

11/21/86

Record review

Bob Woodhead

Michael McDonald has released a "Best Of" LP which is sub-titled "Sweet Freedom" after his recent hit of that name.

Among the selected tracks are Michael's popular duets with Patti LaBelle ("On My Own") and James Ingram ("Yah Mo B There").

However the best song is probably "What A Fool Believes" on which he took lead vocals with the Doobie Brothers.

I also enjoyed hearing his solo hit "I Keep Forgettin'" and "No Lookin' Back" which is his latest single.

McDonald's voice has been described as the "blackest" and most soulful

of all white male singers.

Stylus Music has collaborated with Tony Price's Disco Mix Club to release a double-LP called "Hit Mix 86" featuring segued clips from 86 original hits.

Exciting

Forty three of the clips have been hits in 1986, and there are six number ones including Boris Gardiner's "I Want To Wake Up With You" and Billy Ocean's "When The Going Gets Tough" from this year.

The tracks blend and flow as a segue one after another, as a result of fades, edits and intermixing, to create an instant and exciting new concept in hit compilations.

The Disco Mix Club has for the past few years been licensing tracks from record companies and issuing them as megamix albums only to club members, but a huge public demand for these has developed and this is the first time that agreement has been reached to have them released commercially.

An emerging singer who I tip for major success in the future is South Coast man Chris Sutton whose self-titled debut LP is now available on the Polydor label.

Melodic

In July he released a first-rate dance single called "Don't Get Me Wrong" which received very little radio backing and flopped accordingly. This is included on the LP together with the new 45 "You Worry Me". Other numbers worth listening to are the funky "Trobule,"

the exquisite ballad "That One Love Feeling" and most of all "Prince Of Justice" which has a great melodic feel to it.

It has taken Boston six years to compose, record and produce its third album which is appropriately called "Third Stage." Striving so hard for perfection the end product just had to be worth listening to, and I doubt whether any heavy rock band has ever achieved such a polished and well-produced sound.

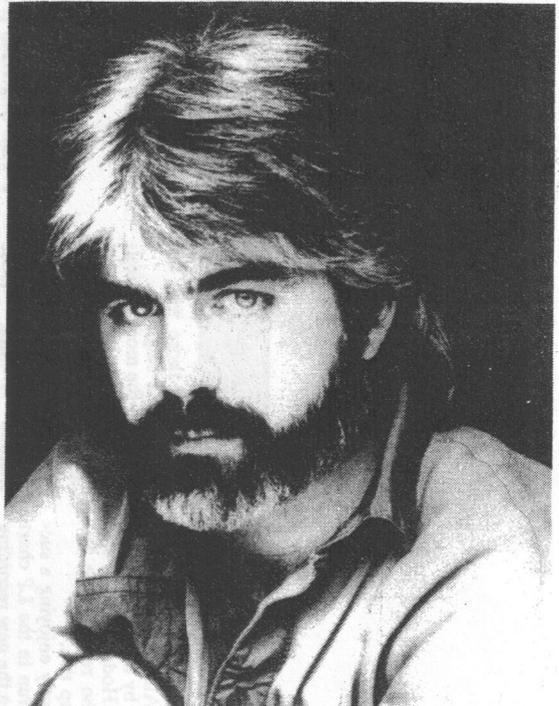
Slower

The best cuts are the opener "Amanda" (a recent U.S. chart topper),

and the closing song "Hollyann" which gives the record the dramatic finish it needed. Side Two is generally in a slower vein than the first side.

LP CHART

- 1 Now That's What I Call Music 8 (Various)
- 2 Hits 5 (Various)
- 3 The Whole Story (Kate Bush)
- 4 The Singles (Police)
- 5 "Top Gun" Soundtrack (Various)
- 6 True Blue (Madonna)
- 7 Silk And Steel (5 Star)
- 8 Slippery When Wet (Bon Jovi)
- 9 Graceland (Paul Simon)
- 10 Through The Barricades (Spandau Ballet)



● Michael McDonald