

POP

RECOMMENDED

CLIMIE FISHER

Coming In For The Kill

PRODUCERS: Climie Fisher, Neil Dorfman, Stewart Levine
Capitol 93005

Although this second effort from U.K. songwriting/performing duo is not as immediately catchy as its debut, repeated spins reveal a pool of pop gems glistening with a longevity that is lacking in other more trend-conscious tunes currently crowding the charts. Whispered intensity of vocalist Simon Climie adds an evocative edge to potential singles "Fire On The Ocean" and "Buried Treasure."

THE SILENCERS

A Blues For Buddha

PRODUCERS: Flood & the Silencers
RCA 9960

Scottish quartet that rose from the ashes of Fingerprintz three years ago returns with sophomore stanza that evidences same virtues as its debut—melodic writing, subtly textured production, and restrained yet affecting playing. "Razor Blades Of Love" is an outstanding track that could cross this woefully overlooked band from the modern rock enclave into pop acceptance. Fine stuff overall.

PETER MURPHY

Deep

PRODUCER: Simon Rogers
RCA 9877

Former Bauhaus member's third solo set should find favor with the modern rock gloom-and-doom set, as usual. Murphy holds back some of his old excesses on latest go-round; as a result, tracks like the propulsive, dance-oriented "Shy" and the subdued "Marlene Dietrich's Favorite Poem" show broader appeal.

GRANT HART

Intolerance

PRODUCER: Grant Hart
SST 215

Former Hüsker Dü drummer's first full-length solo album is at times as stirring and personal as ex-band mate Bob Mould's '89 debut. Hart's songs, ranging from hard-edged rockers to the folkish "The Main" (which features the same melody as the Pogues' "Pair Of Brown Eyes"), show off both his time-tested melodic acumen and fresh introspection. Look for modern rock reaction.

RUTH BROWN

Miss Rhythm (Greatest Hits And More)

REISSUE PRODUCER: Bob Porter
Atlantic 82061

Brown, star of Broadway's "Black And Blue," was Atlantic's first R&B star (the label was known as "The House That Ruth Built"), so this two-CD retrospective is a timely and long-overdue package. The warm-voiced singer's biggest hits are here, as well as some lesser-known tunes (including nice work in tandem with Clyde McPhatter). Porter does his usual excellent job as compiler.

CRISPIN HELLION GLOVER

The Big Problem = The Solution. The Solution = LET IT BE

PRODUCERS: Barnes & Barnes
Restless 72316

If you thought Glover was loony on "Late Night With David Letterman," wait until you get a load of the actor's "musical" debut. Deranged record includes bizarre recitations, covers of "These Boots Are Made For Walking," "The Man On The Flying Trapeze," and a Charles Manson song, and other assorted oddities. This will play only at college and modern rock outlets with a heavily skewed sense of humor.

WE ARE GOING TO EAT YOU

Everywhen

PRODUCER: Iain O'Higgins, John Loder, Ron Fair
TVT 2710

Very interesting English foursome pulls together a unique style that seems derived from equal parts British folk-rock (particularly in Julie Sorrel's vocals) and late-'70s punk-pop originators like Penetration and the Buzzcocks. Energy and melody here should stir modern rock interest.

JEAN-PAUL SARTRE EXPERIENCE

The Size Of Food

PRODUCER: Rob Pinder
Communism 10

New Zealand quartet from the Flying Nun stable is in excellent form on second stateside release. Layered guitars, cryptic lyrics, and an overall hazy atmosphere rule here. While group's low-key style will never beat down any top 40 walls, this is ideal modern rock and collegiate airwave fodder. Distributed by Skylad, 6 Valley Brook Drive, Middlesex, N.J. 08846.

SILENT PARTNERS

If It's All Night, It's All Right

PRODUCERS: Silent Partners
Antone's 0010

Hot-shot blues/R&B trio is fronted by vet guitarist/keyboardist Mel Brown, Bobby "Blue" Bland's longtime band mate, who is now a linchpin of the formidable Antone's house unit in Austin, Texas. Group shows off its solid chops on a sturdy program of originals and covers, including a fine version of Robert Cray's "Phone Booth." Contact: 512-322-0617.

THE VERLAINES

Hallelujah All The Way Home

PRODUCER: not listed
Homestead 138

Any relationship to Tom Verlaine is strictly on a fan level. Collection of crisp, acoustic-etched rockers will likely find a welcome home on college and modern rock radio, with "It Was Raining" showing early signs of programmer acceptance. Look for "Don't Send Me Away" and "The Ballad Of Harry Noryb" to follow suit. Contact: 516-764-6200.

