

Record Review

Bob Woodhead

Virgin Records have released an album called "This Time — The First Four Years" featuring all of Culture Club's worldwide hits.

Up to now the quartet's best LP was their second record (issued in 1983) entitled "Colour By Numbers" and this is reflected in the choice of tracks on this new collection. Six out of the 12 cuts are taken from "Colour By Numbers" including the exquisite "Miss Me Blind" which was a smash hit in America but never released as a single here. Along with "Time (Clock Of The Heart)" it was their most soulful, black-influenced recording so it is most appropriate that these two gems are segued into each other on the new album. "Time" reached No. 3 in December 1982 but it has never before appeared on a Culture Club LP.

Also appearing on one of the group's long-players for the first time is "Love Is

Love", a pleasant ballad taken from the soundtrack album for the film "Electric Dreams". Of the remaining four tracks there are two from "Kissing To Be Clever" and one from the last two LP's, namely "The War Song" and "Move Away".

Atlantic Records have released an album of hits by Ben E. King calling it "The Ultimate Collection". The record includes the recent chart-topper "Stand By Me", first released in 1961 and the follow-up "Spanish Harlem" which is selling well second time around. There are also three tracks he recorded with the Drifters as their lead singer, the most famous of which is "Save The Last Dance For Me" (No. 2 in 1960). The album is enjoyable throughout as King has a mellow, relaxing voice, and the orchestration, particularly the string-section is first rate. The disc ends with a later number entitled "Supernatural Thing (Part

1)" which was an American hit in 1975 and was co-written by Gwen Guthrie, now making hits in her own name.

On the local music scene I enjoyed listening to a tape by the Sidlesham trio Serious Ears whose music sounds not unlike Echo And The Bunnymen. Vocalist Robert has a singing style similar to that of Billy Idol. Two of their songs "Pursuit" and especially "No Charm Fields" demonstrated that they have some promising ideas which hopefully they will develop and take further.

Well worth hearing is Millie Scott's album entitled "Love Me Right" featuring last summer's club hit "Prisoner Of Love" and her recent success "Ev'ry Little Bit". The best track though is "Don't Take Your Love" which is the only ballad among the nine songs.

On the singles scene it is

good to see Starship doing so well with their quality rock song "Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now" which has already been No. 1 in America. Also worth a spin is Cameo's "Back And Forth" and "Wishing I Was Lucky" by Glasgow band Wet Wet Wet, deservedly enjoying Top Forty success.

LP CHART (with last week's placings in brackets).

- 1(1) Now 9 (Various)
- 2(12) Invisible Touch (Genesis)
- 3(3) F.L.M. (Mel and Kim)
- 4(2) Raindancing (Alison Moyet)
- 5(6) Running In The Family (Level 42)
- 6(—) Never Let Me Down (David Bowie)
- 7(4) The Joshua Tree (U2)
- 8(9) This Time (Culture Club)
- 9(7) Tango In The Night (Fleetwood Mac)
- 10(8) Graceland (Paul Simon)



● Culture Club