# **Mercury 78 RPM Albums Before LP and 45**

**Produced by Frank Daniels** 

## Introduction

Mercury Records began in 1945 as a small label with pressing plants in Saint Louis and Chicago, immediately boasting that they were capable of producing records rapidly. That boast became a promise, as Mercury's singles took off in popularity – leading to the release of albums.

Mercury's figurehead was an image of the Roman deity, at first drawn in profile. By May, 1946, the company had switched to a younger, friendlier image of Mercury and was looking for someone to represent the company. They found Eddie Gaedel, a young

### Mercury Shooting At 700,000 Disk Within the Year

CHICAGO, Oct. 6.—Another boos toward putting Chi on the map as a record-producing center came this west with the opening of the Mercury Recorplant here. New independent label which is already pressing plenty platter a week, intends to hike production to 700,000 disks weekly, within the nex year with 72 presses in St. Louis and 4 in their Chi outlet.

year with 72 presses in St. Louis and 48 in their Col outlet. The Mercury label appears as a defifilely permanent bid for recognition proved the firm and a veteran manufurther of plastic and resh manufacuring equipment, has set up a selfustaining unit for making biscuits in too th the Chi and St. Louis outlets. Freesent est-up includes all the equipment int is necessary to make the record. Menory's plant is being watched by the future of revolutionary liming devices, anable anovice to turn out a well-pressed pressing line is manned by women who pressing line is manned by women who presong line is manned by women who pressing bave had no experience in are working on a 8-hour day shift, but Green asserted that he was doubling the shift within a couple monthagenessing line women who pressing bave hours to ther firms. promoting Mercury's discs and was pictured on some of their releases. After he left Mercury, Gaedel famously went to work for the St. Louis Browns baseball organization. On August 19, 1951, he pinch-hit one time and was walked by the pitcher. The opposing team complained, leading to a rule requiring the Commissioner of Baseball to approve player contracts. Gaedel died in 1961 at the age of 36 – apparently the result of a beating.

friendly-looking gentleman who was 3'7" tall. He traveled around

Mercury's "10 Series" of albums began with a mixture of different styles. The companies different lines allowed them to grow while other small labels were not flourishing. This attracted the attention of several artists and producers, including Norman Granz – a big name in jazz. Granz had released several volumes of *Jazz at the Philharmonic* which were widely acclaimed. During 1948, the year of the union ban, Mercury and Granz came to an agreement allowing his Clef discs to be issued by Mercury and drawing Granz into the Mercury stable of artists. Mercury also purchased line of jazz recordings – cementing their position as a major jazz label

the Keynote line of jazz recordings – cementing their position as a major jazz label.



#### Mercury's Little Man Comes to Life; A Disk-Biz'Johnny'

CHICAGO, June 1.-Newest promotional stunt in the record field is take-off on Philip Morris's Johnny gimmick. Mercury Records has hired a "Mercury Man," a three-foot, seven-inch midget. Twenty-year-old Mercury mar's real name is Eddie Gaedel and he will be used primarily to contact disk jockeys, autograph Mercury disks at department and retail stores when they are released, put in appearances at Mercury distributors thruout the country, and appear at places where Mercury attractions are being featured.

Much of Mercury's future promotion will be tied around Mercury Man, and a contest will be held flru record stores and counters to give him a sumame. Idle-sized cutis are being made and will be placed on display above contents thrunch thadows and abow contents thrunch thadows not the Mercury Man is garbed in an aluminum-winged helmet, winged boots, red cape and trousers.

Mercury exces here added that he will be used as a central character in a series of kid albums also. Mercury Man bowed here in his promotional role by giving away 150 records nilely at College Inn nitery, where Buddy Rich is currently appearing.

Mercury began releasing classical records in the LP format in February, 1949, and by July they had over 40 LPs on the market. Shortly after Mercury went into LPs they started releasing 45 RPM discs; these listings contain albums that were released before the advent of the other two speeds.



