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Anything Phonographic – (In *The Groove* magazine)

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There are still a few great items I had to cut from last month, and a lot of goodies that arrived this month as well, so this will be another jam-packed column. Let's get started.

All that jazz (for your eyes as well as your ears!) - In 1998 I reviewed, and highly recommended, a 12-volume series of VHS videos released by MPI Home Video under the title *Music Classics*. Each tape consisted of 25 or more performances taken from Soundies and feature films, as well as some rare 1950s TV appearances by big bands like the Dorsey Brothers. These were some of my favorite tapes and I returned to them often. The only problem with the production was that the titles of the contents were not listed on the package and, of course, I had to fast forward to see my favorite numbers. Well, both problems are now solved thanks to the CD Card Company in the UK (whose CDs I've recommended in the past). They have licensed the rights to the compilations and repackaged them on a series of ten DVDs (each now has 33 tracks) under the series umbrella *Jazz Classics* and they are now distributed in the US by Music Video Distributors. The musical numbers were re-arranged into themes so the volumes have titles like *This Joint is Jumpin'* (Fats Waller, Benny Goodman and – yes – Walter Liberace from a hot Soundie of “Twelfth Street Rag”) and *The Boys Are Back In Town* (Mostly male Singers like Crosby and Cab Calloway). For some reason the Les Paul Trio playing “Dark Eyes” is on BOTH these volumes. The tapes were not remastered so a few of the rare ones have some film scratches. The best way to see the content is to go to the CD Card Company's website at www.CollectorDirect.com and click on the volumes. Overseas readers can order from there though US customers should be able to order through major music stores. The DVDs are region free and play on NTSC and PAL so everyone around the globe can now enjoy these entertaining sets.