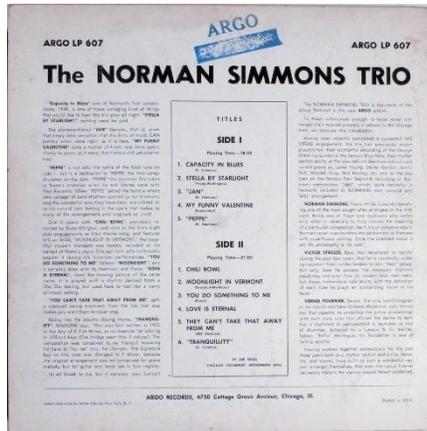
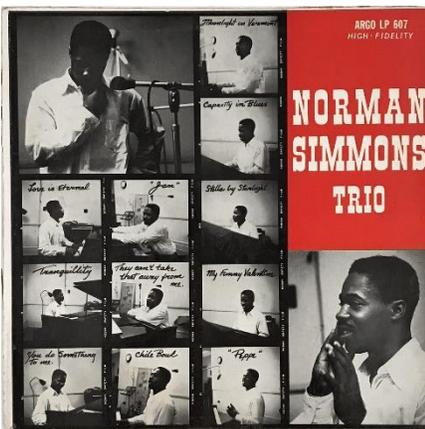
Norman Simmons Trio

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: March 23, 1957

Reviewed April 29, 1957

LP-607

Label 57



Zoot

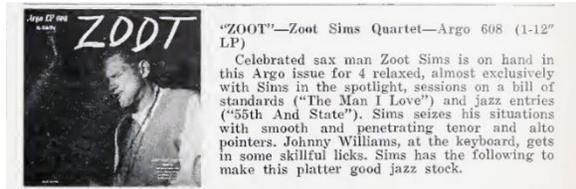
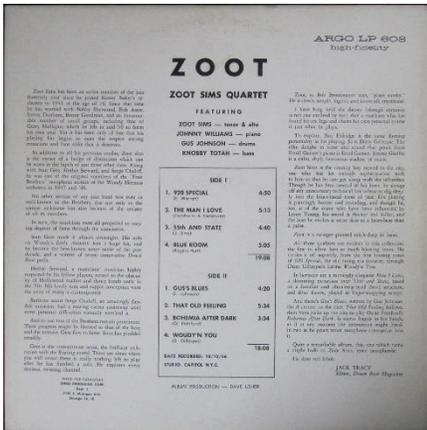
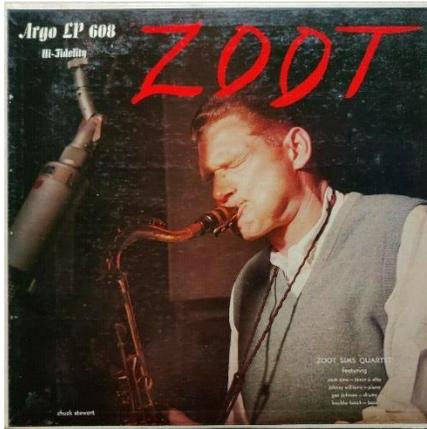
Zoot Sims Quartet

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: March 23, 1957

Reviewed: May 4, 1957

Label 57

LP-608



The second back cover has the album number at the top and bottom written in what would be the standard typeface that Chess/Checker/Argo used. In addition, Argo added a credit to Dave Usher for production and changed the address.

Label 60



Cadet reissued the album in rechanneled stereo in 1975.

Chicago Scene

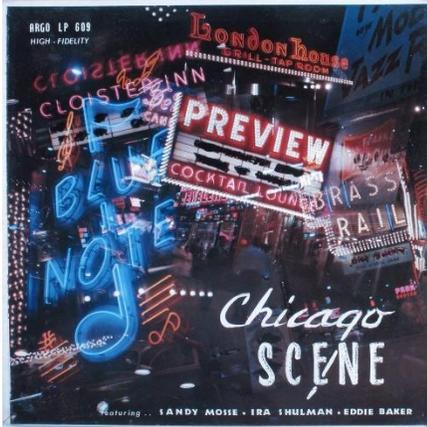
LP-609

Sandy Mosse, Ira Schulman, Eddie Baker

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: **March 23, 1957**

Reviewed: **May 2, 1957**

Label 57



Count 'Em 88

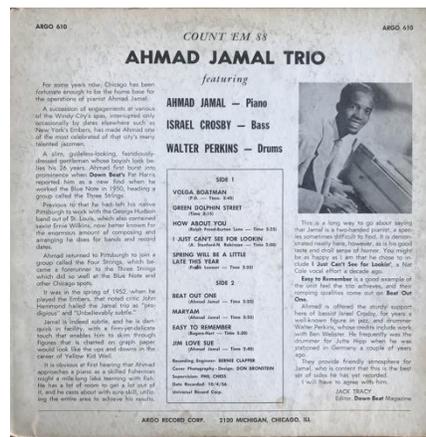
LP-610

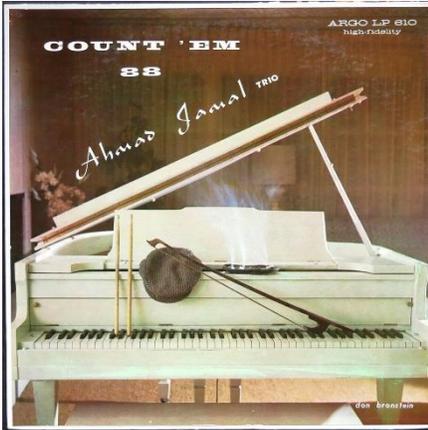
Ahmad Jamal Trio

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: **March 23, 1957**

Reviewed: **April 18, 1957; May 20, 1957**

Label 57





ARGO LP 610 High Fidelity

COUNT 'EM 88

AHMAD JAMAL TRIO

featuring

AHMAD JAMAL — Piano
ISRAEL CROSSBY — Bass
WALTER PERKINS — Drums

VOLGA BOATMAN
 (P. D. arr. Arc Music - BMI)

GREEN DOLPHIN STREET
 (Leo Feist - ASCAP)

HOW ABOUT YOU
 (Ralph Freed-Burton Lane, Leo Feist-ASCAP)

CAN'T SEE FOR LOOKING
 (A. Stantford - N. Robinson - Michal H. Goldsen - ASCAP)

SPRING WILL BE A LITTLE LATE THIS YEAR
 (Frank Loesser - Frank Music - ASCAP)

BEAT OUT ONE
 (Murray - Leo Feist - ASCAP)

EASY TO REMEMBER
 (Murray - Leo Feist - ASCAP)

JIM LOVE SOLO
 (Murray - Leo Feist - ASCAP)

Reissued by Argosy - 1964
 Cover: Raymond - Design: DON BERKMAN
 Reprinted: 1964, 1971
 Reissued: 1975

CHES PRODUCTIONS CORP.
 1305 N. WILSON
 CHICAGO 14, ILL.



