

POP

RECOMMENDED

DANNY WILDE
Any Man's Hunger
PRODUCER: Pat Moran
Geffen GHS 24179

Former Quick and Great Buildings member pushes hard on second solo release (first for Geffen). Sharp melodic approach and no-nonsense, guitar-etched sound will remind some of Tom Petty in his prime. Initial single, "Time Runs Wild," is a good sample of Wilde's hard-driving, well-cleft sound.

THE ORIGINAL MOTION PICTURE SOUNDTRACK
Good Morning Vietnam
PRODUCER: David Anderle
A&M SP 3913

Robin Williams' lunatic raps as Vietnam-based DJ Adrian Cronauer tie together a diverse collection of early-'60s oldies used in the Barry Levinson film. Jocks take note: Cronauer's riffs play OK on Armed Forces Radio in the picture, but some may be a little raw for your outlet.

DAVID FOSTER
The Symphony Sessions
PRODUCER: David Foster
Atlantic 81799

Successful writer/artist/producer is on unusual turf here. Along with many musician friends, he's devised lush, pop-style symphonic musings and a robust, pomp-and-circumstance Winter Olympics theme, "Winter Games." Obviously, latter's exposure on next month's games from Calgary will draw attention this way.

BRYDGE
New Day
PRODUCER: Cal Scott
Avatar Records DK6038

Oregon ensemble, featuring two refugees from Quarterflash, has picked up enough AC play on "Another Day Gone" to chart. Other noteworthy tracks: The Association-ish "New Day" and "Can't Stop Loving You." Contact: P.O. Box 175, Eagle Creek, Ore. 97022.

MIRIAM MAKEBA
Sangoma
PRODUCER: Russ Titelman
Warner Bros. 25673

Vet South African songstress joins "Graceland" tour mates Paul Simon, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, and Hugh Masekela (who sings backup here) at Warners. Makeba's first U.S. release in many a year is an impassioned collection of African chants and songs. Highly esoteric package will find favor among those captivated by Makeba's stellar work on the Simon tour.

WILD SEEDS
Mud, Lies & Shame
PRODUCER: Howard Benson
Passport PB 6060

Austin quintet continues its winning combo of thrashing energy and melodic, pop-conscious writing; vocals by band leader Michael Hall and femme singing partner Kris McKay put across the material with verve. Exceptionally talented rockers deserve wider attention and a major-label nod.

GIRLSCHOOL
Nightmare At Maple Cross
PRODUCER: Vic Maile
GWR/Profile PAL-1236

In the grand-dame tradition of Suzi Quatro and the Runaways, Girlschool cranks out melodic metal. Sixth album, with guitarist Kim McAuliffe once again handling vocal duties, features wonderful "Danger Sign," very reminiscent of the Sweet, and remake of "Leader Of The Gang" with original belter Gary Glitter guesting.

THE FOOLS
Wake Up... It's Alive
PRODUCERS: the Fools
PVC/Passport 8962

Perpetually-bubbling-under outfit, once on EMI America, has been slugging it out for a decade with such offbeat ammunition as "Psycho Chicken" and a remake of "Running Scared." Live album doesn't include those "greatest hits," but mixture of new originals, covers, and others is plenty entertaining nonetheless.

SISTERS OF MERCY
Floodland
PRODUCERS: Andrew Eldritch, Larry Alexander, Jim Steinman
Elektra 60762

Brit gloomster Eldritch cranks out a moody downer redolent of early efforts by such primordial U.K. postpunkers as Joy Division. Proceedings, which are heavy on somber themes and synth textures, will appeal primarily to black-clad minions who go for manic-depressive pop.

16 FROM FOUR
Sixteen Hits From Four Great Shows
PRODUCER: None Listed
CBS Special Products AK 44060

In addition to excellent studio cast renditions of four selections each from "Showboat," "Oklahoma!" and "Annie Get Your Gun," this CD-only set contains four numbers from the cast album of the underrated Arthur Schwartz/Dorothy Fields score for "A Tree Grows In Brooklyn." More than 60 minutes of great words and music.

LIVE SKULL
Dusted
PRODUCER: None listed
Homestead/Dutch East India HMS 090

Favorite New York noise/dirge/drone rockers return with new singer Thalia Zedek and slightly more listenable, half-way-psychedelic material. Standout tracks include the ravenous "Fat Of The Land," the jackhammer-assault "X W/The Light," and the chiming-guitar-laden "5-D."

