

Record review

The pick of the summer compilation records is a triple CD entitled "Halfway to Paradise" featuring 50 romantic hits from the 50s and 60s. It is available on the Teledisc label but cannot be bought in the shops. It has to be ordered by telephone on 0726 68000.

The package includes some memorable love songs that create a wonderful, relaxed mood. They include male singers like Danny Williams performing the silky, smooth "Moon River," Kenny Lynch singing the melodic "Up on the Roof," and Cliff Richard with "When the Girl in your Arms." Then there are groups like

Gerry and the Pacemakers with "Don't Let the Sun Catch Your Crying," and the Skyliners with the spine-tingling "Since I Don't Have You," and there are female singers like Ella Fitzgerald with her memorable version of "Everytime We Say Goodbye." If you enjoy this type of music you will have to look hard to find a more satisfying collection.

One of the most promising vocalists to emerge on the save of the House music boom in 1989 was Cathy Dennis, and regular readers will recall that she was one of my hot tips for 1990. She let me down that year, simply because she did not release the expected album, but she has delivered the goods this year on the CD "Move To This," which features her two recent hits "Touch Me" and "Just

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Another Dream," in addition to her collaboration with D.Mob "C'mon and Get My Love."

There is no way that Cathy will ever be one of our great singers but she delivers all ten songs on the disc with great enthusiasm and energy. Although there is not a bad track it is equally true to say there are no pop classics among this collection of songs. The album is best summed-up as one of pleasant, entertaining listening, mixed in with some great dance grooves.

One of the more pleasing aspects of the 1991 music-scene has been the success of the East London duo Quartz. Earlier in the year they enjoyed a long chart-run with their polished remake of Carole King's "It's Too Late" and they followed it up with the excellent slow-grooving

"Naked Love" both featuring the vocal talents of Dina Carroll. They now have an album in the shops with the rather contrived title "Perfect Timing" on which they amply demonstrate that they are also capable of producing fast and furious dance music as well as these slower numbers. The best example of this is a real belter of a track entitled "We're Comin' At Ya" which literally forbids the listener from keeping his or her feet still.

However, the disc of the moment has to be "Beyond The Mix" by Frankie Knuckles. After 20 years of hard work as a club DJ in New York and Chicago, a trendsetting remixer of hit songs by the likes of the Pet Shop Boys and Alexander O'Neal, and a pioneer producer in the House music movement,

he has finally found fame as an artist in his own right. Frankie Knuckles is actually his own name and not a stage name, and he does not sing or play any musical instruments but he has an enormous talent for arranging and producing music, as a listen to this CD adequately proves. He has also written several of the ten tracks. Last month he hit the Top 20 with the funky instrumental "The Whistle Song" and there is a seven-minute version of this, together with some unbeatable vocal dance numbers like "Godfather" and "Workout." But my favourite cuts are two that are just as enjoyable to listen to at home as they are on the dancefloor, namely "Rain Falls" and "Right Thing" with their strong, soulful melodies and superb vocals by Lisa Michaelis.

Bob Woodhead

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