

Record Review

Those evergreen Hollies

In September the Hollies thrilled and delighted all fans (old and new) of Sixties music by reaching No.1 with "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother," a song which originally climbed to No.3 in 1969. The record was re-promoted after being used on a popular lager commercial on television, and we were privileged to witness the group giving a "live" performance on "Top Of The Pops," reminding us of the days when groups had the musical ability and gumption to give such a competent display, instead of merely miming.

Following on from this success, EMI have released a double album of the group's work called "All The Hits And More." The album takes a look at the Hollies hitmaking career beginning with their first single release "Just Like Me" from 1963, and working its way through their memorable hits like "Just One Look," "Bus Stop," "On A Carousel" and my favourite "The Air That I Breathe." The major hit singles had ceased by 1971 but "The Air That I Breathe" was a great "afterthought," storming its way to No.2 in 1974 and ending that year among the Top 15 best sellers. This song, more than most really showed off the band's predominant strength - their vocal harmonies.

The album includes "The Baby" which was their only British hit single to feature the Swede Mikael Rickfords as lead singer while Allan Clarke pursued a brief solo career. Needless to say "He Ain't Heavy" is featured, together with their only other British chart-topper "I'm Alive" from 1965. This compilation is more imaginative than most, as it also features some of the best LP tracks from years gone by, like "Too Young To Be Married," a spine-tingling, folky ballad, composed by the ever-youthful Tony Hicks.

Guitarist Hicks (seated), drummer Bobby Elliott (wearing the hat) and vocalist Allan Clarke (right of picture) are the three surviving members of the original 1963 line-up of the Hollies. The most successful ex-member is of course Graham Nash.

The Hollies are not the only artists from the 1960s to be enjoying a

revival and a successful album of hits, because Telstar Records have recently released "The Legendary Roy Orbison (The Greatest Hits)" featuring twenty of Orbison's best recordings, including fourteen tracks that conquered the British Top 20. Three of these reached No.1, namely "Only The Lonely," "It's Over" and "Oh, Pretty Woman."

Delightful style

During the first five years of the 1960s Orbison was second only to Elvis Presley in the ranks of American male singers enjoying British chart success. Apart from the aforementioned chart toppers the highlights here included "Falling," "In Dreams," and best of all "Borne On The Wind" performed in a delightful Spanish/Mexican flamenco guitar style. The album also features Roy's original 1961 version of "Crying" which became a No.1 for Don McLean nearly twenty years later. The recordings featured are the originals, so I enjoyed this collection far more than the recent compilation of new versions of the old hits.

L.P. CHART

1. Kylie (Kylie Minogue).
2. Private Collection (Cliff Richard).
3. Wanted (Yazz).
4. Money For Nothing (Dire Straits).
5. Greatest Hits (Human League).
6. The Ultimate Collection (Bryan Ferry).
7. The Memphis Sessions (Wet Wet Wet).
8. Soft Metal (Various).
9. The Premiere Collection (Andrew Lloyd Webber).
10. Smash Hits Party 88 (Various).

Bob Woodhead



The Hollies

Reduced from A3 → A4.