

Cher's voice is still in charge

One of the most distinctive voices of the 1960s belonged to Cher, and it is a credit to the lady that this description still applies at the end of the 1980s in addition to all her success as an actress.

Because her pop career began at such an early age with her then husband Sonny Bobo, it is hard to believe that Cher is still only 43 years old.

She is still releasing fine albums from time to time, and the latest in the series is "Heart of Stone" which features a musical style in the rock vein so prevalent on her last album. The team of producers this time around are Peter Asher, Michael Bolton, Desmond Child, Jon Lind, Diane Warren, and Guy Roche.

The highlight of "Heart of Stone" is undoubtedly

the recent 45 "If I Could Turn Back Time" which features a strong melody, well sung and well produced. Generally the songs on Side Two are stronger than those on the first side. "Emotional Fire" is a rock number that really belts along, while "Starting Over" and "Kiss to Kiss" have memorable tunes. There are also a couple of good ballads thrown in for good measure - "All Because Of You" and "Does Anybody Really Fall In Love Anymore?" Throughout the album Cher's deep voice is well in charge.

A & M Records have released some of the most popular back-catalogue on Compact-Disc. Many of these releases fall into the "Easy-Listening" category. For example there is "Herb Alpert And The Tijuana Brass - Greatest Hits" featuring the talented trumpeter of the 1960s with his accomplished backing band, on catchy, tuneful instrumen-

tals like "Lonely Bull," "Taste of Honey," "Tijuana Taxi," and "Spanish Flea."

A lesser known band in this country were Sergio Mendes And Brasil '66 whose "Greatest Hits" is another in this series. Coincidentally their leader Mendes co-produced this collection with Alpert, and the connection does not stop there as Herb's wife Lani Hall was the lead singer.

Jazz

This husband and wife team will be better known in Britain for their work together on the 1983 James Bond theme "Never Say Never Again," a spine-tingling ballad that I consider to be the best in the series of Bond themes. Lani's vocals play an important role on such numbers as "Scarborough Fair," "Fool On The Hill," and "Going Out Of My Head."

Jazz enthusiasts will be happy to learn that the Dave Brubeck Quartet's "25th Anniversary Reunion" recorded in 1976, is also available in this CD series. The highlight here is a brilliant ten-minute version of their 1961 chart hit "Take Five" on which their musicianship speaks for itself!

LP CHART

1. Cuts Both Ways (Gloria Estefan)
2. Ten Good Reasons (Jason Donovan)
3. A New Flame (Simply Red)
4. All The Hits: Hot Sensational Remixes (Imagination)
5. Trash (Alice Cooper)
6. Adeva (Adeva)
7. Raw And The Cooked (Fine Young Cannibals)
8. Choices (Blow Monkeys)
9. Singalong War Years (Max Bygraves)
10. Batman - Soundtrack (Prince)

Bob Woodhead



Cher