Label 60



Cadet reissued the album in rechanneled stereo in 1971 and 1975.

Ramsey Lewis and his Gentle-Men of Swing

LP-611

Ramsey Lewis

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: March 23, 1957

Ad: March 30, 1957

Label 57



ARGO
RECORDS PRESENT
A NEW RECORDING STAR
Ramsey Lewis
AND HIS TRIO
with their first LP
Argo #611
**"THE GENTLE-MEN
OF SWING"**

Label 60



Argo reissued this album in 1966 as *Swingin'* (Argo LP-711). They reissued it in rechanneled stereo with the new title in 1967 and 1975. Later in the 70s, they returned the album to its original cover and title and reissued it again in rechanneled stereo.

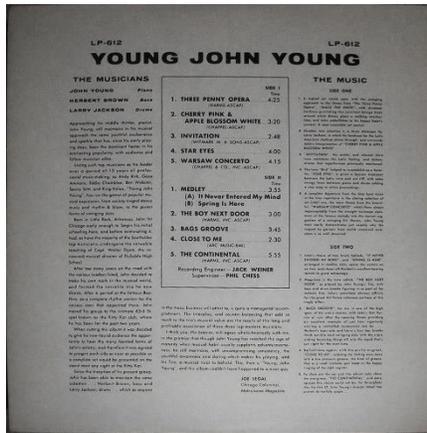
Young John Young

LP-612

The John Young Trio

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: June 22, 1957 (Advance)

Label 57



Moody's Mood for Love

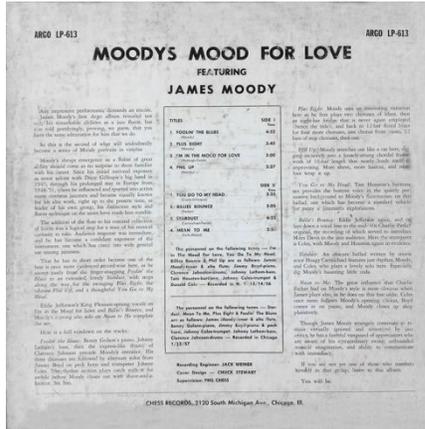
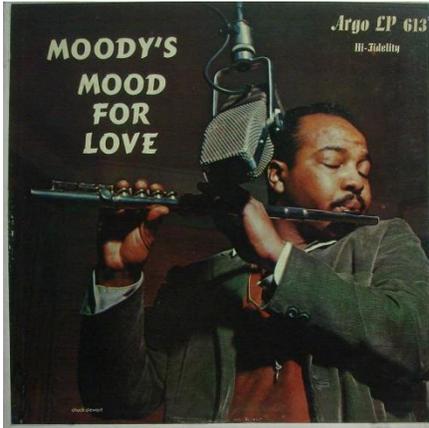
Ramsey Lewis

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: **March 23, 1957**

Comments: August 10, 1957

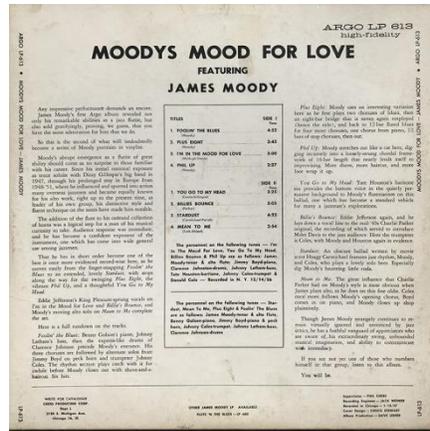
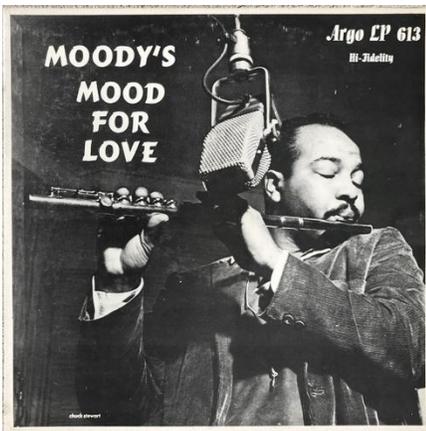
Label 57

LP-613



ing set-up, Superior Sales. Sam Weiss says they are doing very well with "He's Gone" by The Chantels on End; "Sun Is Shining" by Jimmy Reed on Vee-Jay; and "Moody's Mood For Love"—the Argo I.P.

Label 60



Cadet reissued the LP in rechanneled stereo in 1968, 1971, and 1975.

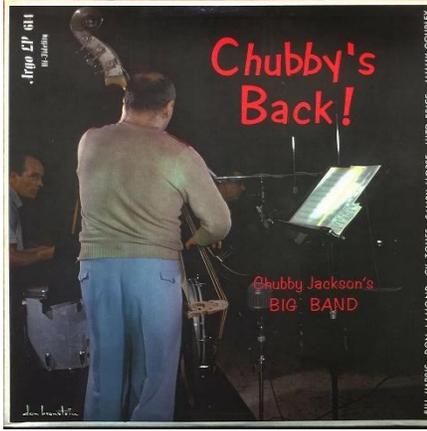
Chubby's Back

Chubby Jackson's Big Band

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: September 30, 1957

Label 57

LP-614



LP-614
CHUBBY'S BACK
Chubby Jackson's Big Band

PERSONNEL: Trumpet: Chubby Jackson, Johnny Powell, Don Gomez, and Joe Sibley; Trombone: Bill Harris, and Jimmy Douglas; Bass: Jimmy G. Hoff; Reeds: Howard Davis, Sandy Mosse, Vito Price, and Bill Clark; Drums: Raynor-Mary Robinson, Woody Chubby Jackson, Sam Newkirk; Piano: Chubby Jackson; Vocal: Sam Newkirk; Guitar: Joe Douglas; Solo: Gordon Lee Leonard, Drives

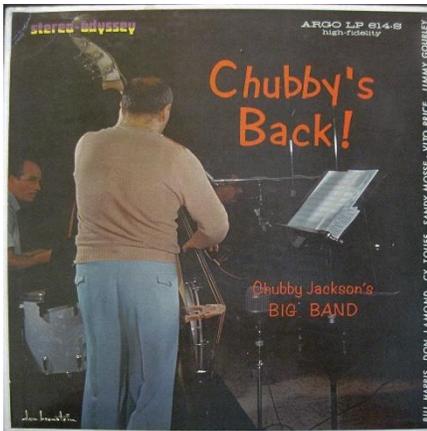
SIDE ONE	TIME
TINY'S BLUES	3:50
RAFFLES	3:52
LET'S TALK	3:12
MOTHER KNICKERBOPPER	4:51

SIDE TWO	TIME
KESTER PARADE	7:00
FLYING THE COOP	4:01
FLYING THE COOP	3:51



CHUBBY'S BACK (1-12")—Chubby Jackson's Big Band. Argo LP 614—Excellent big band disk made in Chicago by several Herman vets, plus talented natives. Soloists include Bill Harris, Cy Touff, talented tenorman Vito Price and highly-touted Sandy Mosse. Style is Woody Herman tempered by Basie—modern, but swinging and accessible. Will interest collectors.

