

Record review

Bunny with a rhythm

One of the most entertaining compact discs of the past few months has been "Jive Bunny - The Album" by Jive Bunny and The Mastermixers, who in reality are the father and son team of John and Andy Pickles from Rotherham.

They have cleverly stitched together a whole variety of snippets and samples of old records, primarily from the rock 'n' roll era. I particularly enjoyed "The Lover's Mix" featuring classic, melodic oldies like "Rhythm of the Rain" and "Diana."

The Glen Miller Medley featuring Big Band arrangements by The John Anderson Band is another stand-out track, where the music has been brought up to date with considerable imagination and innovation.

It is an album that has something to please fans of every musical persuasion, including "Do You Wanna Rock" - a tribute to the stars of the "Glam-Rock" era of the early 1970s.

One of the more hilarious debates that took place when this album was released was whether the Jive Bunny rabbit should be classified as an artist of a compilation for the purposes of the LP chart!

Regular readers will know that I try to cater for all tastes in music in the choice of CDs that I review, so am pleased to recommend an excellent selection recorded by the local Choir of Seaford College Chapel entitled "Songs of Praise."

The disc features 22 hymns and has a playing time of nearly 64 minutes. The recordings were actually made in 1988 at St Augustine's Church, Kilburn, using the Abbey Road Mobile apparatus, but they only recently be-

came available on CD. The choir obviously worked extremely hard in their preparation for these recordings and their director Philip Hill must take much of the credit for this. The organist is often forgotten on such occasions but David Bell achieved an admirable and subtle balance of sound and volume on all the hymns.

The pick of the "Greatest Hits" package to reach the shops this month is "Through a Big Country" featuring 14 of the best tracks recorded by Scottish rock band Big Country.

It is hard to believe that nine years have passed since Stuart Adamson left the Skids to team up with Bruce Watson and form one of the most distinctive sounding outfits of the decade, becoming one of the great music-stylists of recent years, achieving the unique "Bag-Pipe" sound on a guitar. Highlights here include "In a Big Country," "Just a Shadow" and "The Teacher" - all of which will stir many memories.

For the past six months, many Observer readers will have been able to receive Radio 1's FM transmitter serving East Sussex, but I am delighted to report that from today you will be able to receive an even better stereo signal when the Isle of Wight transmitter serving the area from Worthing to Weymouth opens for business on 98.2 FM.

Despite the progress made by local radio I still believe that Radio 1 offers the widest choice of sounds and the best "Oldies" show, courtesy of Alan Freeman's Pick of the Pops on Sunday lunchtimes.

They do leave some of the best Soul and House sounds off the playlist so I would recommend Power FM on 103.2 metres as an occasional alternative, especially Guy Hornsby's Soul show on Saturdays 6pm to 10 pm.

24/5/90



Good sounds: Jive Bunny and The Mastermixers

It was recently announced that for every ten singles sold in 1964 only four LPs crossed the counter, but in 1989 the figure reached an incredible 26 albums for every ten singles sold.

These were the 20 best-selling albums of the 1980s according to Independent Network Radio:

- 1 Brothers in Arms (Dire Straits) 1985.
- 2 Thriller (Michael Jackson) 1982.
- 3 BAD (Michael Jackson) 1987.
- 4 Greatest Hits (Queen) 1981.
- 5 Whitney (Whitney Houston) 1987.
- 6 Kylie (Kylie Minogue) 1988.
- 7 True Blue (Madonna) 1986.
- 8 The Joshua Tree (U2) 1987.

- 9 No Jacket Required (Phil Collins) 1985.
- 10 Tango in the Night (Fleetwood Mac) 1987.
- 11 Graceland (Paul Simon) 1986.
- 12 The Hardline (Terence Trent D'Arby) 1987.
- 13 Popped In Souled Out (Wet Wet Wet) 1987.
- 14 Can't Slow Down (Lionel Richie) 1983.
- 15 Like a Virgin (Madonna) 1984.
- 16 Make It Big (Wham!) 1984.
- 17 Diamond Life (Sade) 1984.
- 18 Money For Nothing (Dire Straits) 1988.
- 19 Alf (Alison Moyet) 1984.
- 20 Dirty Dancing (Original Sound-track) 1987.

Bob Woodhead