

5/2/91

Record review

It is always a pleasure to see exciting new talent breaking through the barriers of chart-stardom and this year has been a memorable one for 23-year-old British soul singer Kenny Thomas whose debut CD "Voices" lives up to all expectations.

Kenny has enjoyed three Top 20 hit singles the best being "Thinking About Your Love" which hit the Top Five in June. His vocal style is not unlike that of Alexander O'Neal and there are plenty of good songs on the album that give him a platform to show this off. There are no classics, but it is equally true to say that there are no bad tracks either just a dozen, pleasant, soulful numbers that get my wholehearted seal of approval to fans of this type of music.

A fellow pop-critic commented in "The Guardian" recently that the record-company of Dire Straits must have very little faith in the band's latest album "On Every Street" as they are sending out their review-albums on vinyl rather than CD, and I must concur with this view. "Brothers In Arms" established Dire Straits as the leading band for CD buyers, so it did seem rather ironic when a vinyl album arrived on my doormat!

Mark Knopfler's guitar-playing is more predominant and brilliant on this new album but the quality of the songs leaves much to be desired, apart from "Fade To Black" a bluesy-styled ballad, and "Ticket to Heaven" which sees them move into the field of country music. The new collection is already well on its way to achieving a million sales but it is unlikely to come close to the sales of its illustrious predecessor.

Tina Turner's "Simply The Best" not only features the lady's greatest hits, but includes three new songs which are all really strong. "I Want You Near Me" and



Soul singer Kenny Thomas

"Way Of The World" are slower tunes while "Love Thing" is a raucous rocker that grows on you. Her biggest hit with ex-husband Ike Turner "River Deep, Mountain High" (produced by Phil Spector in 1966) is featured, but in my opinion her best recording was the one that re-launched her career in December 1983 "Let's Stay Together" a beautiful interpretation of Al Green's soul classic on which she was helped by members of Heaven 17, taking her to No. 6 in the chart.

Other numbers on the disc that had me reaching for the repeat button include "I Don't Wanna Lose You," "Private Dancer" written by the aforemen-

tioned Mark Knopfler, and "We Don't Need Another Hero" from the film "Mad Max 3."

These were my favourite singles and albums of 1991:

SINGLES

1. Footsteps Following Me (Frances Nero)
2. I Wanna Sex You Up (Colour Me Bad)
3. Sadness (Enigma)
4. Everything I Do (Bryan Adams)
5. Remember The Day (Innocence)
6. This Is Your Life (Banderas)
7. Gypsy Woman-La Da Di (Crystal Waters)
8. Secret Love (Bee Gees)
9. 3 A.M. Eternal (The KLF)

10. Thinking About Your Love (Kenny Thomas)

ALBUMS

1. MCMXC A.D. (Enigma)
2. Stars (Simply Red)
3. Discography (Pet Shop Boys)
4. Best Of Me (Maxi Priest)
5. Top Des Stars 3 (French compilation release only)
6. The Immaculate Collection (Madonna)
7. Real Love (Lisa Stansfield)
8. Greatest Hits (Eurythmics)
9. Beyond The Mix (Frankie Knuckles)
10. Abracadabra (ABC)

Bob Woodhead