Argo pressed Chubby's album in stereo in summer 1959.



ARGO LP 614-S high-fidelity
CHUBBY'S BACK
Chubby Jackson's Big Band

PERSONNEL: Trumpet: Chubby Jackson, Johnny Powell, Don Gomez, and Joe Sibley; Trombone: Bill Harris, and Jimmy Douglas; Bass: Jimmy G. Hoff; Reeds: Howard Davis, Sandy Mosse, Vito Price, and Bill Clark; Drums: Raynor-Mary Robinson, Woody Chubby Jackson, Sam Newkirk; Piano: Chubby Jackson; Vocal: Sam Newkirk; Guitar: Joe Douglas; Solo: Gordon Lee Leonard, Drives

SIDE ONE	TIME
TINY'S BLUES	3:50
RAFFLES	3:52
LET'S TALK	3:12
MOTHER KNICKERBOPPER	4:51

SIDE TWO	TIME
KESTER PARADE	7:00
FLYING THE COOP	4:01
FLYING THE COOP	3:51



Cadet reissued the album in 1965.

Swingin' Down the Lane

LP-615

Dick Lane Quartet

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: no show (released spring 1958)

Recorded January 15, 1958

Label 57



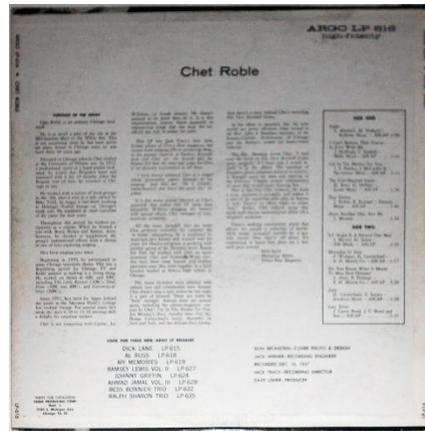
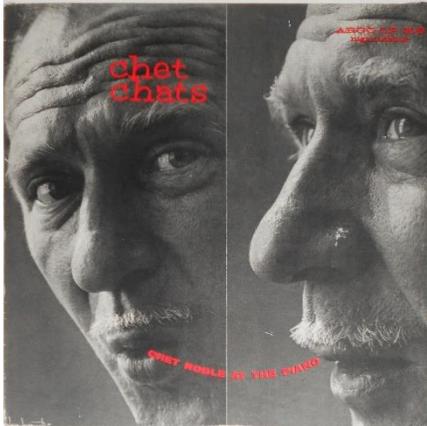
Chet Chats

LP-616

Chet Roble

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: October 4, 1958

Label 57



**Chess Releases
Chet Robles LP**

CHICAGO—Leonard Chess, prexy of Chess Producing Company, this city, announced the release last week of jazz pianist Chet Robles' album "Chet Chats" on the subsidiary Argo label.

Robles, a popular jazz pianist and raconteur, has made the scene here for years in intimate clubs, and via radio and television.

Chess advises that he plans to increase considerably the skedding of jazz LP's during the remainder of the year on Argo.

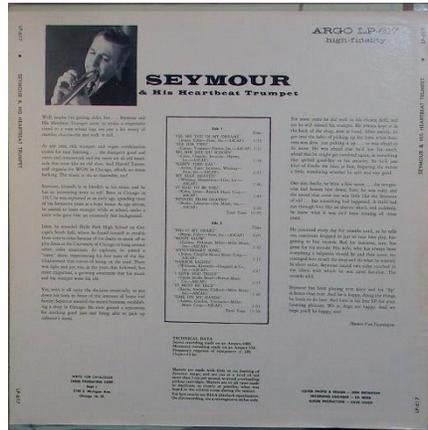
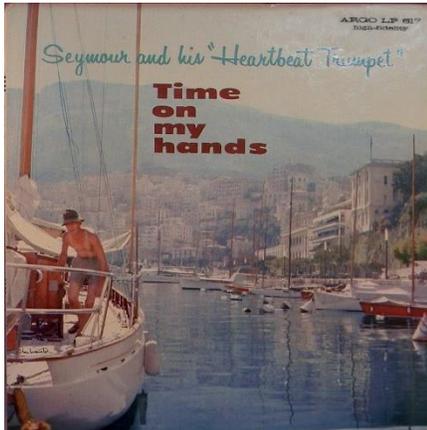
Time on My Hands

LP-617

Seymour and his "Heartbeat Trumpet"

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: July 20, 1959

Label 57



This album was scheduled to be released in stereo in July 1959, but the Argo checklist does not show a stereo release for the album. According to Robert L. Campbell's pages, Seymour Schwartz had recorded the album in mono.

★★★ TIME ON MY HANDS
Seymour and His "Heartbeat Trumpet."
 Argo LP 617. Sweet, melodious trumpet work by Seymour in the old Henry Busse-pre-swing style, that should appeal to many. Seymour plays over the organ accompaniment of Harold Turner and the sound is attractive. Tunes include old favorites such as "Tea for Two," "Peg 'o My Heart," "It Had to Be You," and "Time on My Hands."

