

# Simple Minds end silence

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The Scottish rock trio of Simple Minds have released a new album after a two year silence.

Entitled "Real Life", it features 12 songs of varying styles and quality. The most memorable numbers appear on Side One, the best being "Woman" and "See The Lights". "Woman" is a strong ballad with a soulful feel, while "See The Lights" is a really tuneful number featuring a lighter, guitar-based sound. The title-song is also worth a mention, being a rock number of symphonic proportions, if a little extravagant. Side Two is less impressive although "Banging On The Door" is another worthy rock ballad. Their heavier, "pile-driving" rock numbers are

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a shade too formulaized but I enjoyed hearing the storming "Travelling Man". Overall the album is roughly what you would expect from Simple Minds, but they seem unprepared to progress from the musical territory they have created.

The Bee Gees have been adopting a high media profile recently, including an appearance on the popular ITV programmes "This Is Your Life". They have been enjoying hit records for 24 years now and judging by their latest CD "High Civilization" those hits look like continuing for years to come. All 11 tracks were written and produced by the three brothers - Barry, Robin

and Maurice Gibb, and one of them "Secret Love" has already been a No. 5 hit single. With an infectious rhythm and tune similar to their composition "Chair Reaction" (a No. 1 for Diana Ross) it would hardly fail!

The next best song is "Happy Ever After" - a really melodic slow, to mid-paced number with their strong vocal harmonies to the forefront. Barry Gibb's vocals sound as good as ever on the powerful ballad "The Only Love", while the group creates a contemporary, uptempo atmosphere on "True Confessions" and again on the interesting closing number "Evolution".

Leading the way in the nostalgia stakes these days is the Castle Communications Group whose Sequel label has come up with a gem of a CD entitled "Highly Strung" featuring 25 obscure British instrumental recordings from the years 1960-1965. Many of the artists featured are more famous for their vocal hits, particularly The Dave Clark Five, Joe Brown and The Honeycombs.

The latter were featured on an excellent CD release

by Sequel last summer, featuring their two albums produced by one of the most inventive men of the time - Joe Meek. One of Meek's lesser known outfits The Packabeats feature prominently on this compilation, and his tuneful, atmospheric composition "Evening In Paris" really stands out.

Shadows fans will find the track "Mad Goose" interesting, as it features bass-guitarist John Rostill in his pre-Shadows days with the group Songs Of The Piltown Men. I was greatly impressed with the informative cover notes that accompany this disc.

The best-selling album of 1991 so far has deservedly been "The Eurythmics' Greatest Hits" - a CD that features 18 of the most popular tracks recorded by Dave Stewart and Annie Lennox. Dave and Annie have been chart regulars since 1983 and it is unlikely they will ever record together again, so this collection is well-timed. Their earlier hits like "Sweet Dreams", "Who's That Girl" and the awesome "There Must Be An Angel" are still the ones that bring a shiver to my spine, and they certainly stand the test of time.

Bob Woodhead

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20/6/91  
One of the most pleasant surprises of the year so far has been the quality of the new album by Orchestral Manoeuvres In The Dark who are more commonly referred to these days as OMD, although in reality it is almost a solo project by founder-member Andy McCluskey.

The album is entitled "Sugar Tax" and it features the recent Top Ten hit single "Sailing On The Seven Seas" which has a heavier sound than the band's previous output. Nevertheless this track is not typical of the album, which is littered with lighter, melodic little tunes performed in the style we have become accustomed to.

The next single is likely to be "Pandora's Box" which has a really catchy tune, and of the remaining tracks those on Side One are the strongest, especially "Was It Something I Said?" and "Big Town" - a pretty, little ballad. The highlight of Side Two is "Call My Name" which has a terrific, funky dance rhythm and some first-rate production.

Nearly three years have passed since the release of the debut album by the British soul combo The Pasadenas, but the wait for the band's new CD "Elevate" has been worthwhile. This disc was originally going to be issued last July but was delayed to allow for some remixing and changes. The Pasadenas were involved in composing all except two of the songs and in producing all except one track. The best

numbers are those that have already been issued as 45s - "Love Thing," "Reeling" and "Another Lover," all of which feature strong vocal harmonies fronting a strong dance beat and good melody. Of the remaining eleven cuts it is hard to select favourites as they are all good, if not outstanding songs.

The pick of the latest music video releases is "Runaway Videos" by Belinda Carlisle, featuring all nine of her solo hit songs to date, taken from her successful albums "Heaven On Earth" and "Runaway Horses." The video films that accompany the songs are all of a fairly high standard and I enjoyed them all, particularly the unusual "Circle In The Sand," "Summer Rain" and "Vision Of You."

The hottest movie soundtrack at the moment is "New Jack City" featuring a selection of great dance numbers including one of the year's most popular dance cuts "I Wanna Sex You Up" by Color Me Badd. If you enjoy this style of music then this CD is well worth a listen and full of entertainment value.

On the singles scene Cher recently became the oldest female chart-topper at the age of 45, while Iron Maiden created a piece of pop history they would probably rather forget! By spending only five weeks in the Top 75 with "Bring Your Daughter To The Slaughter" they spent less weeks on the chart than any other Number One record.