

Roy's music – pleasing public again

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Record Review

Roy Orbison, who suffered a fatal heart-attack in December, had completed his final album of new songs only a fortnight earlier. In accordance with his widow Barbara Orbison's wishes Virgin Records have released it on schedule.

Orbison's death at the tragically early age of 52 came at a time when his musical career was enjoying a great revival, in the same way that John Lennon's career was when he died. Both men had completed comeback albums that received much acclaim. Orbison had also finished work on the first album by the Traveling Wilburys, a 'supergroup' featuring George Harrison, Bob Dylan, Jeff Lynne and Tom Petty, in addition to himself. I shall

be reviewing that album very soon.

Roy Orbison was one of rock 'n' roll music's pioneers on the "Sun" label in the 1950's and he went on to enjoy considerable chart success in the first half of the 1960's including three chart-topping hits, "Only The Lonely" (1960), "It's Over" and "Oh, Pretty Woman" (both 1964). On a personal note his "Oh, Pretty Woman" was the first LP in my collection, so his music will always hold special memories in my life. During that period he was second only to Elvis in the American male singer stakes. When he left London Monument Records his career went rapidly downhill with further success only coming through "Greatest Hits" packages. But with the Traveling Wilburys and this new album "Mystery

Girl" his music has once again been to the public's liking.

The production team on "Mystery Girl" included Jeff Lynne (of E.L.O. fame), Mike Campbell, T-Bone Burnett and Bono, as well as Roy and his wife Barbara. The best track is the opener "You Got It" written by Roy Orbison with Jeff Lynne and Tom Petty. This jaunty tune suited his vocal style perfectly and deservedly reached No. 3 in the charts.

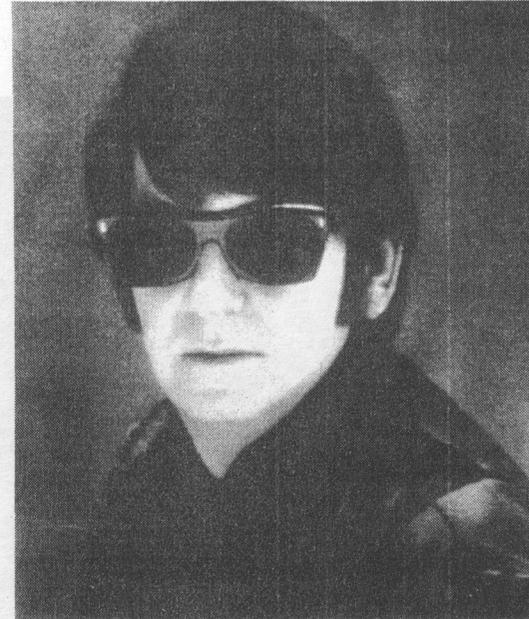
Other numbers to listen out for are "In The Real World", a mellow, acoustic ballad, "California Blue" an acoustic ballad similar to many of his old hits and written by the same trio as "You Got It", and "Windsurfer" a really tuneful mid-tempo affair with some fine lyrics. "The Only One" is a good slow song co-written by Roy's

son Wesley, which has a chorus you will find yourself singing along to after a few hearings.

U2 fans will be keen to hear the track "She's A Mystery To Me" which was written by The Edge and Bono, while Elvis Costello enthusiasts will be interested in "The Comedians" for the same reason. Overall "Mystery Girl" is a worthy testament to Roy Orbison.

Classy

Single of the week is Womack and Womack's "Celebrate The World", a great dancefloor track in the "Teardrops" mould, closely followed by Anita Baker's "Just Because" – just one of the classy tracks from her latest album. Local Hayling Island singer Julia Fordham has released the fourth single from last year's great debut album. This time she has opted for "Where Does The Time Go?" – a really strong cut. A relative



Roy Orbison

newcomer to the scene Paul Johnson has released a single to watch, namely "No More Tomorrows".

LP CHART

1. The Raw And The Cooked (Fine Young Cannibals).
2. Mystery Girl (Roy Orbison).
3. Anything For You (Gloria Estefan).

4. Technique (New Order).
5. Spike (Elvis Costello/I)
6. The Legendary Roy Orbison.
7. Living Years (Mike & The Mechanics).
8. Wanted (Yazz).
9. Ancient Heart (Tanita Tikaram).
10. The Innocents (Erasure).

Bob Woodhead