Video stirs memories of 'Swinging Sixties'

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Record Review

Melba Moore

One of the most popular and enduring female soul singers of the last 12 years, Melba Moore, has released a new album entitled "I'm In Love".

She shot to fame in 1976 with the Top Ten Hit "This Is It" and since that time her career has covered acting on both stage and screen. She has also recorded more than a dozen albums which have proved more popular in America than they have in this country. For example her last long player "A Lot Of Love" spawned two American No. 1 singles.

"I'm In Love" undoubtedly ranks among Ms. Moore's best L.P.s. It has been produced by the team of Gene McFadden, Rahni Harris, Kashif, Howard King and Shelley and Brian Morgan, who have all been responsible for various hit records in the past.

Gene McFadden was one half of the great McFadden and Whithead duo who had a hit with "Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now", and the twosome have added some polished background vocals on this record. They also composed the soulful ballad "I Don't Know No One Else To Turn To" which is the best track on the first side.

On side two the stand out numbers are the slow-grooving tunes "Keeps Me Runnin' Back" and especially "This Time" which is very infectious. The L.P. also includes Melba duetting on ballads with Freddie Jackson on "I Can't Complain" and with Kashif on the title song.

Following on from their two successful "Sixties Mix" albums, Stylus have now released two smashing videos called "Sixties Mix UK" and "Sixties Mix USA" featuring an hour's original footage of 25 performances on each cassette.

Superior

The USA version has film of Sonny and Cher singing "I Got You Babe", the Everly Brothers singing "Walk Right Back", and artists ranging from the Beach Boys and the Byrds to Bob Dylan and Bobby Vee.

However, I would recommend "Sixties Mix UK" as being far superior, as the video stirs memories of the British way of life in the swinging decade, including some amusing fashions, haircuts and performing techniques. Many of the groups of the Merseybeat era really played up to the cameras with antics like lifting the necks of their guitars in unison without as much as a hair out of place!

Some performances were really "corny" like the Merseybeats singing "Don't Turn Around" on a revolving stage with their backs to each other! At the time it was seen as technologically clever of course. The groups stood closely together in those days as camera lenses were narrower, but many of these films are in colour, having been filmed for special promotions and the cinema as opposed to black and white TV.

Also likely to raise a smile in your living room are Brian Poole and the Tremeloes and the early Hollies. The video also features the Applejacks, Four Pennies and Kinks, in addition to Eurovision winner Sandie Shaw and local lady Petula Clark singing "Down Town".

My particular favourite is the Swinging Blue Jeans' "You're No Good", remembering what a thrill it seemed at the time going to school with the drummer's cousin!

LP Chart

1. Nite Flite (Various)
2. Tracy Chapman
3. Tango In The Night (Fleetwood Mac)
4. Whitney (Whitney Houston)
5. Push (Bros)
6. Heaven On Earth (Belinda Carlisle)
7. Popped In Souled Out (Wet Wet Wet)
8. Dirty Dancing – Soundtrack
9. Stronger Than Pride (Sade)
10. Motown Dance Party (Various)

Bob Woodhead