



Kool and The Gang

Kool and Gang produce perfect party record

—Record Review—

The most consistent black American dance band of the 1980s have released a fabulous album featuring their most popular work.

The group in question are of course Kool And The Gang and the LP is "The Singles Collection."

They signed their first recording contract in 1969, and they built up a steady following with their funky dance music of the 1970s, but it was not until the very end of 1979 when "Ladies Night" reached the Top Ten that they became well known in this country.

This was the first song to feature the golden voice of James Taylor (not to be confused with the folk singer of the same name). After "Ladies Night" it seemed as though Kool And The Gang just could not stop making hit records, and they are all included on this album.

Their faster numbers

were all irresistible when it came to getting people on the dance floor, and with sound like "Fresh," "Straight Ahead" and "Hi De Hi, Hi De Ho" this is the perfect party record. Kool And The Gang were also capable of producing tuneful, mid-tempo pop numbers like "When You Say You Love Somebody - In The Heart," but they had a wonderful, mellow side to them too, on soul ballads like "Too Hot," "Joanna" and their greatest masterpiece "Cherish" which still sends shivers down the spine after nearly four years.

Eight years after the assassination of John Lennon, EMI have released the soundtrack to the new documentary movie "Imagine: John Lennon" on a double cassette, album and compact-disc. The specially selected tracklisting includes songs from his solo career, plus Beatles

and Plastic Ono Band material, a previously unreleased song recorded in 1980 "Real Love," and a short rehearsal version of the classic "Imagine" from the summer of 1971 when John first played it to the musicians who later performed on the album.

The soundtrack album includes a montage of photographs covering Lennon's career and a graphic colour illustration which is a self-portrait.

The film is derived from more than 200 hours of finely edited footage from Lennon's vast private archive turned over to the film-makers by Yoko Ono. The selection of songs, including "In My Life," "Strawberry Fields," "A Day In The Life," "Julia," "How?" and "Woman" speaks for itself!

Having been No.2 throughout December and No.1 for three weeks in January, Kylie Minogue and Jason Donovan's "Especially For You" has now sold more records than any other single released during 1988, overtaking Cliff Richard's "Mistletoe and Wine."

It has registered three quarters of a million sales in Britain. Another interesting statistic about Kylie Minogue is the fact that five of her records appear

in the Network Top 20 best-selling singles of 1988, and five in the Top 21 on the B.B.C. listings. Her album was easily the best seller of the year and it has now sold nearly two million.

It is marvellous to see Gene Pitney enjoying his first British chart-topper, in duet with Marc Almond on "Something's Gotten Hold Of My Heart," a remake of his No.5 hit from December 1967. Pitney had many Top Ten hits in the 1960's and was No.2 twice but never No.1. Jackie Wilson holds the record for the longest wait for a No.1 hit after chart debut; "Reet Petite" took 29 years (from 1957 to 1986) to reach No.1. However, Gene Pitney now holds the record for the longest wait with a new recording, having made his chart debut in 1961.

LP CHART

1. The Legendary Roy Orbison.
2. The Innocents (Erasure).
3. Greatest Hits (Fleetwood Mac).
4. Living Years (Mike And The Mechanics).
5. Anything For You (Gloria Estefan).
6. Watermark (Enya).
7. The Ultimate Collection (Bryan Ferry).
8. Kylie (Kylie Minogue).
9. Kick (INXS).
10. BAD (Michael Jackson).

Bob Woodhead