## **A-10 Series Albums**



A-10 **Release Date:**  **Erroll Garner** Early summer, 1946 Piano Solos



A-11 **Release Date:**  Frank Parker Songs from My Heart to You Early summer, 1946



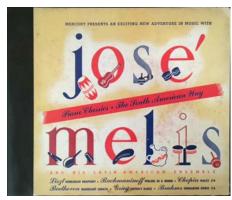
A-12 Release Date: Johnny Pineapple Summer, 1946

Along the Pineapple Trail

apple. . . .

PIANO SOLOS ALBUM ......Errol Garner .....Mercury A-10 Always Embraceable You I Can't Get Started With You I Yee Got You Under My Skin Löver Come Back to Me Cometimes I'm Happy

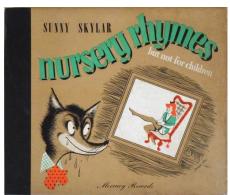
... Mercury Records to release six sides by Johnny Pine-



A-13 Release Date:

José Melis Summer, 1946

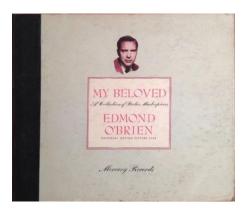
Piano Classics the South American Way



A-14 **Release Date:** 

Sunny Skylar Summer, 1946

Nursery Rhymes but Not for Children



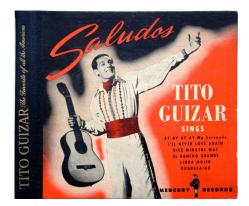
A-15 **Release Date:** 

Edmond O'Brien Summer, 1946



My Beloved

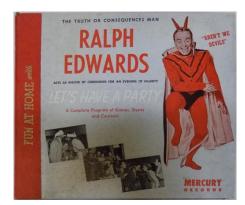
Platter Palaver Sunny Skylar has signed to do a series of albums for Mercury Records. First one, which will use some of Skylar's own compositions plus his voice, will be called Bedtime Stories, But Not for Children. . . .



A-16 **Release Date:**  Tito Guizar Saludos Late Fall, 1946



A-17 **Release Date:**  Jack Fina Fall, 1946 Ten Talented Fingers



A-18 Release Date: Ralph Edwards Let's Have a Party November, 1946

# **Guizar To Cut** For, Get Piece **Of Merc Disks**

**Of Merce Disks** Hollywood, May 25. — Singer Tito Guizar reported to have bough an interest in Mercury Records in addition to cutting for label. Mer-cury recently signed a number of Hollywood personalities including Johm Garfield and Jack Carson to cut sides but Guizar case is first reported as a part ownership deal as well as platter attraction. How Mercury set-up will effect Guizar's Victor recordings for the Mexican and South American field has not been revealed so far. Among first Guizar platterings for Mercury will be several songs from his forth-coming Columbia picture, Thrill of Brazil.

fizzled. Jimmy Hilliard, Mercury recording supervisor, also is in town to cut a batch of sides by Tito Guizar, Jack Fina's band and Frances Langford.

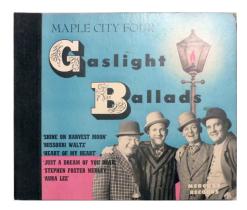
> **Merc Cuts Edwards** House Party Package

> CHICAGO, Nov. 2. — Mercury Records Berle Adams has worked out a record album deal with Ralph Edwards, emsee of NBC's Saturday eve Truth or Consequences. Edwards was recorded on three-record album called Let's Have a Party, adding up to a 20-minute session of Edwards' emseeing, with sound effects and music, games at a house party.

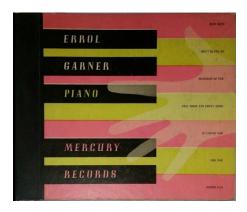
music, games at a house party. Sides contain games such as musi-cal chairs, the Banana Game and Dixie cup race, together with seven other house party gimmicks. While album will promote Edwards, he'll do vice versa by plugging album as a give-away on his consistently above-average Hooperating airer. Mercury exces are trying to work out deal. with Duz, sponsor of the show, for retail store promotion.