THE AMERICAN CAST RECORDING
Olympus On My Mind
PRODUCER: John Yap
TER 1131

Musical had a successful run off-Broadway several seasons ago; score by Barry Harmon (lyrics) and Grant Sturiale (music) is not Rodgers & Hart or Cole Porter, who tackled similar subject matter, but it's genial nonetheless. Two nice items are "Heaven On Earth" and "Something Of Yourself."

VARIOUS ARTISTS
The Secret Garden
PRODUCER: Robert Sher
CBS Special Products P-19920

This is a stellar studio version of a musical based on the children's classic; the liner notes state that it has played the repertory circuit in England. The score, lacking well-defined tunes and wit in the lyrics, couldn't ask for better performances, led by Barbara Cook, George Rose, Max Showalter, and Judy Kaye.

EUGENE CHADBOURNE WITH CAMPER VAN BEETHOVEN
Camper Van Chadbourne
PRODUCER: Eugene Chadbourne
Fundamental Music SAVE 46

Out-there guitarist joins forces with Santa Cruz, Calif., upstarts for an assault on eclectic selection of covers (Pink Floyd, King Crimson, Thelonious Monk, Byrds, etc.) and a few originals by the axeman. Utterly strange outing may introduce Chadbourne to a wider (but still underground) audience. Contact: P.O. Box 2309, Covington, Ga. 30209.

BREAKING CIRCUS
Smokers' Paradise
PRODUCER: None listed
Homestead/Dutch East India HMS 092

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

THE ACCELERATORS
PRODUCERS: Dick Hodgkin, Don Dixon, Rod Abernathy
Profile PRO-1246

Profile's excellent album-rock-oriented output (Cucumbers, LeRoi Brothers) has inexplicably been overlooked; this album, however, North Carolina band's second, is simply too good to ignore. From the powerful, no-frills rock of "Stayin' Up In The City" to the melodic angst of "What Is Real," material is absolutely riveting. College radio will lead the way, but album rockers shouldn't be far behind. Could break out of nowhere à la the Georgia Satellites.

HOUSE OF FREAKS
Monkey On A Chain Gang
PRODUCERS: Randy Burns, House Of Freaks
Rhino RNLPL 70838

Dynamic duo transplanted from Richmond, Va., to L.A. crafts an unusual and exciting first effort. Singer/guitarist Bryan Harvey and drummer Johnny Hott deliver 13 high-energy yet distinctly melodic tracks that could be mistaken for the work of a full band. Second single, "40 Years," album's prettiest tune, could inspire Freakmania beyond the college/alternative market, where this pair should attract immediate and widespread attention. Another inspired signing for Rhino.

Taut, Wire-esque music is mated with spit-'em-out vocals on third release from Minneapolis group, a six-song EP. College play assured for this confident, competent recording.

DENNY FREEMAN
Out Of The Blue
PRODUCERS: Denny Freeman, Jim Yanaway, Stuart Sullivan
Amazing AM-1014

Austin-based fret squeezer Freeman steps out of the Angela Strehli Band to strut his fearsome stuff on second all-instrumental solo work. Varied program of blues-based material features Jimmie Vaughan and other top Texas sidemen. Contact: P.O. Box 2512, Austin, Texas 78768.

BLACK

PICKS

PEABO BRYSON
Positive
PRODUCERS: Michael Powell & Sir Gant, Peabo Bryson & Dwight W. Watkins
Elektra 60753

Bryson appears to be the only one reaping benefits from the Bill Cosby turkey "Leonard Part VI": "Without You," soundtrack duet with Regina Belle, has cracked black top 30. Most other tracks here are similarly chartworthy; old smoothie Bryson's vocals are in peak form here, and material ("Come On Over Tonight," "Hurt") is top flight.

RECOMMENDED

GIDEON
Love Train
PRODUCER: Gideon Israel
Hangar 18 Records H-18-HLYFLA-4710

Under another name, Gideon was once part of the Cornelius Brothers & Sister Rose, who scored with "Treat Her Like A Lady" and "Too Late To Turn Back Now." This do-it-yourself project is Gideon's paean to Yahweh

Ben Yahweh; limited appeal other than to oddity collectors. Contact: 305-987-5686.

