

POP

ORIGINAL MOTION PICTURE SOUNDTRACK

When The Wind Blows

PRODUCERS: Various
Virgin 90599

Soundtrack to animated film about life after a nuclear holocaust, opening here in late September, is a must-have for fans of progressive rock. Title track is by David Bowie; others represented are Genesis, Squeeze, Hugh Cornwell of the Stranglers, and Paul Hardcastle. Musical score on side two is Roger Waters' best work in years.

TOM WAITS

Franks Wild Years
PRODUCER: Tom Waits
Island 90572

Waits sharpens his Brecht/Weill-at-the-pool-hall vision of America with this collection of songs from the stage production of "Franks Wild Years," which he co-authored. Filled with quirky, distinctive melodies like "Hang On St. Christopher" and the waltz-time "Innocent When You Dream," effort should top Waits' earlier critical—and sales—laurels.

SKINNY PUPPY

Cleanse Fold And Manipulate
PRODUCER: Cevin Key, Dave Ogilvie
Capitol CLT-46922

More apocalyptic rock from Canadian trio that scored on the alternative dance charts with "Dig It" and "Stairs And Flowers." "Addiction" has just the right combination of gloom-and-doom lyrics and throbbing, metallic music to hook a few more music-loving Cassandras.

BELOUIS SOME

PRODUCER: Gary Langan
Capitol CLT-46701

"Let It Be With You" reached the midrange of the Club Play chart; several songs on artist's second album, which features a guitar cameo by Pete Townshend, have pop potential, including "My Body."

THE DUKES OF STRATOSPHEAR

Psonic Psonspot
PRODUCERS: John Leckie, the Dukes
Geffen 24169

Ten new cuts from the XTC boys in psychedelic garb; "Vanishing Girl," especially, is as fine as any vintage-era track. CD contains the Dukes' earlier EP release as well, previously available only on import.

HELIX

Wild In The Streets
PRODUCERS: Various
Capitol CLT-46920

Fourth release from Canadian metal quintet delivers more adolescent arena rock. Group has garnered a large following through extensive touring; fans will appreciate title track and "What Ya Bringin' To The Party."

BONNIE HAYES

PRODUCER: Stewart Levine
Chrysalis BFV 41609

Those who remember Hayes from her Wild Combo days may be disappointed by material's middle-of-the-road flavor; the other 99.9% of the music-buying population, however, will warm to its open-book nature, most evident in "Some Guys."

VARIOUS ARTISTS

Power Chords Volume I
PRODUCERS: Various
Atlantic 81777

\$6.98 price tag should spur sales on this collection of speed/thrash/death/just-plain-heavy metal from Atlantic and its distributed label Megaforce. Includes Anthrax, Ace Frehley, Kix, Malice, Manowar, Over Kill, Raven, Savatage, Testament, and White Lion.

ORIGINAL MOTION PICTURE SOUNDTRACK

The Big Town
PRODUCER: None listed
Atlantic 81769

Collection of classic oldies—Little Willie John's "Fever" and Big Joe Turner's "Shake, Rattle And Roll" among them—deserves to sell on its own merits but will most likely depend on fortunes of film, which stars Matt Dillon, Diane Lane, and Bruce Dern.

PERRY COMO

Today
PRODUCER: Nick Perito
RCA 6368-R

The numbers add up to well-deserved recognition: Como is 75, out with his 73rd album in a 43-year relationship with RCA. The voice, recorded in L.A. in February, remains smooth as silk on a program of melodious recent hits ("That's What Friends Are For") and trustworthy oldies ("My Heart Stood Still"). Como gets creamy orchestral backing by Perito, his musical director for 25 years.

SAVATAGE

Hall Of The Mountain King
PRODUCERS: Paul O'Neill, Savatage
Atlantic 81775

Never-say-die Floridians release their fifth album; lofty metal is well-executed but will most likely sell to the already faithful only. Best: "Strange Wings" and title track.