A-22 **Release Date:**  Frankie Laine Frankie Laine Sings BB April 5, 1947 (Advance)



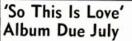
A-23 **Release Date:**  The Maple City Four **Gaslight Ballads** BB April 5, 1947 (Advance)



A-24 **Release Date:**  Erroll Garner 1947

Errol Garner Piano (#2)



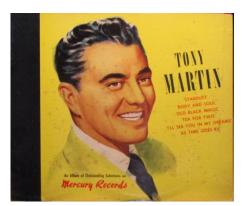


Album Due July NET YORK, June 20.—RCA Victor will start shipments to dis-tributors and dealers on July 17 of its newest motion picture sound track album, "So This Is Love." Album features the pic-ture's star, Kathryn Grayson, in selections from pop standards to operatic arias. Picture is the life story of Grace Moore, based on the former overatic star's autobiography. Al-bum will be available on EP and LP. Former will list for \$3 and the latter for \$4.45.



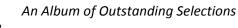
A-25 Release Date:

Frances Langford Summer, 1948 Rainbow Rhapsody



A-26 Release Date:

Tony Martin BB Fall, 1948





A-27 Romy Gosz Polka Album

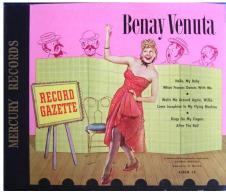
Release Date: Fall, 1947 (as singles); not released as an album

Roman "Romy" Gosz recorded an album for Mercury in 1947. Although the singles were released, and those singles are labeled as being from album A-27, the album did not appear, and the number was later given to an album by Caesar Petrillo.



CAESAR PETRILLO'S MUSIC FOR LISTENING; FOR DANC. 64 ING, FOR PLEASURE ALBUM —CAESAR PETRILLO ORK (3-10") (Mercury 27) Three of Clock in the Morning; What'll I Do?; When I Grow Too Old To Dream; Jealous; Drifting and Dreaming; Whispering. This collection of nostalgic oldies follows the formula all the way, offering mellow, practically brassless orking, with fiddles, fulcts and smooth frombones alternating in straight melodic sequences. It's a useful, tasteful joh, but lacks a real angle for salability, unless Petrillo's late-evening air shows from Chicage have built up a hungry fan-following. The cover is tasteful asteful joh, but lacks. JOCKS Not suitable. DOCKS

A-27 Release Date: Caesar Petrillo *Music for Listening, for Dancing, for Pleasure* BB November 27, 1948

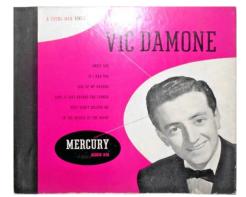


A-28 Release Date:

Benay Venuta BB July 17, 1948

RECORD GAZETTE-VENUTA (3-10") Benay Venuta BENAY 78 n Ork)

**Record Gazette** 



A-29 Release Date:

Vic Damone Vic Damone BB August 7, 1948

Vie	Damone Album-Vic Damone (3-10")
Me	rcury A 29
C	lirl of My Dreams Mercury 1051
I	f I Had You Mercury 1050
I	n the Middle of the Night Mercury 1052
	ove Is Just Around the Corner Mercury 1051
SI	weet Sue Mercury 1050 The Didn't Believe Me Mercury



A-30 Release Date:

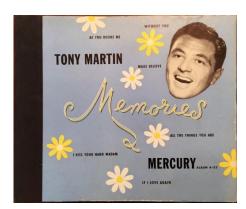
Tiny HillTiny Hill Album (All Time-Old Time Favorites)BB June 5, 1948; Review August 14, 1948



A-31 Release Date:

