

Record review

2/8/89

Everly gems

The Everly Brothers who recently performed at the Portsmouth Guildhall (in a concert reviewed in this column in June) have a new compilation album in the shops.

The obscure, cult label Ace Records has gathered together 14 of Phil and Don's lesser-known recordings under the title "The Everly Brothers Hidden Gems From The Warner Bros Years - Volume One". These tracks are mostly ballads that appeared on the B-sides of their singles between 1962 and 1965, and the title "Hidden Gems" is very apt as that is precisely what many of them are.

Even the Everlys fans of the early-1960s who bought the original hit singles will be interested in this collection because many of them will have worn out the originals making them "unplayable" on modern hi-fi equipment. The album will also interest their newer, younger followers who have heard all the hits time and time again on the radio, but who want to listen to their lesser-known tracks.

The best known number on "Hidden Gems" is the 1962 hit "No One Can Make My Sunshine Smile" - one of their typical, mainstream pop songs of the time, but my favourite cut is "Don't Ask Me To Be Friends" - a superb, harmony-ballad performed in similar style to "Crying In The Rain". Other tracks to listen out for include the ballads "So It Always Will Be," "Whatever Happened To Judy", and the Everlys' 1963 version of "Love Her" - the song that gave the Walker Brothers their first hit single two years later. There are a few uptempo, rock'n'roll numbers to add variety to the record.

The pick of the present hit compilations is "Now Dance 89" a double-album featuring 20 12-inch mixes of the best dance hits released between January and June of this year. It is always great to hear these lengthy remixes as they rarely (if ever) get a full airing on the radio. Unless you are a regular club-goer week-in, week-out, you will probably never have a chance of hearing many of them, so "Now Dance 89" provides that opportunity at a very reasonable price.

The highlights include the irresistible, dance-floor favourite "One Man" by Chanelle, Frankie Beverly's original version of "Joy And Pain" with Maze, and the sensitive ballad "Keep On Movin'" that introduced us to the band Soul II Soul featuring Caron Wheeler. There is a generous helping of House-orientated music including the fabulous "Funky Cold Medina" by Fone Loc, and the reggae-based "Just Keep Rockin'" by Double Trouble and the Rebel MC.

LP CHART

1. A New Flame (Simply Red)
2. The 12 Commandments of Dance (London Boys)
3. Don't Be Cruel (Bobby Brown)
4. Club Classics, Vol One (Soul II Soul)
5. Peace And Love (Pogues)
6. Ten Good Reasons (Jason Donovan)
7. Appetite For Destruction (Guns'N'Roses)
8. Velvetene (Transvision Vamp)
9. Batman - Soundtrack (Prince)
10. The Miracle (Queen)

Bob Woodhead



Don and Phil Everly: the magic goes on.