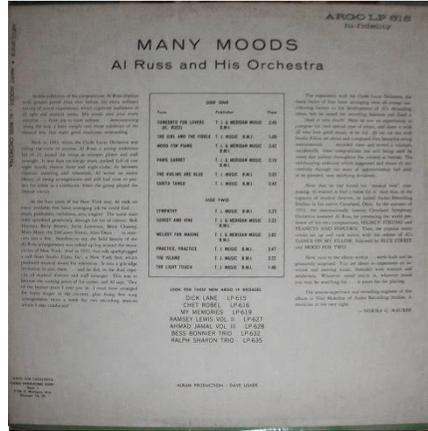
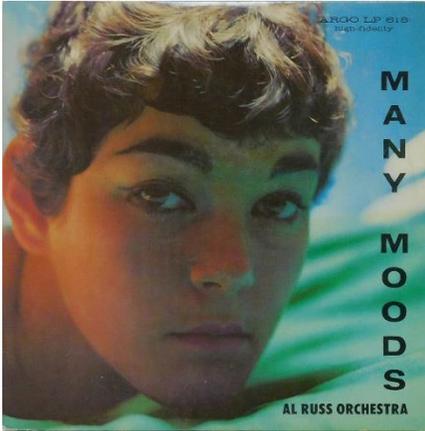
Many Moods

LP-618

Al Russ and His Orchestra

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: August 18, 1958

Label 57



AHMAD JAMAL
 jazz best-sellers
 1. Ahmad Jamal, But Not For Me (Argo 628)

SEPTEMBER 4, 1958

LP628 BUT NOT FOR ME
 LP602 CHAMBER MUSIC OF JAZZ
 LP610 COUNT EM "88"
 EP1076 MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC
 45-5294 BUT NOT FOR ME/MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC

NEW RELEASES

SONNY STITT
 LP629
SWINGIN' THE LOOP
 VITO PRICE LP631
CHUBBY'S BACK
 CHUBBY JACKSON LP614
CHUBBY SAYS
 CHUBBY JACKSON LP625

THEME FOR THE TALL ONE
 BESS BONNIER LP632

AUDIO CATALOG

- 601 AL HIBBLER
- 603 JAMES MOODY, VOL. 1
- 604 PINKY WINTERS
- 605 DICK LANE, VOL. 1
- 605 DOORWAY TO DIXIE (MIFF MOLE & CY TOUFF)
- 607 NORMAN SIMMONS
- 608 ZOOT SIMS
- 609 CHICAGO SCENE
- 611 RAMSEY LEWIS, VOL. 1
- 612 JOHN YOUNG TRIO
- 613 MOODY'S MOOD FOR LOVE, JAMES MOODY, VOL. 2
- 615 DICK LANE, VOL. 2
- 616 CHET ROBLE
- 618 MANY MOODS, AL RUSS & HIS ORCHESTRA
- 620 OUT ON A LIMB, CLARK TERRY
- 621 MJT + 3
- 622 THE JAZZ EXPONENTS
- 623 MAX
- 624 JOHNNY GRIFFIN
- 626 COOKIN, PAUL GONSALVES
- 627 RAMSEY LEWIS, VOL. 2
- 630 JIMMY WOODE
- 633 THIS IS ME J.C., J. C. HEARD
- 634 LATEEF AT CRANBROOK YUSEF LATEEF
- 635 2:38 AM, RALPH SHARON TRIO

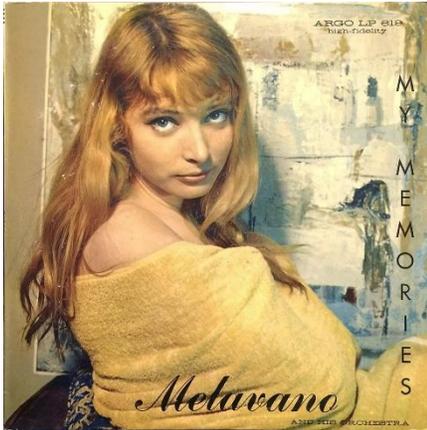
My Memories

LP-619

Melavano and His Orchestra

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: November 10, 1958

Label 57



My Memories

LP-619S

Melavano and His Orchestra

Stereo

Label 57



MY MEMORIES
Melavano Ork. Argo LP 619
 Here's an album for easy listening, consisting of relaxed and warm arrangements of a collection of standards and originals played in smooth style by the Melavano Ork, a new English organization. The set could be called background music, but it's much better than the average background music set and the performance is also much better than average. Tunes include "Falling Leaves," "Me and My Shadow," and "To Each His Own." Release could grab sales if displayed and exposed.

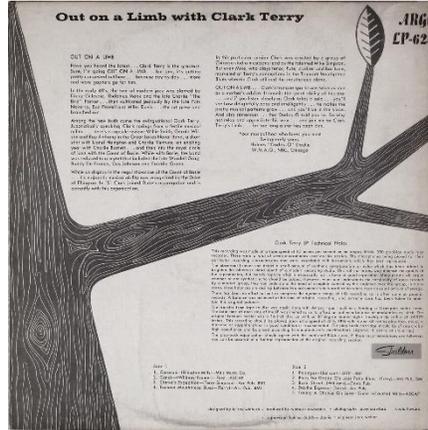
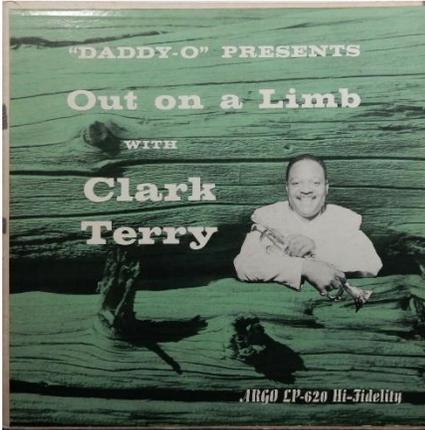
Out on a Limb

Clark Terry

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: May 1958

LP-620

Label 57



Out on a Limb
Clark Terry
Argo 620

C
B
B
Terry



Terry, an Ellingtonian since '51, is still for short of due recognition as one of the two or three most original trumpet players in jazz. This is partly his own fault; on these sides, for instance, surrounded by unnamed mediocrities, he tends too often toward trick effects, too seldom to honest expression. Material includes battle-fatigued standards like Caravan and Basin Street. Yet there are wonderful moments, and the set must be recommended to dedicated Terry fans. Liner notes: Refer to Terry's "majazzic musical ability," state that "more and more gophers go for him", etc. Name none of the Chicago musicians involved except reedman Mike Simpson.

L. Feather

MJT + 3

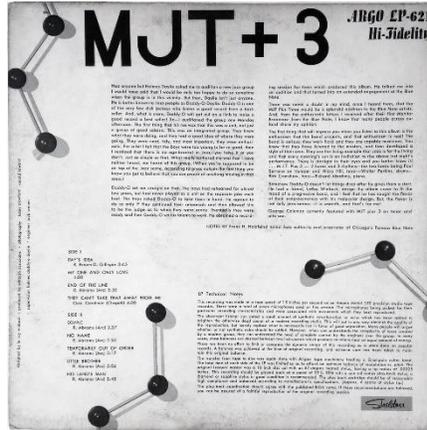
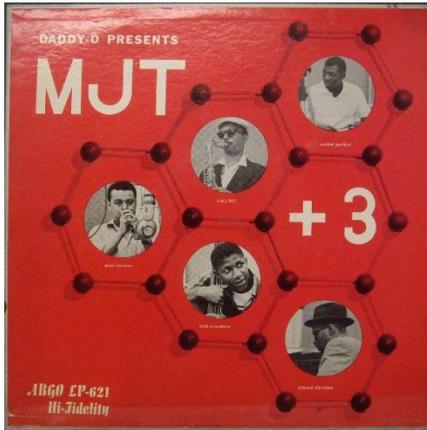
LP-621

MJT + 3

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: July 24, 1958

Probably released in June.