THROWING MUSES

The Fat Skier
PRODUCER: Mark Van Hecke
Sire 25640

First U.S. release from this avant-pop Rhode Island quartet should exceed its previous success on college radio. The ringing, incantatory vocals on "Garoux Des Larmes" make it the standout; the extended 45-rpm B side, "Soul Soldier" (co-produced by Throwing Muses and Gil Norton), may prove too meandering even for progressive formats.

JACKIE WILSON

Through The Years
PRODUCERS: Various
Rhino RNLP 70230

Wilson's vocal agility and mesmerizing delivery are well displayed on this collection of rare album tracks and singles from 1958-71; scene-stealing Wilson impersonator in "La Bamba" has focused some attention on the r&b great, who died in 1984.

ORIGINAL MOTION PICTURE SOUNDTRACK

Under Cover
PRODUCERS: Various
Enigma SJ-73276

Cannon Group film has been delayed; consequently, soundtrack—featuring an original score by Todd Rundgren and previously released material by TSOL, Wednesday Week, Passionel, and Agent Orange—hits the street on its own. Considerable Rundgren cult, recently enlarged by Rhino reissues, will seek this out.

VARIOUS ARTISTS

The Sound Of Deep Ellum
PRODUCERS: Various
Island 90637

Compilation of new tracks cut by Dallas' underground-scene denizens aptly captures the bands' unifying energy while demonstrating their diversity. Spirited liner notes complete the overview. Best: Three On A Hill's "No More Love."

WHOOPING CRANES

That's What I Need
PRODUCERS: Whooping Cranes
Zip Records ZIPA 02

New York trio is attracting prominent-press attention for its inspired, unnerving blend of Buzzcocks and R.E.M. College radio can jump on "Never Turn Away" and "Creeping Shadows." Contact: 212-

SPOTLIGHT



JOHN COUGAR MELLENCAMP

The Lonesome Jubilee
PRODUCERS: John Mellencamp, Don Gehman
Mercury 422 832 465 Q-1

With "Scarecrow," Mellencamp nearly out-Springsteened Bruce in capturing the common-man audience; with "Jubilee," he raises serious questions as to who's really the Boss. Musical sophistication is joined with lyrical straightforwardness masterfully—the only minus here is the lack of a just-for-fun cut on the order of "R.O.C.K. In The U.S.A.," though "Rooty Toot Toot" comes close. Look for "The Real Life," "Cherry Bomb," and "Hotdogs And Hamburgers" to follow the galvanizing "Paper In Fire" up the charts.

677-2049.

DISSIDENTEN

Life At The Pyramids
PRODUCER: Marlon Klein
Shanachie 64001

Weirdest album to cross the desk in some time finds three West Germans crossing Middle Eastern music and vocals with electronic noodling. Undeniably interesting, but just who potential audience is is a mystery.

EDDIE TAYLOR

Still Not Ready For Eddie
PRODUCER: Angela Strehli
Antone's ANT0005

The blues guitarist who powered Jimmy Reed's "lazy" sound is heard in his last recordings, cut live at Austin night spot Antone's in 1985. Taylor rocks the blues easy in this fitting tribute to an infrequently acknowledged master of the genre. Contact: 512-322-0660.

KRU

One
PRODUCER: Kru
Apogee APO-A1002

Four-song EP by Miami-based trio shows great commercial and radio potential. Nil Lara's aggressive bass playing and ardent vocal style are complemented by a tight ensemble. Contact: 836 Columbus Blvd., Coral Gables, Fla. 33134.

BLACK

JENNIFER HOLLIDAY

Get Close To My Love
PRODUCERS: Various
Geffen GHS 24150

Disappointed with the quality of her first two albums, the Dreamgirl took matters into her own hands for this one, choosing all the material, supervising the production, overseeing the artwork. Result: a wonderfully tuneful collection of sing-along should-be-hits, particularly "He Ain't Special (He's Just The One I Love)" and Ashford & Simpson's "New At It." First single, "Heart On The Line," is midway up the Hot Black Singles chart.

SURF M.C.'S

Surf Or Die
PRODUCER: Norman Kerner
Profile PRO-1235

Surf rap wears well and could have widespread novelty appeal—witness the Fat Boys' "Wipeout." Sound here is more street than beach, however, somewhat lessening shot at crossover. Title track should sail to the top of the black chart, as might "Rock That Beach."

