

Record Review

by Bob Woodhead

Will the world listen?

The Smiths have released an album entitled "The World Won't Listen" which is a compilation featuring their hits of the last two years mixed in with B-sides

and some previously unreleased songs. This is their fifth L.P. and my least favourite to date. It certainly comes across as the filler between new releases that

it is meant to be.

Apart from repeating several songs from "The Queen Is Dead" album and one from "Meat Is Murder," the less familiar numbers are disappointing apart from "Half a Person," which was the B-side of the 12-inch single, "Shoplifters Of The World Unite" (also included). To my mind this should have been the A-side; it has interesting lyrics and a lovely chord-pattern on Johnny Marr's guitar. Despite my criticism the record is still worth buying if you are keen on the group's music because you still get the recent singles, "Panic," "Ask" and the aforementioned "Shoplifters," which have not previously appeared on L.P.s.

In the past, I have found Andrew Lloyd Webber's musicals interesting in places but never been captivated throughout — that is until I listened to his latest effort, "The Phantom Of The Opera," which is undoubtedly his masterpiece.

It is available as a double album on the Polydor label recorded by the original London cast, featuring all the principal musical material. Some cuts have been made to accommodate available space but they have not affected the main

body of music. The full libretto (including spoken dialogue and the sequences that have been cut) is contained in a well-presented booklet that comes with the album.

My only criticism is that the entire double-L.P. lasts for nearly two hours, so it can be heavy going. I would like to see the best parts condensed into a one-hour compact disc.

Highlights

The highlights include the already well-known title track sung by Michael Crawford (the Phantom) and Sarah Brightman (Christine), "The Music Of The Night" (by Crawford again) and "All I Ask Of You" by Ms. Brightman and Steve Barton (Raoul) and also in reprise by Crawford.

These versions by the cast are better than the pop version that Sarah Brightman recorded with Cliff Richard. Lloyd Webber's music has certainly become more adventurous since he married Sarah Brightman.

Newly available on video is an hour-long spectacular from the inimitable Tina Turner. The setting for "Break Every Rule" was the futuristic Club Zero in Paris where 14 film cameras captured Ms. Turner's electrifying stage show.

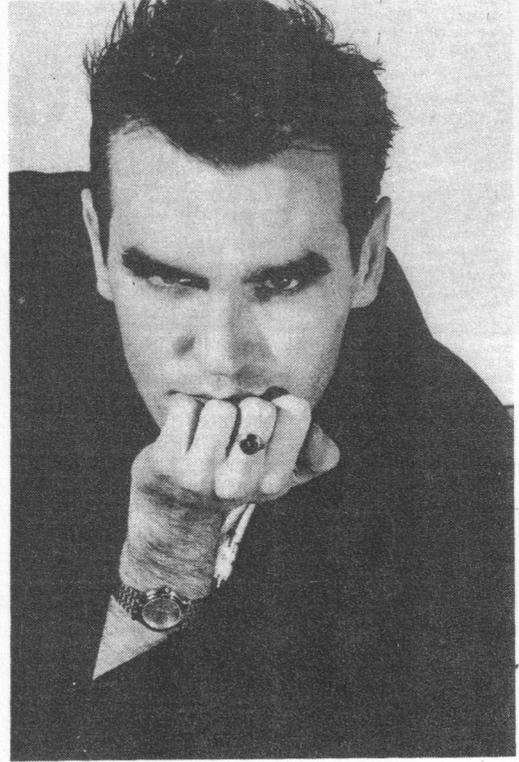
Introduced by television's famous robot Max Headroom, Tina is witnessed at her raunchy best, performing songs from her recent album together with a selection of Sixties classics like Wilson Pickett's "In The Midnight Hour."

Also featured is her version of the Robert Palmer hit "Addicted To Love" with Robert Cray joining in on vocals. He also helps out on guitar on "A Change Is Gonna Come." As a bonus the video also includes the stylish film which accompanies the song specially written for Tina by David Bowie — "Girls."

Single of the week is Al Jarreau's soulful rendition of "Moonlighting" — the theme to the B.B.C.-TV series.

L.P. CHART

- 1 Phantom Of The Opera (Original Cast).
- 2 The World Won't Listen (Smiths).
- 3 Very Best Of Hot Chocolate.
- 4 Graceland (Paul Simon).
- 5 Picture Book (Simply Red).
- 6 Silk And Steel (5 Star).
- 7 August (Eric Clapton).
- 8 Live Magic (Queen).
- 9 Final Countdown (Europe).
- 10 Give Me The Reason (Luther Vandross).



• Morrissey of the Smiths.