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Record Review

by Bob Woodhead

Readers of my Centenary Record Review in the Observer's June 18 edition will recall that my selection as the best track ever recorded was "It's Over" by Level 42 from their album "Running In The Family" which was also my choice for the best LP. So I am pleased to report that "It's Over" is re-released on a single this week in a re-mixed version.

For those who have not heard the song it is an outstanding ballad performed

in a soulful style with skilful musicianship throughout. It was composed by Mark King in collaboration with guitarist Boon Gould and Wally Badarou who is an important member of the quartet's back-up team as well as being co-producer. It will be interesting to see whether this track will give Level 42 their biggest hit. The B side features a "live" version of "Physical Presence" which was one of the most impressive cuts on their "World Machine" set, and the 12-inch has a bonus instrumental recording of "It's over". My only adverse comment is that the re-mix is not as good as the album version with the addition of the slide-guitar sounding out of place to my ears.

EMI have re-released

five James Bond soundtracks under the banner "25th Anniversary Celebration". They are: "Dr. No" from 1962; "From Russia With Love" (1963); "Goldfinger" (1964); "Thunderball" (1966); and the later "Live and Let Die" (1973). The two I have chosen for review are "Dr. No" and "Live and Let Die" and I would recommend either of them with the reservation that the music can be too repetitive at times, although this is perhaps inevitable on soundtracks of this type.

Both records are so different that it is difficult to choose a favourite. Obviously the latter has more sophisticated orchestration having been recorded 11 years later than "Dr. No," but even so there are some

enchanting songs on that very first soundtrack that 007's fans will not forget in a hurry. These include "Under The Mango Tree" and "Kingston Calypso" (a West Indian version of "Three Blind Mice" — or maybe I should say "TREE Blind Mice!")

If you are a Bond fan with a compact disc player your best buy would be the newly-released disc "James Bond — 13 Original Themes" featuring the great title-songs to the movies of which there has never been a bad one. And just to make this week's column almost entirely 007's territory, Warner Brothers have got in on the act by issuing the soundtrack LP to the very latest movie "The Living Daylights" including the catchy title-tune performed by the

Norwegian trio A-Ha. There are also two Pretenders numbers including the latest 45 "If There Was A Man", and there is also a delightful instrumental version of this tune. In my view "Living Daylights" has the best complete soundtrack out of all the James Bond films.

LP CHART

- 1 Hysteria (Def Leopard)
- 1 Hits 6 (Various)
- 3 Substance (New Order)
- 4 The All-Time Greatest Hits (Elvis Presley)
- 5 Who's That Girl (Soundtrack)
- 6 Whitney (Whitney Houston)
- 7 Introducing The Hardline According To Terence Trent D'Arby
- 8 Sixties Mix (Various)
- 9 The Joshua Tree (U2)
- 10 True Blue (Madonna)



● Mark King of Level 42.