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Buddy Holly re-issue is strongly recommended

Record Review

Chris Rea has been performing consistently in the Album Charts for the last few months with "New Light Through Old Windows".

It is sub-titled "The Best Of Chris Rea" as it features a collection of new, updated recordings of his hit songs from recent years.

In most cases the new versions are improvements on the originals and the sound quality is superior particularly on Compact Disc.

Five songs in the middle of the disc are especially memorable and will stand the test of time, beginning with "Josephine" a gentle, catchy tune with a folk feel to it, leading into the awesome "Candles" with a superb melodic tune playing behind the Rea vocals, and followed by the full seven-minute version of last summer's smash hit "On The Beach."

Next up is "Fool If You Think It's Over" the song that made Chris famous ten years ago and which provided Elkie Brooks with a hit, and this is followed by "I Can Hear Your Heartbeat" - one of his best-loved numbers.

Other highlights include

"Let's Dance" with its infectious rhythm, "Windy Town" a good rock number notable for its instrumentation, and "Driving Home For Christmas" his seasonal offering from 1987 which surprisingly did not reach the upper sections of the charts.

I was however, very surprised and disappointed that the 1982 hit song "Loving You" was omitted from this collection.

Thirty years have now passed since the tragic death of the early rock 'n' roll star Buddy Holly in an air crash. His unique "skiffle" sound and fantastic songwriting ability will never be forgotten.

At the time of his death he was composing high quality songs at a fast rate similar to the speed and consistency with which Lennon and McCartney wrote. Many of us will ponder and think of all the songs Buddy Holly might have gone on to compose had he lived.

His enduring popularity is evident from the sales of the recently released compilation LP "True Love Ways" featuring twenty of his classic love songs. I would strongly recom-

mend this package to fans and new converts alike.

All the best Holly recordings on the theme of love are included, from the uplifting "It's So Easy" and "Heartbeat" to the mellow "Words Of Love" and "Love Is Strange" which were later recorded by the Beatles and the Everly Brothers respectively.

Quality

Then there is "Reminiscing" with its seductive saxophone sound and the optimism of "Wishing" - the list of strong songs goes on!

Little did I imagine six years ago when 13-year-old Bobby Brown was singing lead vocals on New Edition's "Candy

Girl" that he would become a top soul star by the end of the 1980s. Bobby's "Don't Be Cruel" album has been a smash Top Ten hit and has provided him with two hit singles already.

The title-track was originally available at the tail-end of last summer but was virtually ignored by radio disc-jockeys and record-buyers, so it is a pleasure to see it performing so well in the charts the second time around, as the follow-up to "My Prerogative."

The rest of the LP is packed with good dance numbers like "Roni" and "Every Little Step," and quality ballads like "Rock Wit'cha" and "Take It Slow".

LP CHART

1. When The World Knows Your Name (Deacon Blue)
2. Like A Prayer (Madonna)
3. A New Flame (Simple Red)
4. Anything For You (Gloria Estefan)
5. Forever Your Girl (Paula Abdul)
6. Appetite For Destruction (Guns 'N' Roses)
7. Don't Be Cruel (Bobby Brown)
8. The Headless Children (W.A.S.P.)
9. Raw And The Cooked (Fine Young Cannibals)
10. Singular Adventures Of The Style Council

Bob Woodhead