Jan August Summer, 1948

Piano Rhythm



A-32 Release Date:

Tony Martin *Memories* BB August 14, 1948

CHICAGO, Dec. 13.—After months of confusion over Jan August's future as a recording artist following his squabble with Diamond platters, August this week popped up as a Mercury waxing talent. Mercury execs, explained only that Murray Nadell, attorney for August, had told the Miserlou 88-er that he was free to ink with another firm, after conferences with AFM.execs made August a free agent. According to a Mercury spokesman.

agent. According to a Mercury spokesman, August has signed a three-year paper with the firm and will cut 16 sides with his trio before the January 1 work-stoppage. The Mercury releases will include some of his Diamond best-sellers, such as *Miserlou* and *Malaguena*.

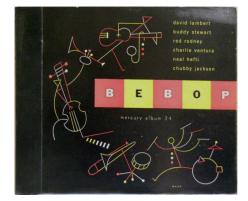




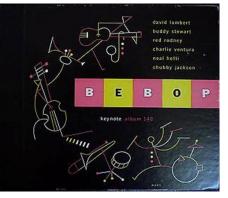


A-33Lennie TristanoRelease Date:Fall, 1948A reissue of Keynote No. 147.

Lennie Tristano



A-34Various ArtistsRelease Date:Late 1948A reissue of Keynote No. 140.



Bebop



A-35 Release Date: A.W. Binder *New Songs of Palestine* BB December 4, 1948

EW SONGS OF PALESTINE ALBUM — INTERNATIONAL CHORUS — A. W. BINDER, DIR. (3-10") (Mercury A-35) 60 of the Signal Man; We ight; Israel's Heroes; Song of the Jewish Partisane nti to best in the could dra will do best which could a where custor JUKES Not suitable. this



A-36Chubby Jackson & Bill HarrisRelease Date:Late 1948A reissue of Keynote No. 123

Chubby Jackson & Bill Harris



A-61Hank JonesBe-Bop PianoRelease Date:BB December 4, 1948A reissue of Clef 104

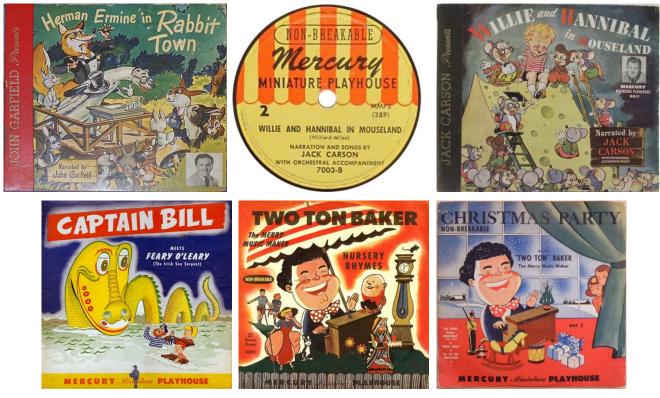


A-69Alfred NewmanCaptain From CastileRelease Date:BB January 1, 1949 (advance)A reissue of Majestic MZ-6 (December, 1947)

SE-BOP PIANO (3-10") Hank Jones, Piano (Mercury A-61) Tes for Two; Yesterdays; Blues for a Lady Day; Blue Room; Night We Called It a Day; You're Blase. Biggest commercial drawback for this package at the moment is the fact that hank Jones enjoys most of his poularity among only the hip colters. But when and if the public picks up on Jones' piano and if the public picks up on Jones' piano and worthy sick Hem. His style is much irrobably serving as his other chief influence. Deceiving is the "Be-Bop" tille ament on the revent of the population index the ablum for there is only some imal amattering of bop piano herein. Interesting cover and Grant's first-person liner notes round out the worthy musical package. JUKES JOCKS Jam Jocks should

go for some o these sides; other might like 'em

## **Mercury Miniature Playhouse Series**



MMP-1	John Garfield	Herman Ermine in Rabbit Town
Release Date:	Fall, 1946	
MMP-2	Jack Carson	Willie and Hannibal in Mouseland
Release Date:	Fall, 1946	
MMP-3	Don Doolittle	Captain Bill Meets Feary O'Leary
Release Date:	Fall, 1946	
The Herman Ermine all	oum is about rac	ism. "Some of my best friends have been black rabbits."