SHERRICK

PRODUCER: Sherrick, Michael Stokes
Warner Bros. 25576

"Just Call" is a pop hit in the U.K., boding well for crossover here. Rest of the material hews to the mainstream as well, but lingering soulfulness of arrangements often offsets appeal of Sherrick's impressive vocals.

COUNTRY

SAWYER BROWN

Somewhere In The Night
PRODUCER: Ron Chancey
Capitol/Curb CLT-46923

Under former Oak Ridge Boys producer Chancey, Sawyer Brown retains all its characteristic youthful energy, but there's a refreshing emphasis on lyrics and melody. Among the best cuts: "Still Life In Blue," "This Missin' You Heart Of Mine," and "Old Photographs."

JAZZ

ELIANE ELIAS

Illusions
PRODUCER: Eliane Elias
Denon CY-1569/Blue Note BLJ-46994

With two labels behind it—the CD is on Denon, the LP on Blue Note—Brazilian's debut as a leader should quickly find its audience. Backed by a stellar cast, Steps Ahead's original pianist makes the most of the spotlight: Her technique is strong and delightful; her compositions are promising.

NEIL LARSEN

Through Any Window
PRODUCER: Neil Larsen
MCA-42018

Moribund status of fusion is underlined by this well-played but passionless session. While presence of diverse studio hands and such notables as Michael Brecker, David Sanborn, and Brandon Fields will draw radio and retail traffic, this is only one cut above the ordinary.

CLASSICAL

STAR TRACKS II

Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, Kunzel
Telarc CD-80146

Telarc stamps out another entertaining hi-fi/sci-fi package to titillate the ear and probe the limits of home audio systems. All but one of the 14 selections are film-derived. Sound is top-drawer, and strong sales are likely.

MOZART: PIANO CONCERTOS, NOS. 22 & 23
Mitsuko Uchida, English Chamber Orchestra, Tate
Philips 420 187

Uchida delivers her second serving in what promises to become one of the most nourishing concerto cycles in the catalog. Her playing is sensitive, absent of pretense, and constantly engaging. Frequent stateside appearances add promotional weight.

VIVALDI: CONCERTI—'L'AMOROSO'

The English Concert, Pinnock
Archiv/DG 419 615

Six concertos for diverse solo instruments, smartly programmed for enjoyable listen-through. Playing is of the high order we have come to expect from the crack group; sound is luscious. Subtitle identifies a violin concerto, the best-known work in the group.

SHOSTAKOVICH: STRING QUARTET NO. 8/

DEBUSSY: STRING QUARTET
Medici String Quartet
Nimbus NI 5077

The prize in this unconventional coupling is the Shostakovich, a dour work whose introspective moods are sympathetically portrayed; the Debussy reading is less convincing. The dark recorded sound is more suited to the former than the latter.

SIBELIUS: SYMPHONY NO. 2

Royal Philharmonic, Barbirolli
Chesky CD 3

This performance, drawn from the Reader's Digest vaults, was always highly regarded. Carefully reprocessed for CD, it reveals, perhaps better than ever, the remarkable sound carried by those vintage analog tapes. Will repay recommendation.

GOSPEL

PAT BOONE

Home
PRODUCER: Lari Goss
Lamb & Lion LLR 3012

The king of the crooners releases an album focusing on home and family. There's a remake of his old hit "Wonderful Time Up There" and a love song to his wife as well as a number of positive messages, continuing Boone's appeal.

BROOKLYN TABERNACLE CHOIR

How Jesus Loves
PRODUCER: Neal Joseph
Word 7-01-415-01-4

One of the best choirs in gospel mixes strong, emotional ballads with some up-tempo hand-clappers to deliver top-quality black gospel. The album's theme is praise and holds strong appeal for the faithful.

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.

All albums commercially available in the U.S. are eligible. Send review copies to Jean Rosenbluth, Billboard, 1515 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10036, and Chris Morris, Billboard, 9107 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, Calif. 90210. Send country and gospel albums to Ed Morris, Billboard, 14 Music Circle E., Nashville, Tenn. 37203.