Label 57



Paul Serrano-Nicky Hill
MJT PLUS 3—Argo 621: Ray's Idea; My One and Only Love; End of the Line; They Can't Take That Away from Me; Ezzie's No Name; Temporarily out of Order; Little Brother; No Lord's Man.
 Personnel: Serrano, trumpet; Hill, tenor; Richard Abrams, piano; Bob Crosshaw, bass; Walter Perkins, drums.
 Rating: ★★½

MJT Plus 3 is a combo that had been rehearsing in Chicago for a couple of years before playing an extended engagement in the Blue Note during a period unrecorded in Frank Holzfeind's interesting notes.

Though both Serrano and Hill play forceful solos in the nine numbers recorded, the main strength and appeal of the group is felt in their ensemble work on the original lines written by pianist Abrams—pleasant modern tunes with occasional boppish overtones. All the numbers except *Ray's* and *They Can't* are Abrams'. Both trumpet and tenor sustain a close rapport in every case.

Of the principal soloists, Serrano is the more forthright. He plays with fluency and authoritativeness in either open or muted context. Hill shows nice tone, good technique, and acceptable taste, especially on his ballad solo (*Love*). Abrams is a strong, Garnerish player with considerable originality and a full, two-handed approach. (J.A.T.)

The Jazz Exponents

LP-622

The Jazz Exponents

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: November 10, 1958

Label 57



----- **Jazz Talent Albums** -----

THE JAZZ EXPONENTS
Argo LP 622

The versatile jazz group has a distinctive sound on a fine selection of tunes which include "Night in Tunisia," "The Preacher" and "Love Letters." Each member of the group which features Jack Gridley on vibes, piano and trombone; Bob Elliot, trombonium and piano; Norm Diamond on bass, and Dick Riordan show fine control. It's a fine first album for the group, and the set can be a good programming set for op as well as jazz jocks. It rates exposure.



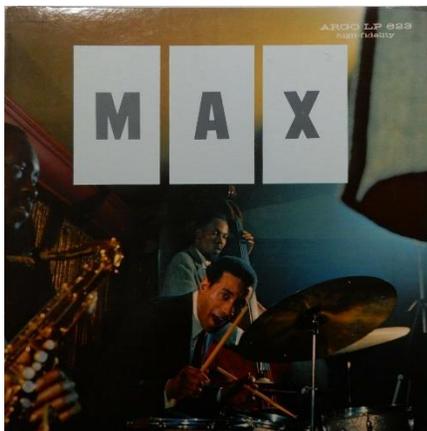
"MAX"

LP-623

Max Roach Quintette

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: November 15, 1958

Label 57





"MAX"—Max Roach, Drums—Argo LP 623

This Argo's first Roach attraction, and the event is occasioned by a rich, well-employed lineup of talent behind (often in front of) the top-drawer drummer. Roach, trumpeter Denny Darham, pianist Ramsey Lewis, tenor saxist Hank Mobley and bassist George Morrow romp with resourceful zest and, in several instances, with reflective warmth. "That Ole Devil Love" is the only standard on the six dates. Powerful jazz merchandise.

Label 60



Cadet reissued the album in mono on Label 65 and in rechanneled stereo on Label 75.

The Johnny Griffin Quartet

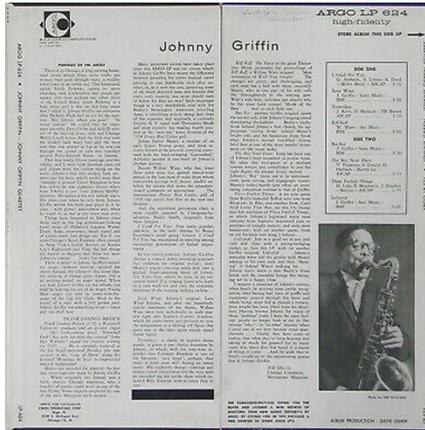
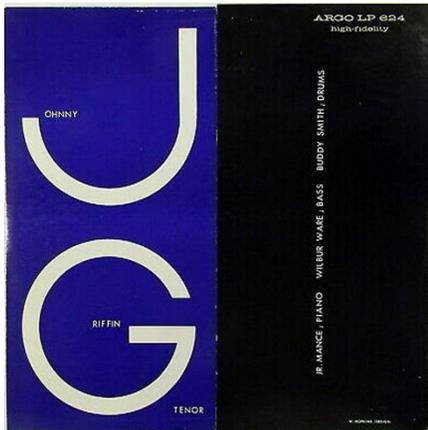
LP-624

The Johnny Griffin Quartet

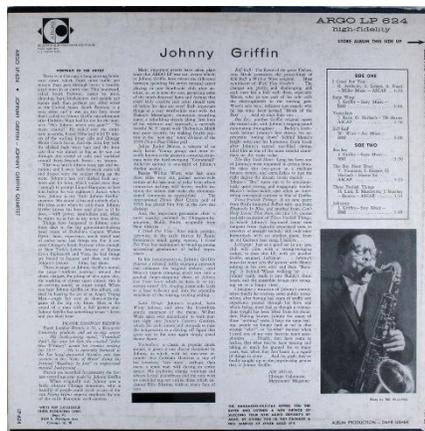
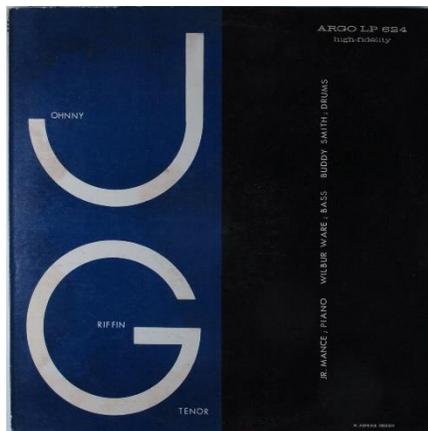
First Appearance in Trade Magazines: March 5, 1959

Probably released in February 1959.

Label 57



Griffin recorded this album in May/June 1955 for the Parrot label. The first pressing came in a “Kangaroo Split-Pak” cover which opened in the middle (by separating into two halves). These contained copies of a sampler EP (Argo S-100) which contained selections from Argo albums 636, 624, 635, 633, and 622.



