

COMPOSER'S CORNER

HANK

"The trouble is—they have absolutely no idea of the ins-and-outs of the music business!" Henry Mancini was speaking of the hundreds of eager young musicians who have written to him for firsthand advice in furthering their careers.

" . . . and they are all in a hurry," he continued. "They don't seem to realize that talent is not enough. There are two prerequisites for success—practical knowledge and expert craftsmanship—and both of these take *time*."

"The first piece of advice I would give to any ambitious young musician would be to find the university or college that fits his own needs. For instance, an arranger should attend a school with a good orchestra to play the things he writes, while an instrumentalist should seek out the institute with the best teacher of his particular instrument.

"Then after graduation, *go where the action is*. If you want to write for films and TV, go to Hollywood; if you play an instrument—New York, Hollywood or Chicago; for a singer, most of the recording companies are in New York and Hollywood.

"*Meet as many people in your own field as is humanly possible*. If you arrange or compose, get to know as many arrangers and composers as you can. The same applies for instrumentalists, singers or whatever. Leave no stone unturned, and remember success is usually not easy or fast!

"Oh, yes—whatever you do, *don't* pay anyone to have your music published. A legitimate publisher will sign a contract with you and will not ask for any money.

"One more thing, when you become discouraged—and you will—say to yourself, 'I'm doing what I want to do most.' That one sentence will be the greatest comfort you can have."

Seated at his desk in his office atop