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RECORD REVIEW

By Bob Woodhead

Tina Turner

Tina Turner (pictured right) has followed up "Private Dancer" (released in June 1984) with a first-rate album "Break Every Rule." It starts off with the recent hit "Typical Male" which deserved to fare much better than it did. Next up is "What You Get Is What You See," a great rock song that suits Tina's raunchy voice perfectly, going into the slower, moody "Two People" where she injects a lot of soul and turns a good song into something really special.

The remaining three songs on Side One are all of a high quality — the best of them being "Till The Right Man Comes Along." The whole of this side was produced by Terry Britten and he co-wrote five of the songs with Graham Lyle. In my opinion their style seems to suit Ms. Turner the best.

Although Canadian rock singer Bryan Adams is not one of my favourite artists he has co-written and performed on "Back Where You Started" which is a real belter to kick off Side Two. It is followed by the title-track which surprisingly is not one of the best. Then come two Mark Knopfler productions on which he also adds his distinctive guitar-playing. "Overnight Sensation" which he wrote, has a Dire Straits "Money For Nothing" sound to it, and "Paradise Is Here" is a slower number with moody saxophone passages.

I am not a great fan of Five Star; in my opinion their soul sound is often rather banal and bland. Nevertheless their latest album "Silk And Steel" is certainly worth a spin. The first three songs on Side One, "Can't Wait," "Find The Time" and "Rain or Shine" have all been hit singles, and the heavier sounding "If I Say Yes" is going to be the next 45. These are all typical Five Star dance numbers, but closing this side "Please Don't Say Goodnight" is a slow ballad.

I much prefer Side Two where the songs are not so deliberately commercial. The group sound more relaxed and natural and the songs are more for listening to than dancing to. "Show Me What You've Got For Me" has a good tune helped along by a crisp beat, "Are You Man Enough" has an infectious rhythm and "The Slightest Touch" will have you singing along in no time.

After releasing a string of improved albums in the early-Eighties Paul McCartney has slipped right back into the doldrums with "Press To Play." Only one song on the entire LP caught my attention and that was "Press," the recent hit single. "Footprints" has the makings of a good song but the vocals should have been placed much higher in the mix. "Stranglehold" is a heavy rock track with a powerful beat but it does not have enough melody to become a major hit. The only other number worth mentioning is "However Absurd" with its powerful vocals.

L.P. CHART

1. Silk and Steel (5 Star)
2. Now That's What I Call Music 7 (Various)
3. Graceland (Paul Simon)
4. Revenge (Eurythmics)
5. Break Every Rule (Tina Turner)
6. True Blue (Madonna)
7. True Stories (Talking Heads)
8. Fore (Huey Lewis and The News)
9. Communards
10. A Kind of Magic (Queen)