A few later copies contained the EP in a more traditional cover. This second cover had an additional cardboard separator, being composed of three pieces of cardboard instead of two. Most later copies had standard covers and no EP. Cadet reissued the album on Label 75.

THE KANGAROO-SPLIT-PAK OFFERS YOU THE BUYER AND LISTENER A NEW METHOD OF SELECTING YOUR NEW AUDIO ODYSSEY'S BY ARGO, BY GIVING YOU IN THIS PACKAGE A FREE SAMPLER OF OTHER ARGO LP'S.

Johnny Griffin
 JG—Argo LP 624: *I Cried For You; Satin Wrap; Yesterdays; Riff-Raff; Bew-Ess; The Boy Next Door; These Foolish Things; Lollipop.*
 Personnel: Griffin, tenor sax; Junior Mance, piano; Wilbur Ware, bass; Buddy Smith, drums.
 Rating: ★★★★★

I find this set the most satisfying collection by Griffin I've heard to date. He plays here with less of the frantic, hard blowing; and with more of a lyrical sense than he has put onto records in recent months.

His rhythm accompaniment, particularly by Ware, is fine. Ware has a brilliant solo on *Riff-Raff*, and an excellent solo on *Wrap*, which Mance opens with a cliché, one of the few this good pianist lapsed into on the set.

Griffin has a minimum of the resorting to double-time on ballads that many tenor players find necessary. On *Foolish Things*, for example, there are some moments of genuinely passionate playing. And on *Yesterdays*, he plays straight forward, quite lyrical horn. Mance is fine on *I Cried*.

The originals aren't too original, but the "new" Griffin on the ballads makes this one worth investigating. (D.C.)

Cookin'

Paul Gonsalves

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: February 1959

Label 57

LP-626



PAUL GONSALVES
COOKIN'

PERSONNEL:
PAUL GONSALVES, tenor; CLARK TERRY, trumpet
WILLIE JONES, piano; SAM WOODYARD, drums

RECORDING DATE: AUGUST 4, 1957
RECORDING ENGINEER: JACK WENDE
SUPERVISOR: PHIL CHASE

SIDE ONE

RESTFUL	Paul Gonsalves	4:30
GAME MAS	Clark Terry	3:34
SACR-DEE PARDY	Clark Terry	3:14
RUES	Paul Gonsalves	3:53

SIDE TWO

MISCELLANEOUS	Clark Terry	4:14
PAUL'S DREAM	Paul Gonsalves	4:45
PMAT SOCI	Clark Terry	3:19
WELL TERRY	Clark Terry	3:58
RUNNY	Clark Terry	3:38



Cookin'
Paul Gonsalves
Argo 626

Gonsalves achieved much of his success through a performance with Ellington at Newport that aroused the audience to a frenzy. As a result he seems to have a tendency, at least on fast tempos, to try to create the same mood again. Actually he is at his best in a more relaxed groove, at slow tempos in which his horn is pleasantly reminiscent of Ben Webster. His teammates here are three fellow Ellingtonians, all of whom offer first class first-aid: Jimmy Woode, bass; Sam Woodyard, drums; and trumpeter Clark Terry, who also wrote most of the original tunes. The group is completed by Chicago pianist Willie Jones, who seems to have been frightened by Milt Buckner. Notes: Don Gold. Good.

B
B
A

L. Feather

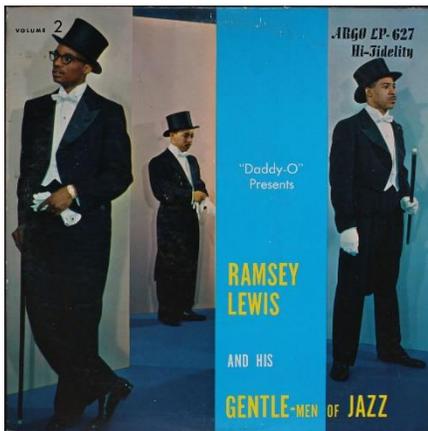
Gentle-Men of Jazz

Ramsey Lewis

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: June 9, 1958

LP-627

Label 57



ARGO L. P. 627
RAMSEY LEWIS and THE GENTLEMEN of JAZZ

SIDE I

1. DELILAH	5:25
2. I GET A KICK OUT OF YOU	3:00
3. PLEASE SEND ME SOMEONE TO LOVE	4:02
4. BROTHER JOHN	4:50

SIDE II

1. BLACK IS THE COLOR	4:51
2. IT AIN'T NECESSARILY SO	3:44
3. SEVEN VALLEYS	5:23
4. ON THE STREET WHERE YOU LIVE	3:40

SEVEN VALLEYS
By Ramsey Lewis

BLACK IS THE COLOR
By Ramsey Lewis

ON THE STREET WHERE YOU LIVE
By Ramsey Lewis

IT AIN'T NECESSARILY SO
By Ramsey Lewis

UNION NOTES
By Ramsey Lewis





RAMSEY LEWIS AND HIS GENTLEMEN OF JAZZ (1-12") Argo LP 627
 Ramsey Lewis and his Gentlemen of Jazz have been getting a lot of attention in Chicago via their appearances at the Cloister Inn in the windy city. This is their second LP for the label. Trio features Lewis on piano, R. Holt on drums and E. Young on bass. The trio plays some interesting music, a sort of cross between modern and cocktail style. Tunes on this set include folk

Label 60



Cadet Label 65



Rechanneled stereo release dates to 1967.

