

Record Review

26/4/90

The current Number One in the Album Chart is a superb collection of Richard and Karen Carpenter's Greatest Hits entitled "Only Yesterday". The 20-track Compact Disc has a playing time of 77 minutes which is certainly the longest duration for a Single CD that I have come across. It therefore represents exceptional value-for-money.

Furthermore, many of the recordings which were originally made between 1969 and 1981, have been digitally remixed to give them the full benefit of the new listening technology, although the musical content remains much the same. Thankfully the remixing has been done on the strongest songs like "Yesterday Once More", "Superstar", "Rainy Days And Mondays" and "Goodbye To Love" with its awesome guitar solo that answered many critics of 1972

who said the Carpenters were not capable of producing a contemporary rock style of music. Some of their lesser known songs like "This Masquerade", "Hurting Each Other" and "Those Good Old Dreams" are also a joy to listen to again. The film shown on TV telling the story of Karen Carpenter's tragic obsession with slimming that led to her death in 1983, has generated a renewed interest in the delightful music she recorded with her brother Richard, and her unique, deep, golden voice.

My favourite CD of 1990 to feature brand new recordings is "Pump Up The Jam" by the Belgian outfit Technotronic. It takes its name from the No. Two hit single they enjoyed last September, which ended the year of 1989 among the Top Ten best-sellers. The subsequent hit singles are also included on the set, but the best track is probably "Move This" which has a really infectious "House" sound built upon a terrific baseline and a great vocal performance. Other highlights include the in-

strumental "Come On" with its exciting, menacing rhythm, and "Rockin' Over The Beat" which is similar to "Move This" with a great female lead-vocal and a good melody. The digital keyboard-based sound throughout the album sounds really superb on CD.

One of my favourite singers of the 1980s has an exquisite greatest hits package in the shops. The double-CD is entitled "The Best Of Luther Vandross" and sub-titled "The Best Of Love". The 20 tracks span his entire career dating back to his guest appearances on the hits by the group Change in 1980 - "Searching" and "The Glow Of Love". He then went solo in 1981 with "Never Too Much" but this was not a hit in Britain until 1983. This truly classic soul song finally achieved the success it

deserved when it was re-released in a remixed form to promote this album, finally reaching the Top 20 a few months ago. Other highspots include Luther's soulful interpretations of "Love Won't Let Me Wait", the Carpenters' "Superstar" (mentioned earlier in this column), and his big 1987 hit "I Really Didn't Mean It".

Record companies are now making a loss on many singles as sales have fallen to such a low level, and they are now regarded as a mere advertising tool for albums, providing a convenient format for radio and TV promotion. Since its inception in 1985 this column has always foreseen this trend by concentrating on albums, so now seems an appropriate moment to look back at the Best Selling 45s of All-Time in Britain:

1. Do They Know It's Christmas? (Band Aid) 1984 - 3.6 million.
2. Mull Of Kintyre (Wings) 1977 - 2 million.
3. Rivers Of Babylon/ Brown Girl In The Ring (Boney M) 1978 - 1.96 million.
4. She Loves You (Beatles) 1963 - 1.9 million.
5. I Want To Hold Your Hand (Beatles) 1963 - 1.88 million.
6. You're The One That I Want (John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John) 1978 - 1.87 million.
7. Mary's Boy Child (Boney M) 1978 - 1.79 million.
8. Relax (Frankie Goes To Hollywood) 1983 - 1.7 million.
9. Tears (Ken Dodd) 1965 - 1.6 million.
10. Can't Buy Me Love (Beatles) 1964 - 1.55 million.

Bob Woodhead



Richard and Karen Carpenter.

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