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Duo's follow-up disappoints

It is always a great disappointment when one has to wait for a long period of time for an artist to follow-up a classic album - and when that new work becomes available it turns out to be inferior.

Regrettably this has been the case with Tears For Fears who have kept us waiting for no less than four-and-a-half years for a successor to the classic "Songs From The Big Chair."

The new album "The Seeds of Love" is very different from the duo's earlier work, and they deserve praise for not repeating the successful formula, but it fails in so far as they are trying to be something they are not really cut out for ... a heavier rock band.

Tears For Fears will never be another U2 or Simple Minds but I get the distinct impression that on many of these new tracks that is what they are trying

to be. It is therefore the few songs on which they are being true to themselves that really stand out, most notably "Advice For The Young At Heart" which is a gentle-rolling pop number with a very catchy tune.

If this is released as a single I think it has Top Five potential and will go down the same way as their best-ever song "Everybody Wants To Rule The World."

The next best track is "Famous Last Words," a quiet lullaby at the end of the L.P., which develops into an infectious, rocking crescendo. The recent hit 45 "Slowing The Seeds of Love" is also included and this deserves acclaim with its subtle "political" lyrics and "tongue-in-cheek" styling based on the Beatles in their hippy era of "I Am The Walrus."

The remaining numbers have strong jazz and blues influences in addition to the aforementioned rock influences of bands like U2 and Simple Minds, but somehow the catchy tunes and strong ideas of "Big

Chair" are just not there.

Curt Smith and Roland Orzabal are still young at 28 and I am sure we will be hearing much more from them in the 1990s. Incidentally, although they are both based in Bath where they have their own studios, Orzabal was born locally in Portsmouth.

If you enjoy modern, orchestral music in a slightly off-beat style then Ennio Morricone's original soundtrack from the TVS serial "The Endless Game" is likely to appeal to you.

The highly respected Italian musician is best known in this country for his theme-music from "The Life And Times Of David Lloyd George" entitled "Chi Mai" which reached No. 2 in the charts in 1981.

He also worked on "The Good, The Bad And The Ugly" in 1968, and more recently he contributed to the Pet Shop Boys' classic album "Actually" in 1987.

All the music on "The Endless Game" has been composed, orchestrated, and conducted by Morri-

cone, and the orchestra featured is Unione Musicisti Di Roma. The most appealing track is probably the title-number but the whole album has an appealing quality.

Admittedly some of the incidental music comes across rather disjointedly but the arrangements are subtle and interesting. Having heard this work, I would like to hear Ennio's work used on television and in films more often.

LP CHART

- 1 The Seeds Of Love (Tears For Fears)
- 2 Foreign Affair (Tina Turner)
- 3 Cuts Both Ways (Gloria Estefan)
- 4 We Too Are One (Eurythmics)
- 5 Like A Prayer (Madonna)
- 6 Rhythm Nation 1814 (Janet Jackson)
- 7 Season's End (Marillion)
- 8 Pump (Aerosmith)
- 9 Repeat Offender (Richard Marx)
- 10 The Good Reasons (Jason Donocan)

Bob Woodhead



Tears for Fears featuring Curt Smith and Roland Orzabal (right).