Cadet Label 75



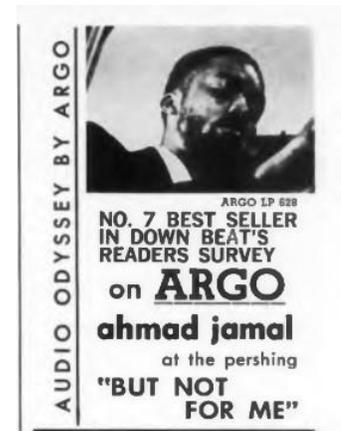
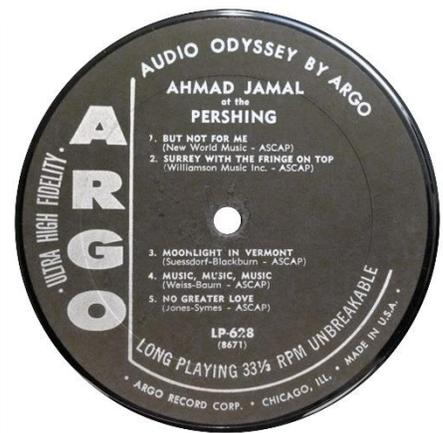
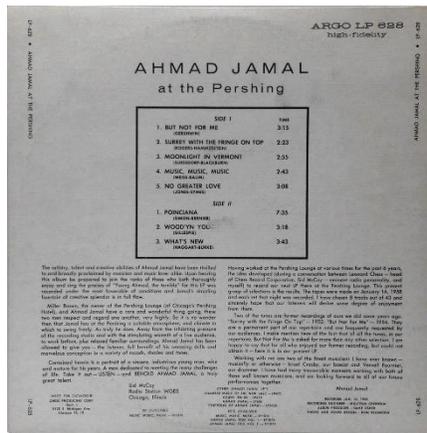
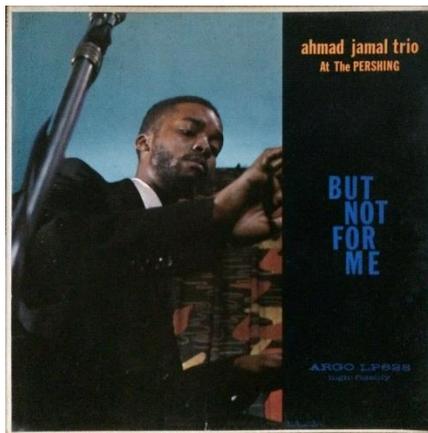
Ahmad Jamal at the Pershing

LP-628

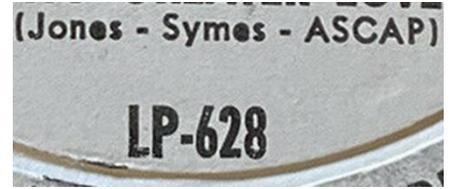
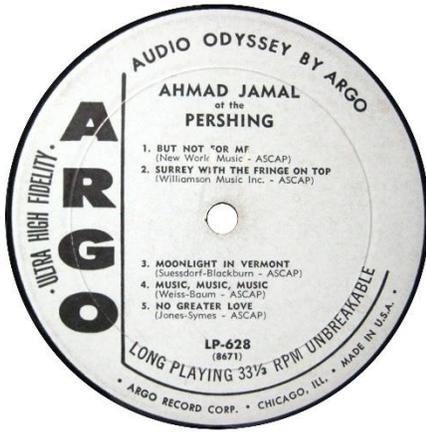
Ahmad Jamal

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: August 21, 1958

Label 57 (mono)



Label 60



new releases
on ARGO

LP616Chet Robel
 LP623Max Roach
 LP624Johnny Griffin
 LP631 .Swinging the Loop
 Vito Price
 LP633 .This is Me, J. C.
 J. C. Heard
 LP634Lateef at
 Cranbrook Yusef Lateef

Write for Argo LP Catalog
ARGO RECORDS
 Department D
 2120 South Michigan Ave.
 Chicago 16, Illinois

Label 60 (stereo)



ARGO LP-628
 High Fidelity

AHMAD JAMAL
 at the Pershing

The unique sound and creative genius of Ahmad Jamal have been destined to and finally captured in monaural and stereo form after almost twenty years since he first joined to join the ranks of those who both thoughtfully sought and longed for the grace of "Young Ahmad, the Boss!" In this album you would make the most beautiful of conclusions and Jamal's dazzling technique of creative spontaneity is in full flow.

After three years of the Pershing Lounge (at Chicago's Pershing Hotel), and Ahmad Jamal has now and here and there going . . . there two new songs and original compositions that show in such a striking way that he is the Pershing's most available and most popular pianist.

Consider Jamal in a position of a more advanced group than ever and it seems he could do more. It was indeed in hearing the most challenging of the Trio in all-impromptu Ahmad Jamal, Jamal, a truly great artist.

Produced by Phil Chen
 Arranged by Ahmad Jamal

Off The Record

Side 1

BUT NOT FOR ME (New World Music - ASCAP) 2:50
 SURRY WITH THE FRINGE ON TOP (Williamson Music Co. - ASCAP) 2:50
 MOONLIGHT IN VERMONT (Suessdorf - Blackburn - ASCAP) 2:50
 MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC (Weiss - Baum - ASCAP) 2:50
 NO GREATER LOVE (Jones - Symes - ASCAP) 2:50

Side 2

MOONLIGHT IN VERMONT (Suessdorf - Blackburn - ASCAP) 2:50
 MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC (Weiss - Baum - ASCAP) 2:50
 NO GREATER LOVE (Jones - Symes - ASCAP) 2:50

Working on the Pershing Lounge of some years for the past six years, the distinguished (during a considerable and favored career of Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, various jazz personalities and more) to record our most about there in the Pershing Lounge. The greatest group of musicians in the world. The night was made on January 10, 1954, and each one of the night was recorded. I have always a weeks out of it and mostly from that one because it shows some signs of its greatest from then.

One of the ways our former colleagues of ours we did some years ago, Jamal, Ahmad Jamal, the Trio and the Trio duo. Well, know me - a personal part of our respect and are deeply inspired by our audience. I wish to mention here of the fact that in the studio in our repertoire, the Trio in the studio for some time ago when I am happy to see that all who record our better recordings, for which we are proud, is here - it is in our personal album.

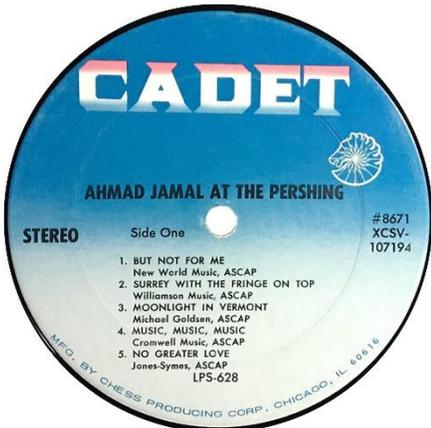
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The RCA matrix prefix M08Y- indicates that Argo offered the album for sale in stereo in 1961. In the middle of 1960, Argo switched to a light gray label for mono LPs and a blue label for stereo ones.