ICABOD STOWE

It's My Turn

PRODUCER: Robert Power
Gadfly Records 111859

Jaunty melodies pervade the artist's latest effort, with overtones ranging from Joe Jackson to the Boomtown Rats. Slight production values work well here, resulting in a lean, clean sound. College spinners could find some fun gems here, among them "The Train Is Running Out Of Track" and "I'd Like To Be The Doctor." Contact: 212-996-7875.

DEATH OF SAMANTHA

Come All Ye Faithless

PRODUCERS: Death Of Samantha, Chriss Burgess, and Alan McGinty
Homestead/Dutch East India Trading 10150

The sizzling guitar work is the most interesting thing from this Cleveland quartet. Rave-ups such as "Looking For A Face" hint at the band's potential and the high energy level. Alternative and college radio have a lot to choose from here, though John Petkovic's tortured vocals get to be a bit much sometimes. Contact: P.O. Box 800, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571.

TWINK WITH PLASTICLAND

You Need A Fairy Godmother

PRODUCER: Jeff Shaffer
Midnight 144

Live EP featuring former Pink Fairies/Pretty Things member (backed by stalwart indie trippers Plasticland) offers a generous dose of raw garage psychedelia that could find a home on noise-friendly college radio. Best tracks include "The Snake," "10,000 Words In A Cardboard Box," "Psychedelic Punkeroo," and "Alexander." Contact:

SPOTLIGHT



RICKY VAN SHELTON

RVS III

PRODUCER: Steve Buckingham
Columbia 45250

As a romantic crooner, Ricky Van Shelton follows the elegant footsteps of Ray Price and Conway Twitty. But he has steadily developed a robust, ever-so-slightly-pained sound of his own; and it comes through gloriously here. Shelton is by now something of a specialist in reviving old country hits, a pattern he repeats in this album with the leadoff single, "Statue Of A Fool," and with "Life's Little Ups And Downs," "Not That I Care," and "Oh Pretty Woman." Like all great love balladeers, Shelton exudes sincerity of the most ingratiating sort.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

LITTLE RICHARD

The Specialty Sessions

REISSUE PRODUCER: Billy Vera
Specialty 8508

Splendid 5-LP/3-CD box takes a deep look at the rampaging rocker's early career, from his first sessions for the label in 1955 through his last date with Specialty in 1964. Multiple takes of classic songs reveal the care that producers Art Rupe and Bumps Blackwell lavished on Richard's manic material. Superb annotation (a 32-page book and individual liners for each disk/album) adds to the luster of this opulently mounted tribute to the Rock and Roll Hall of Famer.

212-675-2768.

JOE "GUITAR" HUGHES

If You Want To See The Blues

PRODUCER: Hammond Scott
Black Top 1050

Latest worthy revival by the New Orleans label represents the first solo album by axeman Hughes, a Texas legend who toured and played with Little Richard's band the Upsetters and Bobby "Blue" Bland. Both Hughes' vocals and guitar work betray the heavy influence of T-Bone Walker. Simple yet smooth blues will find favor with specialists. Contact: 404-873-4796.

BLACK

PICKS

ORAN "JUICE" JONES

To Be Immortal

PRODUCERS: Various
OBR/Columbia 45321

Long-absent vocalist continues to straddle the fence between romantic crooning and street-hip jamming. Familiar razor-sharp lyrical attack remains intact, though Jones has broadened his songwriting scope with a dash of social/political relevance. Strongest efforts are the first single, "Pipe Dreams," which is making

inroads on the Hot Black Singles chart, as well as "Dollar And A Dream" and the title track.

VICIOUS BEAT POSSE

Legalized Dope

PRODUCERS: D.J. Gill, D.J. Frankie Z., Marvee "V"
MCA 6353

Clique of semi-established rhymer (including Superslim & D.J. Candyman, Marvee "V," MC Deb "B," and DBX) joins forces for an array of clever word jams that groove on a variety of stylistic vibes. Hook line of "Give The People What They Want" seems to best exemplify overall attitude of album: "It's fundamental to move the crowd, it's essential that I be black and proud." This posse achieves success on both counts.