The Herman Ermine album is about racism. "Some of my best friends have been black rabbits." The series as a whole was popular; by the end of the 1946 Mercury had released several of them.

MMP-4	Two-Ton Baker	Nursery Rhymes
Release Date:	Fall, 1946	
MMP-5	Two-Ton Baker	Christmas Party
Release Date:	Fall, 1946	Possibly intended as album A-21.



Single Numbers	Artist	Source	Album
1001 to 1003	ERROLL GARNER	-	A-10
1004 to 1006	JOSE MELIS	-	A-13
1007 to 1009	FRANK PARKER	-	A-11
1010 to 1012	JOHNNY PINEAPPLE	-	A-12
1013 to 1015	SUNNY SKYLAR	-	A-14
1016 to 1018	EDMUND O'BRIEN		A-15
1019 to 1021	TITO GUIZAR	-	A-16
1022	unknown		
1023 to 1025	JACK FINA & HIS ORCH	-	A-17
1026 to 1028	FRANKIE LAINE		A-22
1029 to 1031	MAPLE CITY FOUR	-	A-23
1032 to 1034	ERROL GARNER	-	A-24
1035 to 1037	ROMY GOSZ	-	A-27*
1038 to 1040	TONY MARTIN	-	A-26
1041 to 1043	CAESAR PETRILLO	-	A-27
1046 to 1048	BENAY VENUTA	-	A-28
1047 to 1049	FRANCES LANGFORD	-	A-25
1050 to 1052	VIC DAMONE	-	A-29
1053 to 1055	TINY HILL	-	A-30
1056 to 1058	JAN AUGUST	-	A-31
1059 to 1061	TONY MARTIN	-	A-32
1062 to 1064	LENNIE TRISTANO TRIO	Keynote	A-33
1065 to 1067	VARIOUS ARTISTS	Keynote	A-34
1068 to 1070	INTERNATIONAL CHORUS	-	A-35
1071 to 1073	CHUBBY JACKSON SEPTET	Keynote	A-36
1074 to 1076	MAGYAR GYPSY ENSEMBLE	Keynote	A-37

## Jazz at the Philharmonic



JAZZ AT THI	E PHILHARMONIC ALBUM	Asch 4	53
How High the	Moon, Parts 1 and 2Illinois Moon, Part 3Illinois d, Part 1Illinois d, Parts 2 and 3Illinois	Jacquet and All StarsAsch 453 Jacquet and All StarsAsch 453	3-2

Asch 453 Norman Granz (Various) BB November 17, 1945 Release Date: Reissued by Stinson in Fall, 1947. See below for the Mercury release.



Disc 501 Norman Granz (Various) Release Date: 1946 Reissued by Mercury c. 1950.



Disc 503 Norman Granz (Various) BB September 28, 1946 **Release Date:** Reissued in 1949 as Mercury 11039 to 11041.

Jazz at the Philharmonic, Volume Number 1

Jazz at the Philharmonic, Vol. 2

NORMAN GRANZ JAZZ AT THE PHILHARMONIC ALBUM, VOL. III (2-12") Cray Rhythm, Parts 1 and 2..... Sweet Georgia Brown, Parts 1 and 2..... Disc 503 Disc 2003 Disc 2004

Jazz at the Philharmonic, Vol. 3

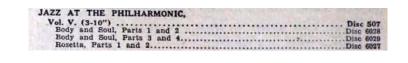


Disc 504Norman Granz (Various)Release Date:BB March 1, 1947Reissued by Mercury c. 1950.