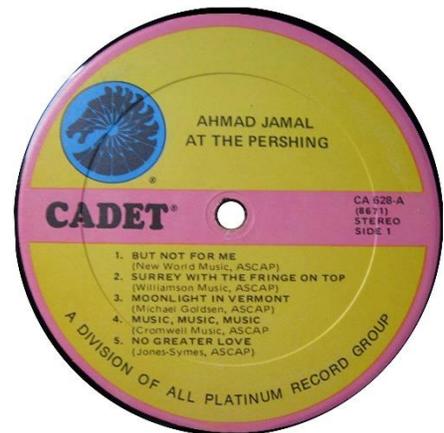
Cadet Label 65



Cadet Label 71



Cadet Label 75



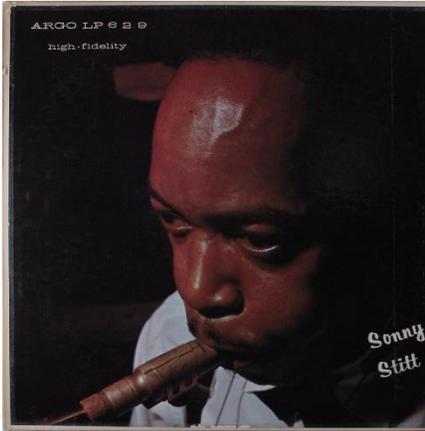
Sonny Stitt

LP-629

Ahmad Jamal

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: August 9, 1958

Label 57



Label 60



Cadet reissued the album in rechanneled stereo on Label 65, Label 71, and Label 75.

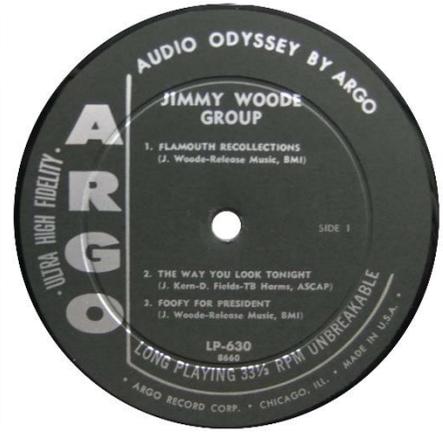
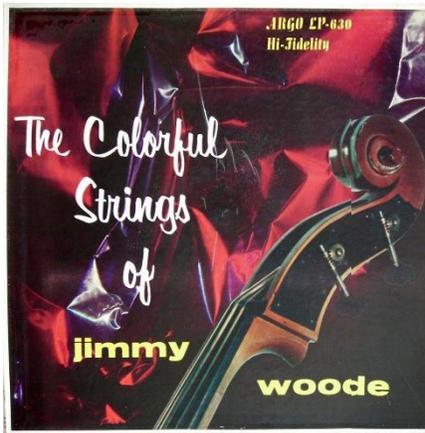
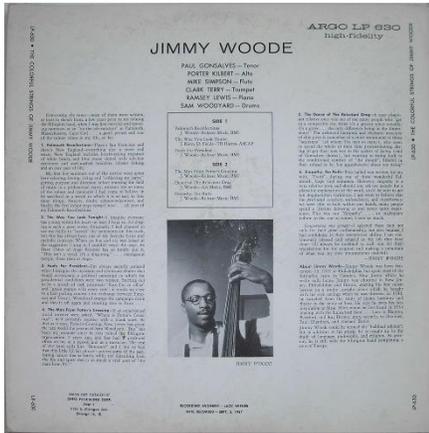
The Colorful Strings of Jimmy Woode

LP-630

Jimmy Woode Group

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: January 5, 1959

Label 57



★★★★ THE COLORFUL STRINGS OF JIMMY WOODE
With Various Artists, Argo LP 630
Bassist Jimmy Woode is featured on this new modern jazz set in some attractive and appealing jazz performances of both standards and originals. He is aided by P. Gonsalves on tenor, P. Kilpert on alto, M. Simpson on flute, C. Terry on trumpet, R. Lewis on piano and S. Woodyard on drums. The tunes are played with zest and flavor, including "Falmouth Recollections," "The Man From Porter's Crossing" and "The Way You Look Tonight." Woode is excellent on bass, and Gonsalves, Simpson and Terry are fine, too.

After some discussions with a British record label that was also named Argo, Chess decided to switch immediately to a new name – one that began with “C” like Chess and Checker. The Cadet label released new albums until 1971 and continued to reissue the earlier Chess/Checker/Argo material through the end of the 1970s. The most recent reissues were from the All-Platinum Record Group, which purchased Chess in August 1975.

**CADET
CHESS-CHECKER-ARGO**

A NAME IS EASY TO CHANGE; A REPUTATION ISN'T. WE'VE BEEN KNOWN AS ARGO RECORDS FOR TEN YEARS AND DURING THAT TIME WE'VE BUILT AND ENJOYED A REPUTATION FOR PRODUCING PHONOGRAPH RECORDS OF UNSURPASSED EXCELLENCE. BUT NAMES ARE NOT UNIQUE, AND IF AN ORGANIZATION FINDS THAT THEY ALONE NO LONGER ANSWER TO AND FOR THE RECORD OF THEIR NAME, AND THAT THEIR INDIVIDUALITY IS AT STAKE, A NEW IDENTITY MUST BE ESTABLISHED. OUR NAME WAS ARGO—OUR NEW NAME IS CADET. THE NAME AND ONLY THE NAME HAS CHANGED.



There's a World of Excitement on Cadet

Cadet Label Styles

Label 65

Blue, white, and red label with CADET across the top.



Label 71

Yellow, pink, and blue label with Cadet at the left. Rim print reads "A GRT Record Group Co., Div. of GRT Corp."



Label 75

Yellow, pink, and blue label with Cadet at the left. Rim print reads "A Division of All Platinum Record Group."



All-Platinum Buys Chess From GRT

ENGLEWOOD, N.J. — Joe Robinson of All-Platinum Records has bought the Chess, Checker and Cadet Record Companies from GRT. Or as the official announcement states it, the three Chess labels were bought by the Platinum Record Company, Inc., parent company of All-Platinum Group thru one of its subsidiary firms, Astroscope Records, Inc. The purchase was made from the GRT Group of Sunnyvale, Calif. which purchased it a number of years ago from the estate of the late Leonard Chess, founder of the label. The financial aspects of the agreement were not revealed.

Included in the purchase were all 25,000 masters in the catalog. The deal was officially concluded Aug. 20. All logos of Chess, Checker and Cadet as well as all existing artist contracts are now the property of Platinum Records. Platinum plans to maintain "the great Chess name," as a spokesman for the label stated last week.

How the Chess product would be distributed in the U.S. was not yet determined. But it was announced that GRT of Canada would continue to market both Chess records and tapes in that country.

Another stipulation of the sale agreement was the granting of an additional 5 years of tape rights to GRT of all Chess product.

The spokesman for All-Platinum also advised that the industry will be seeing immediate activity in the TV area on Chuck Berry who was recently the #1 inductee into the Rock Hall of Fame, announced a week ago on Don Kirshner's "Rock Awards Show."

Chess Records was the early home of many legendary music stars including: Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley, Howlin' Wolf, Muddy Waters, the Dells, Etta James, Ramsey Lewis, Ahmad Jamal, Sonny Stitt, Gene Ammons, Jack McDuff and a host of others.