COUNTRY

PICKS

GEORGE JONES
Too Wild Too Long
PRODUCER: Billy Sherrill
Epic FE 40781

Jones turns in his usual mixed bag of the banal and the brilliant; his lyrics are always the latter. Best cuts: "One Hell Of A Song," "New Patches," "Moments Of Brilliance."

MEL McDANIEL
Now You're Talkin'
PRODUCER: Jerry Kennedy
Capitol C1-48058

McDaniel continues his flirtation with rock'n'roll (he includes a Chuck Berry tune) that emphasizes horns and a big beat. His best country offering is "She's A Lover Of Lost Causes," but the catchiest number is "Real Good Feel Good Song."

VERN GOSDIN
Chiseled In Stone
PRODUCER: Bob Montgomery
Columbia FC 409821

In country music, only George Jones can match Gosdin's dramatic power and sensitivity to strong lyrics, demonstrated here by "Do You Believe Me Now" (his current single), the title cut, and "There Ain't Nothing Wrong (Just Ain't Nothing Right)."

RECOMMENDED

SHENANDOAH
PRODUCERS: Rick Hall, Robert Byrne
Columbia BFC 407831

Less unctuous than Exile and less soulful than Alabama, this five-man group is still in search of a distinctive sound. Generally thoughtful lyrics are well sung, and the production is suitably restrained.

WILLY CLAFLIN
Bones Of Love
PRODUCERS: Tom Carr, Willy Claflin
Old Coyote OCR 9681

Folky, cerebral, and a mite overproduced, the album still has some memorable moments, ranging from the dark, image-ridden "The King Is Dead" to the droll pop-psych put-down "Hey OK." Contact: Suite 251, 2261 Market St., San Francisco, Calif. 94114.

ERNIE BIVENS 3RD
Musical Fix
PRODUCER: Colonel Ernie Bivens
GBS GBS-101

Bivens sings well, but he needs to intensify his attack on the lyrics to get at their marrow. Contact: 615-242-5001.

JAZZ

PICKS

RAMSEY LEWIS, PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA
Classic Encounter
PRODUCER: Ettore Stratta
FM/CBS 42661

Snobs may complain of style over substance, but Lewis and composer/arranger James Mack have crafted pretty music here. Pianist is both smooth and sassy; orchestra adds an exquisite touch. More successful than Lewis' prior orchestral efforts; album could win favor beyond the jazz crowd.

HENRY JOHNSON
Futures Excursions
PRODUCER: Henry Johnson
Impulse/MCA 42089

Second Impulse! go-round for guitarist Johnson will go down easy with fans of the Montgomery/Benson style, although axeman sports some fret moves of his own. Crisply produced, slickly played disk includes some ill-advised vocals, underlining fact that Johnson's main strength is as an instrumentalist, not a pop singer/writer.

RECOMMENDED

WILTON FELDER
Love Is A Rush
PRODUCERS: Joe Sample, Wilton Felder
MCA 42096

Vet saxman Felder cruises through a lively program of funk/blues-oriented sounds, getting an able assist from Crusaders stable mate Sample at the keyboards. As ever, the sound is pop inflected; singer Reichii Guillory makes a supple-voiced bow here on two numbers.

BIRELI LAGRENE
Inferno
PRODUCERS: Steve Khan, Christine Martin
Blue Note 48016

As album's title suggests, this French guitarist is a burner. Some jazz outlets may find him a bit too hot to handle, but his chops merit attention. Worthy cast includes Bill Evans on sax and a who's who of contemporary drummers.

CLASSICAL

RECOMMENDED

BRAHMS: SYMPHONY NO. 1
Berlin Philharmonic, Karajan
Deutsche Grammophon 423 141

Spacious and broad, this reading proceeds along a seemingly inevitable path. Karajan has been there many times and knows each twist and turn intimately. Impressive sound.

AMERICAN 'LIVE' DEBUT
Vladimir Feltsman, Piano
CBS M2X 44589

The Soviet expatriate comes as close to living up to extravagant advance notices as can reasonably be expected. This taped Carnegie Hall recital shows him off to advantage in a program that touches a number of interpretive bases, from Schubert to Schumann, via Messiaen, plus encores by Rachmaninov and Beethoven. A major pianist by any standard.

BACH ON MARIMBA
Leigh Howard Stevens
Musicmasters MMD 60124F

Bach can withstand transcription to any instrument, it appears, and on marimba sets a standard for gentleness of texture that many will find appealing. Pieces include several two-part inventions and two sonatas originally written for violin solo. Differently, in any case.

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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