

Canadian Music in the Summer of '77 (part 2)



with its combination of new musical and lyrical statements. These features have been polished and expanded yielding an even more satisfying album in High Class.

(*****) HIGH CLASS IN BORROWED SHOES-MAX WEBSTER (ANTHEM RECORDS)

Max Webster is Canada's best rock group. This statement is based on the group's first two albums, with High Class being their most recent release. The debut album of last year shocked everyone

Once again Max Webster offers an album containing sharply contrasting musical styles, ranging from high-powered rock to soothing ballads. The lyrical quality, one of the band's most obvious assets, is again high. Matching the music, the lyric range from harsh to calm; from brash to subtle.

Together, the music and lyrics are capable of taking Max Webster to the top of the music industry. They certainly have more talent than the trash such as Kiss, Rush, and Boston that are riding there now. This elpee should go a long way in handing Max Webster the position they deserve

(***) PLATINUM-STAMPEDERS (MWC RECORDS)

With Platinum, it appears the Stampeders have finally decided on a musical direction. When their career is considered, no one term for their music could be coined to cover it. Their first four albums consisted mainly of up-tempo ballads, with an occasional rocker such as "Wild Eyes" or "Johnny Lightning" thrown in. They then evolved into a heavy rock trio with the albums New Day, Backstage Pass, and Steamin'. After Steamin', a four-piece horn section was added and the result was a mixed-up, directionless album entitled Hit The Road. Rich Dobson then left and now the new seven-piece Stampeders have become the Canadian Wild Cherry: namely white lads coming out with disco.

Platinum appears to be the album that will cement the Stampeders into one category, and even though they chose the disco route, its better than going in ten different musical directions and doing none of them properly.

(***) THE HUNT- THE HUNT (DAFFODIL RECORDS)

This is the debut effort by a five-piece band from Quebec and has a combination of good and bad points. Good points include sounding like early Zeppelin and Tull, along with an effective production job. Bad points include sub-par material on side two and a small record company. With two sides of

solid material, The Hunt have a chance.

(****) PRISM (GRT RECORDS)

This is another debut album by a Canadian band hoping to fill the gap left by BTO's breakup. In contrast to Max Webster, Goddo, and other new bands, Prism has the AM market nailed down from the start.

Prism don't miss a trick on this album. Everything that has been recently successful in the music business has been included. Their sound is a combination of The Who, Rolling Stones, and the Doobie Brothers. Even Frampton's talk box makes an appearance on the song entitled "Vladivostock". Songs about space travel are usually well received, so Prism open the album with "Spaceship Superstar", their first single, and repeat the theme on "Take Me To The Kaptain". "Spaceship Superstar" owes much to the Who's "Baba O'Riley" while "Take Me . . ." is a perfect example of the "West Coast Sound".

Other great commercial songs include "It's Over" and "I Ain't Looking Anymore". Of course, history is full of bands which should have gone over in a big way, but never made it. To make sure that this won't happen to them, Prism have enlisted the services of Bruce Allen to manage them. BTO's former manager has plenty of talent to promote in Prism. They should be a mainstay on AM radio for a long time.

(****) RONNEY ABRAMSON STOWAWAY (TRUE NORTH RECORDS)

The hits "Your Love Gets Me Around" and "S-T-O Please" were a good indication that Stowaway was an album checking out. They were and it is. Stowaway is one of the best easy-listening albums on the market today. Don't miss it.

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