

Backing singer^{25/9/89} became famous

One of the most popular and distinguished soul ballads of the recent hot summer months was Karyn White's "Superwoman".

Her album, simply called "Karyn White" is well worth a listen also. Most of the songs have been produced and composed by the prolific and successful team of L.A. Reid and BabyFace who have created a distinctive sound that has become their "trademark".

For example, one can

hear a great resemblance to their work with the Mac Band on "Roses Are Red" on Karyn's very first track, entitled "The Way You Love Me" which is a very strong dance number with a good tune.

Strong

The new single "Secret Rendezvous" continues in this vein, but I was surprised that this was chosen in preference to "The Way You Love Me". Side One is completed by a pleasant, slower number "Slow Down" and the aforementioned "Superwoman".

The second side is not quite as infectious as the first, apart from an inspired duet ballad featuring Karyn with BabyFace on "Love Saw It".

Ms. White is part of a trend in which backing-singers working with top stars are branching out on their own to become famous names themselves. She was originally one of Madonna's supporting band.

Following the success of Chaka Khan's album of remixed hits, Imagination have followed the same path by releasing "All The Hits: Hot Sensational Remixes". This is an album that really does live up to its name, and for supreme sound quality it is well worth investing in the CD format with this one.

The original hits from the early 1980s were so strong that they hardly needed tampering with, but in most cases the treatment works brilliantly and they sound as though they really belong to 1989. The addition of "House" and "Hip Hop" rhythms to such strong, soulful melodies makes the tracks stand well above many of today's dance hits.

Two of the numbers, "L.T.O. (Love's Taking Over)" and "Give Into Love" were previously only released for the American market so they will be brand new to most ears. "L.T.O." really stands out with its catchy tune and great "House" rhythm tagged on.

The remixes of "Changes" and "Burning Up" are great improvements on the originals which were never among my favourites.

Other highlights include "Instinctual" mixed in the "House" style, "So Good So Right" the gorgeous ballad mixed with "Hip Hop" beats, and the stunning "Body Talk" of 1981, given extravagant orchestration and extra instrumentation.

In either its original form or its remixed version this track will be one of the contenders for my personal Top Ten of the 1980s.

One or two of the remixes do not work so well, most notably "Just An Illusion" and "Flashback", but with a selection of 12 tracks this is almost inevitable. Nevertheless "All The Hits" is one of the best CDs of 1989.

LP Chart

1. We Too Are One (Eurythmics)
2. Steel Wheels (Rolling Stones)
3. Pump (Aerosmith)
4. Cuts Both Ways (Gloria Estefan)
5. Ten Good Reasons (Jason Donovan)
6. Sleeping With The Past (Elton John)
7. Aspects Of Love (Original London Cast)
8. A New Flame (Simply Red)
9. All The Hits - Hot Sensational Remixes (Imagination)
10. Adeva (Adeva)

Bob Woodhead



Karyn White