NORMAN GRANZ-JAZZ AT THE PHIL-HAMMONIC-Vol. 4 (Disc 504) It's another listen in on a Norman Granz jazz concert, with the wax cretaining the enthusiasm of the concert audience. And for the listener enthusiasm runs highest for a lively Blues that spreads over three sides the sorcery of Shorty Nadime at the piano, who interweaves the blues theme with Les Paul's stellar guit' pickings. There's also musical meat the improvisings of saxers Jack McVea and Illinois Jacquet along with the trombone slides of J. J. Johnson. For the remaining three sides the jazz aces ride it furiously for *Lester Leaps*. An impressionistic cover, shadowing instruments and playing fingers, makes for an attractive album design.

Jazz at the Philharmonic, Vol. 4





Disc 507Norman Granz (Various)Release Date:BB July 12, 1947Reissued in 1949 as Mercury 11030 to 11032.

Jazz at the Philharmonic, Vol. 5

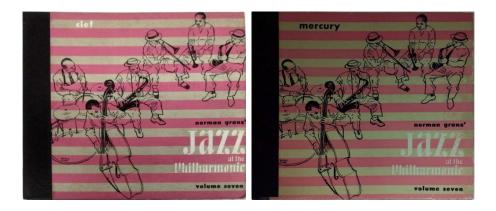




NEW YORK, Sept. 6.—Norman Granz's Jazz at the Philharmonic tees off its fifth tour September 24 at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, hopping from there to Baltimore (25), the Philadelphia Academy of Music (26), the Newark Mosque Theater (27) and a midnight concert at New York's Carnegie Hall the same night. Granz plans to hit more than 50 cities on this tour.

Granz plans to hit more than 50 cities on this tour. Among the sidemen accompanying him are jazz acers Coleman Hawkins, Bill Harris, Flip Phillips, Howard McGhee and Ray Brown, plus vocalist Helen Humes. Granz has just released his sixth album of Jazz at the Philharmonic on his new Clef label.

Clef 100Norman Granz (Various)Jazz at the Philharmonic, Vol. 6Release Date:BB September 13, 1947Contains discs numbered 101, 102, and 103. Reissued November, 1948, as Mercury 11003-11005.



Clef 101Norman Granz (Various)Jazz at the Philharmonic, Vol. 7Release Date:Early 1948Contains discs numbered 104, 105, and 106. Reissued November, 1948, as Mercury 11006-11008.



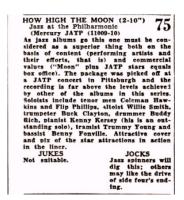
Irv Green, Mercury prexy, this week concluded a deal with Norman Granz to handle distribution under the Mercury label of Albums 6 to.8 of the Jazz at the Philharmonic series, plus additional albums cut by Granz, including Bebop Piano, How High the Moon and Perdido. These albums were previously distributed on Granz's short-lived Clef label. Mercury has purchased a set of eight masters from Wisconsin polka orkster Samm Madden, which were returned to him when Chord label Prexy Mike Cudahy went to the Coast recently to join Perfection Plastics, a pressery. In addition, Mercury has purchased masters made privately before the ban by Florida radio hillbillies Peewee Jenkins and His Barn Dance Buddies and Daisy Mae and Old Brother Charlie.

NORMAN GRANZ'S JAZZ AT 80 ALBUM-HILHANGN'IC YOLS 80 ALBUM-HILHANG'I ALGOUEL. MARKING AND ALGOUEL. MARKING

Mercury Vol. 8Norman Granz (Various)Jazz at the Philharmonic, Vol. 8Release Date:BB November, 1948Contains discs numbered 11000-11002. Despite the announcement in Billboard that Vol. 8 was a reissuefrom Clef, apparently it was new to Mercury.



Mercury 11009-10Norman Granz (Various)Release Date:BB November 6, 1948A reissue of Jazz at the Philharmonic, Vol. 1.



How High the Moon

Here is an early ad for Mercury records in the LP format:

