

## Record review

## Bob Woodhead

Fans of the group Supertramp will be pleased to learn that they have recently issued a compilation LP containing their most popular songs called "The Autobiography of Supertramp".

The 11 tracks are taken from five of their classic albums spanning the period 1974 to 1985, and most of them are "logical" choices, especially "The Logical Song" ... their best known hit! However, they have not included any cuts from their 1975 album "Crisis? What Crisis?" which was not very successful but it did feature some enjoyable sounds.

In my view their best album was "Crime of the Century" and there are three songs taken from this including "Dreamer," one of their biggest hits. Nevertheless, their largest selling LP was "Breakfast in America" so they have featured four numbers from

this including the title track. All the songs were written by Rick Davies and Roger Hodgson, the two men who really made Supertramp tick.

Recently enjoying a successful run in the LP chart has been the new recording of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "South Pacific" (on CBS). It features Kiri Te Kanawa, Jose Carreras, Sarah Vaughan and Manyd Patinkin with the Ambrosian Singers and Jonathan Tunick directing the London Symphony Orchestra.

The Original Soundtrack to the movie, released in 1958, spent 115 weeks at number one in the LP chart which is an all-time record easily ahead of the nearest rival "The Sound of Music" which had 70 weeks at the top. In my opinion this film soundtrack could not be bettered for its charm and vocal delivery, but this new version has been a brave and worthwhile project that record buyers will enjoy,

particularly those who are keen on the singers.

I found the most interesting songs to be "Honey Bun" (by Kiri Te Kanawa), "Bali Ha'i" and "Happy Talk" (both by Sarah Vaughan) and "Some Enchanted Evening" (Jose Carreras). But for anyone buying "South Pacific" for the first time the original is still the one to get.

Among the latest video-releases is "The Story of the Bee Gees" narrated by Capital Radio DJ Roger Scott. I found it thoroughly informative but it is only 46 minutes long, meaning that the archive film clips of the Gibb brothers are too short and therefore the story is rushed. The history of one of the most successful songwriting partnerships deserved to be covered in a 90-minute film. Re-released on the budget-priced Channel 5 video series and now selling at £10 is "Earth Wind and Fire in Concert" — a stunning performance

recorded in Oakland Coliseum, USA, in 1982. This is a must for any of their fans.

### LP CHART

- 1 THE SINGLES (Police)
- 2 NOW DANCE 86 (Various)
- 3 GRACELAND (Paul Simon)
- 4 "TOP GUN" SOUNDTRACK (Various)
- 5 TRUE BLUE (Madonna)
- 6 SILK & STEEL (5 Star)
- 7 SLIPPERY WHEN WET (Bon Jovi)
- 8 GREATEST HITS OF 1986 (Various)
- 9 THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF SUPERTRAMP
- 10 HIT MIX 86 (Various)

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