Marty Gold is a kindly, sober-sided gentleman who wears tweeds, a thoughtful expression, and smokes odd pipes. His speech is soft and deliberate. He is a conductor and arranger of repute in the big band “pop” field.

Marty Gold used to play piano with the old Korn Kobblers Band.

“Make no mistake about this type of music—we call it ‘doo wacka doo’ in this album,” he says. “It is not out to kid anybody or anything; it’s not really satirical or parody music. It’s a kind of early tune with a down-home inflection, corn— it’s ‘country’ that’s no tryin’ to use the word—with a Dixie influence. It’s full of high spirits and humor. And it really swings with a good beat—a square-dance type of country-music beat. You will hear slap-tonguing by the reeds in the wacky-ticky musical phrasing and doo wacka doo sounds by the trumpets. It takes darn good musicians to play this music!

“Doo wacka doo has a long and respectable history. It is actually an upper-Midwestern regional music that spread over the whole country. Back in the Thirties, Rudy Vallee was on his way cross-country to make a movie in Hollywood. He stopped off in St. Paul, Minnesota, and there in a small club he heard an outfit called the Schnickelfritz Band. It was really pulling the crowds. Rudy was so excited about the group that he arranged to use it in the movie ‘Gold Diggers in Paris,’ which was a big hit at the time.

“Later in the Thirties came the Korn Kobblers, an offshoot—you might say—of the original Schnickelfritz Band. And again, they were a big hit on radio and records and wherever they appeared.

“In this album, we are attempting not only to duplicate the success and feeling of these early bands, but to make a particularly outstanding collection of the best of this kind of music. The tunes we have selected are naturals for doo wacka doo. You will remember Goofus, which was a smash national hit, and Five Foot Two, Eyes of Blue, made famous by the wah-wah trumpet of Clyde McCoy. Of course, we include Tiger Rag with its trombone smears, and two great 1925 standards—Yes Sir, That’s My Baby, written by the fabulous team of Gus Kahn and Walter Donaldson, and Five Foot Two, Eyes of Blue.

“For our musicians, we picked from the top sidemen in the East who are also skilled enough to play this music. We were fortunate to get Nels Laakso, the great doo wacka doo trumpeter of the original Schnickelfritz Band.

“Doo wacka doo? It is to music what stunt flying is to regular flying. It takes outstanding musicians who not only ‘fly’ great, but do inside loops, tail spins and barrel rolls!”

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