

Reviews

...music

Susan Aglukark This Child (EMI)

I got really excited when this album came into the office. Susan Aglukark has an exquisite voice, and her last album *Arctic Rose* is one of my favourites. She's getting a whole lot of commercial recognition, and she sang at the ceremony to install the new Governor General last month. The promotional album came packaged in an unbleached paper box adorned with Inuktitut letters and tied with a beaded leather thong. The songs are almost all written by Aglukark herself, and the connection of the Inuit language and culture is still in this album, as is the attention to social problems of suicide and sexual abuse in the native villages. Problem is, as the liner notes say, "...she intertwines traditional Inuk chants with contemporary pop melodies." This would be fine; after all, the song she's best known for is the hymn "Amazing Grace" sung in Inuktitut. Her voice is strong, but gentle. She's not a yeller, so music accompanying her must of necessity be gentle. But the music on this album is just too wussy. She sounds so much better with a guitar accompaniment or a cappella, but this is too arranged, and messed up with synthesizers and background vocalists and mandolins and a dozen other sounds going on. Instead of showing off the drama of Aglukark's chillingly beautiful voice, this album waters her down to a traditional pop musician. However, she's still a thousand times better than most other pop musicians out there, so the album is still worth getting.

Susan Aglukark is going to be a whole lot more than just another musician when she finds the arrangements to show off her full potential.

(3.5)

-- Danielle Christensen

John Berry Standing On The Edge (Patriot Records)

This CD is the follow up to John Berry's debut album. Berry's smooth voice is once again showcased in his selections. Many of the songs have a slow beat, but are not depressing. The music is very easy to listen to and is very relaxing. A song to watch for is "Desperate Measures". Any country fan who liked his first CD will no doubt like his follow up.

(4)

Yvonne MacKean

1000 Fires Traci Lords (Radioactive Records)

In the liner notes for this album, Traci Lords thanks Radioactive Records for "allowing" her "madness". This is as good a description of the material offered on this album.

The hard-driving primitive beat that pervades the music throughout the ten tracks simulates the beat and rhythm of the human body (representing the primitive meditation beat of the human heart). The music changes little throughout this work which exists as a single set piece.

The lyrics fit the music, seeming to be the disjointed thoughts and feelings resulting from someone surfing the net that is their brain (the original and personal internet). Is it madness or acceptance of a world that is changing around us. The listener will have to decide.

Either way, there is much to listen to and even more to discuss. Use this album as a starting point for discussion of the modern day relationships in a world we don't necessarily recognize.

-- Dave Schneider

Victims of Luxury (Hypnotic/A&M)

Victims of Luxury are basically your average modern rock band. Layered guitars and keyboards played very loud with ample distortion set the mood for semi-screamed cryptic lyrics. A few novel keyboard licks are all that set this band apart from the crowd. This album has some good hooks and is quite listenable, but it is nothing to paint yourself purple and run naked through the streets about.

(3.5)

Mike Began

Cupid's Revenge s/t

(Continuum Records)

Tired of listening to sappy love songs and lame remakes of over-played heartthrobs?

Do you want something a little different that still gets the point across on those quiet romantic nights alone with that special someone? Take a listen to

Cupid's Revenge: The World's Most Romantic Punk Songs. This CD gets the point across good and loud, with a mix of some well-known love songs sung by the best punk rock groups around. Songs such as "I Got You Babe" (The Dictators), "In Your Eyes" (Circle Jerks), that all-too-famous Grease song "Summer Nights" (The Vandals), plus some real tear-jerkers, such as, "If You Love Somebody, Set Them On Fire" (The Dead Milkmen), and "Your Pretty Face is Going to Hell" (Iggy and the Stooges).

These and other songs are great for all you hard-core punk lovers. So, check it out, the least it can do is give you a good laugh. Good-bye Valentine's Day, hello daggers in the heart. Cupid is back and he's pissed off.

(2.5)

Jason Roberts

This Picture City of Sin (Arista Records)

This alternative/rock tape is something I would recommend for people who like that type of music. The music is fast and steady throughout most of the songs.

The title track, however, is not one of the best songs on the tape. The words in this song are not as interesting as those in others.

"The Outsiders" has good lyrics, good rhythm, and a good beat. Other than the fact that this tape is good,

another reason to purchase it is the fact that This Picture supports the aims of Greenpeace and Surfers Against Sewage.

Although I have no idea what Surfers Against Sewage is, it sounds like an important organization.

(4)

Mary MacDonald