

Record review

January is traditionally the time for spending the record tokens received for Christmas, and this year there are a bumper crop of albums to choose from.

As the years go by, more and more product is being released between the months of September and November, so this column reflects that trend by looking at some of the CDs that I could not review before Christmas.

One of those is a beautiful CD collection of the most loved songs of Nat King Cole entitled "The Unforgettable Nat King Cole". He died in 1965 at the age of only 45 but left us a legacy of a wonderful recording career, having brightened up the gloom of the post-war years with his soothing, golden voice.

Everyone will have their own particular favourite and for me it is probably "Mona Lisa", closely followed by "Let There Be Love". Also appearing on the collection

is "Nature Boy" which George Benson covered in 1977, and I also enjoyed hearing the lesser known "Serenata" and "A Beautiful Friendship", and of the bigger hits "Ramblin' Rose" still retains that special magic.

In my opinion the best vocalist on the scene in the 1990s is Lisa Stansfield who won the BPI Award for Best Newcomer in 1990 and Best Female Singer last year.

On her new CD "Real Love" she has developed her soulful, vocal technique and taken it to greater heights. Even an average song can sound great when she is in full flow. My favourites include the hit single "Change", the powerful performance on "I Will Be Waiting", the ballads "All Woman" and "Tenderly", the faster, atmospheric "Make Love To Ya", and the finale "A Little More Love" with its great saxophone passages.

Once again Lisa composed all the songs with her band who are Ian Devaney and Andy Morris (who also

produced the CD), and I was especially taken with the strong, sensual lyrics.

The best of the "greatest hits" packages on the market this year has been "Discography" by the Pet Shop Boys featuring their complete singles collection, dating back to "West End Girls" in 1985.

This fantastic CD features every single release that followed and it is interesting to note that all 18 tracks were Top Twenty hits - a remarkable achievement nowadays! Two of the songs that only just scraped into the Top Twenty were the gentler "Love Comes Quickly" (1986) and "Being Boring" (1990), and I was interested to see on the cover-notes that these were two of the band's favourite numbers as well as mine.

My favourite track of all is "What Have I Done To Deserve This?" (1987) on which Dusty Springfield duetted with them on vocals.

Of the more recent hits "Domino Dancing" and the latest "Was It All Worth

It?" are as good as any. I particularly like the way that the hits are featured in chronological order.

Simply Red's outstanding album "Stars" overtook "Eurythmics Greatest Hits" on the final day of trading for 1991 to become the best selling album of the year. These were the top selling singles:

1. Everything I Do, I Do It For You (Bryan Adams)
2. Bohemian Rhapsody (Queen)
3. The Shoop Shoop Song (Cher)
4. I'm Too Sexy (Right Said Fred)
5. Do The Bartman (The Simpsons)
6. Any Dream Will Do (Jason Donovan)
7. The One And Only (Chesney Hawkes)
8. Dizzy (Vic Reeves)
9. Insanity (Oceanic)
10. I Wanna Sex You Up (Color Me Badd)

All the above reached number one except Right Said Fred (number two) and Oceanic (number three).

Bob Woodhead

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