
Record Review

10/14/87

Last week I mentioned that there have been about half a dozen classic albums released in 1987. One that definitely falls into that category is "Alphabet City" by ABC, the duo from Sheffield, which was issued in October.

Their latest single is called "King Without A Crown" which they penned and produced themselves, and it is the perfect advertisement for the long-player, being a typical piece of silky "blue-eyed" soul music. The B-side has a "live" version of "The Look Of Love" recorded in Boston, America, in December 1982.

Recommended

This month EMI continues the pattern of Beatles picture-disc releases with "Hello Goodbye," originally issued in the final weeks of 1967. The song

climbed to the number one spot on December 6, 20 years ago, and remained there for seven weeks.

Also recommended are new 45 releases by the Pet Shop Boys with their dramatic re-working of the Elvis Presley record "Always On My Mind," the Bee Gees with the title song from their LP "E.S.P." which is all about the supernatural, and the Pretenders remix of their 1979 hit "Kid" which is backed up with the original "demo" version of "Stop Your Sobbing" . . . their very first record in the same year. My only criticism of "Kid" is that the guitar refrain is similar to the Shadows tune "Atlantis" from 1963.

Nevertheless I hold firm on my prediction a fortnight ago that Rick Astley will top the pops on Christmas Day with "When I Fall In Love." I neglected to mention that it is officially in the shops as a double-A-side, coupled with a first rate, dance track "My Arms

Keep Missing You" (written and produced by Stock, Aitken and Waterman) which does not feature on his album. This can only help to boost the sales!

The best of the "various artist" compilations in the shops at present is "Now 10" which has deservedly outsold its main rival "Hits 7" to reach number one in the LP chart. It has 30 top chart hits, some of them still in the Top 40. Everyone will have their own favourites but the three songs which gave me the most pleasure were "It's Over" by Level 42, "The Real Thing" by Jellybean with Steven Dante on vocals, and "When Smokey Sings" by ABC.

Presents

Half the tracks also appear on a 60 minute video which may help those struggling for ideas for Christmas presents, as there are songs and performers who are likely to appeal to many different musical tastes.

The most impressive video interpretation on this set is Freddie Mercury's outing with Spanish opera singer Montserrat Caballe on "Barcelona".

A new American soul singer to watch out for in the future is Meli'sa Morgan whose new LP "Good Love" is well worth hearing, particularly the song "If You Can Do It, I Can Too". This is also available on the smaller format and is receiving substantial support in clubs and on specialist radio programmes.

LP CHART

- 1 Now 10 (Various)
- 2 Whenever You Need Somebody (Rick Astley)
- 3 Hits 7 (Various)
- 4 Bridge Of Spies (T'Pau)
- 5 All The Best (Paul McCartney)
- 6 Best of UB 40
- 7 The Singles (Pretenders)
- 8 You Can Dance (Madonna)
- 9 Tango In The Night (Fleetwood Mac)
- 10 Faith (George Michael)

by Bob Woodhead



● ABC whose "Alphabet City" is a classic.