RECOMMENDED

MENACE

Doghhouse

PRODUCERS: Bill Laswell, Keith Le Blanc
Jump Street 3001

Former guitarist for Madonna steps into the solo spotlight and proves himself to be one of the most potent new funkateers since George Clinton and Bootsy Collins (who makes a guest appearance). Producer Laswell gives the singer/musician plenty of room to cut—and he does so with a vengeance. May be too rough for chart-conscious programmers, though "K9-69" and "Give It Up" should score with alternative types. Contact: 212-873-1248.

JAZZ

PICKS

BETTY CARTER

Whatever Happened To Love

PRODUCER: Liljay Productions
Verve 835683

Diva Carter is at her apex on superlative live set cut at the Bottom Line, featuring an expert trio (pianist Khalid Moss, bassist Curtis Lundy, drummer Lewis Nash) and a 15-piece string orchestra conducted by David Amram. The results crackle as the singer breathes new life into such standards as "What A Little Moonlight Can Do," "Cocktails For Two," and "Goodbye." Ace stuff.

RECOMMENDED

IVO PERELMAN

Ivo

PRODUCER: Marty Krystall
K282 2769

Brazilian tenor saxophonist cuts an intriguing collection comprised principally of his homeland's traditional melodies, backed by a compatriot crew of Airto, Flora Purim, and Eliane Elias (as well as capable Yanks Peter Erskine, John Patitucci, Buell Neidlinger, and Don Preston). Developing probing improvisations upon simple themes, Ivo sails highest on folk tune "Terezinha De Jesus," as well as on the lovely, lyrical "El Dia En Que Me Quieras" and Milton Nascimento's "Ponta De Areia."

RALPH PETERSON TRIO

Triangular

PRODUCER: Kazunori Sugiyama, Hitoshi Namekata
Blue Note 92750

Innovative percussionist further establishes himself as one of the most exciting jazzmen of our day, accompanied by the formidable piano stylings of Geri Allen. Peterson's drumming—at times explosive, at others, gently evocative—provides the perfect framework for the terrific three-edged title track, the free-

swinging "Princess," and the delicate, down-tempo "Water Colors." Set also includes outstanding covers of "Bemsha Swing," "Just You, Just Me," and "Move."

JIMMY SMITH

Prime Time

PRODUCER: Eric Miller
Milestone 9176

Groovin' organ man returns to the studio after a four-year absence, with his swing unabated. Pretty standard program of funky originals and covers is enlivened by contributions from Smith's old L.A. colleagues. Little to distinguish this outing from countless old Blue Note sessions, but Smith's durable style still goes down easy.

SUN RA

Out There A Minute

PRODUCER: none listed
Restless/Blast First 71427

A hardcore rock label presents no incongruity for a jazz maverick who has never been less than hardcore himself. This "personal selection" of late-'60s tracks is a fine Sun Ra primer, showcasing his eclectic affection for avant-garde tonalities, ethnic forms, electronic experiments, anachronistic swing, and driving rhythms. Occasional gaps in sound quality couldn't diminish a solid set, including "Somewhere In Space," "Song Of Tree And Forest," "Starships And Solar Boats," and "Dark Clouds With Silver Linings."

CLAUDIO RODITI

Slow Fire

PRODUCER: Helen Keane
Milestone 9175

Ace producer Keane gets the best out of this Latin American trumpeter, whose material and craftsmanship appear to be blossoming. Muted echoes of Miles Davis resound through his slow, lovely title cut, and the brisk beat and bright tomes of "Feel Good" are hard to deny. (Roditi's vocal forays, although less than memorable on "Molambo," improve somewhat with "Carolina.") Straight-ahead fans will enjoy like-minded cuts "Brazil, Infinity" and "Annette's For Sure."

CLASSICAL

RECOMMENDED

PROKOFIEV: THE LOVE FOR 3 ORANGES

Soloists, Orchestre de l'Opera de Lyon, Nagano
Virgin Classics 91084

Participants in this lark of an opera seem to have relished every performing moment, and their enjoyment of its often ridiculous parody is infectious. All of the soloists are excellent, and conductor Nagano directs with a sure hand. The thick accompanying booklet underscores the anti-verismo tone of the project, with clever cartoons adding to the merriment.

SPOTLIGHT: Predicted to hit top 10 on Billboard's Top Pop Albums chart or to earn platinum certification.

NEW & NOTEWORTHY: Highlights new and developing acts worthy of attention and other releases of special interest.

PICKS: Releases predicted to hit the top half of the chart in the format listed.

RECOMMENDED: Other releases predicted to chart in the respective format; also, other albums of superior quality.

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