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# Album in high-spirited mood

## Record Review

One of the most successful British albums in recent months has been "Bridge Of Spies" by Shrewsbury group T'Pau, led by flame-haired vocalist Carol Decker.

The LP features their hit singles "Heart And Soul", "Valentine" and the chart-topping "China In Your Hand", and if you enjoyed those songs you are likely to find the others are to your liking. Many of them are in a rock vein but there are some you can dance to. It is the sort of record that requires a certain, high-spirited mood for listening to, but there are one or two cleverly crafted melodies, especially "Thank You For Goodbye" which is my favourite tune.

Carol Decker wrote all the songs in collaboration with Ron Rogers, and the production was handled by Roy Thomas Baker, famous for his work with Queen. T'Pau are a rare example of a British group who found success in America before hitting the headlines in their homeland.

### Smash

The best of the current "greatest hits" collections is "The Best Of OMD" by Orchestral Manoeuvres In The Dark. Not since the Beatles has a band from Liverpool had so many Top 20 hits. They made their name in 1980 as one of the new generation of "new romantic" bands, and their synthesizer, electro-pop sound was just what the public wanted at that time.

Proof of this came with

their hits "Messages", "Enola Gay", "Souvenir" and best of all "Joan Of Arc". These all appear on this album, as does their first recording "Electricity" from 1979 which was never picked up by radio so did not attract the attention of record-buyers.

In 1984 OMD's sound moved with the times into a more danceable, Hi-NRG style, with smash hits like "Tesla Girls" and "Locomotion" which is certainly the song that most people will sing along with on this record. Over the last three years the hits have been fewer and the chart placing slower, but songs like "So In Love" and "If You Leave" are still very appealing.

The most recent single

"Dreaming" is also on the LP. This stood very little chance of breaking into the charts because Radio One did not include it on their "Playlist".

### Congratulations

The "Playlist" has its advantages in so far as the disc-jockeys have to stick to a chart formula and generally play the records most people want to hear, but it can be difficult for new performers to break into the market and for artists (like OMD) whose career is in decline but who are still making good records. The remedy could be for Radio One to broaden and increase its Playlist.

If it was scrapped altogether we could witness a

return to the situation a few years ago when DJs and producers indulged in their own tastes, switching most of the listeners off! On the subject of radio, my belated congratulations go out to my friends at BBC Radio Sussex who last month celebrated 20 years of broadcasting. Radio Brighton, as it was originally known, was only the second local radio station to hit the airwaves behind Radio, Leicester which opened in 1967 under the Home Office experiment. On the television front I can report that after Easter BBC-TV's "Top Of The Pops" will be switching to Tuesday evenings for the first time in its 24-year history.

Terence Trent D'Arby's LP has been dethroned after being No.1 for more consecutive weeks (eight) than any album since

"Brothers In Arms" by Dire Straits topped for ten weeks in a row exactly two years ago. D'Arby's album was also No.1 for a single week last summer when it was reviewed in this column. It has sold 1.4 million in this country.

### LP CHART

1. Viva Hate (Morrissey).
2. Best Of OMD.
3. Naked (Talking Heads).
4. Hearsay (Alexander O'Neal).
5. From Langley Park To Memphis (Prefab Sprout).
6. Introducing The Hardline According To Terence Trent D'Arby.
7. Unforgettable (Vari-ous).
8. Tear Down These Walls (Billy Ocean).
9. Popped In, Souled Out (Wet Wet Wet).
10. Whenever You Need Somebody (Rick Astley).

Bob Woodhead



Carol Decker of T'Pau