

Canadian Music in the Summer of '77 (part 1)



(****) LITTLE QUEEN - HEART (PORTRAIT RECORDS)

Very few people denied the talent debuted on Heart's first album of two years past, Dreamboat Annie. On their second effort, Heart's music has matured, proving that their debut album was no fluke. Little Queen is establishing Heart in the big leagues, deservedly so.

Diverse is the key word in describing the music contained here. "Magic Man" fans will be more than satisfied with "Barracuda" and "Kick It Out", the only straight-out rockers. The title cut is more in the funk/rock vein, with "Go On Cry" capturing many of the features of a typical Pink Floyd song. The ballads of the album are "Love Alive", "Treat Me Well", on which Nancy Wilson sings lead for the first time, and "Cry To Me", on which a third Wilson sister, Lynn Wilson, sings background vocals.

On Dreamboat Annie, Heart took us to the sea for the feature piece called "Soul Of The Sea". On Little Queen the forest receives the same treatment on "Sylvan Song" and "Dream Of The Archer". The album's concept pieces, these two songs are built entirely upon mandolins, with added touches from a moog bass and a mellotron. The influence of Led Zeppelin's "Battle Of Evermore" is very evident on these two cuts.

The other remaining cut on the album is "Say Hello", a pop song in every sense of the term. It combines the chunky guitar chords of the Doobie Brothers with the sharp-edged

drumming of a John Bonham. Heart have to be given credit for their ability to combine influences and song forms into one discernable "Heart sound". Much of this can be contributed to the fact that there is a "band" feel to the album, in contrast with the studio-musician feel of the debut album. The Wilsons still write all the songs and remain the focal point of the band, but all six members are now integral cogs in the Heart mix.

Little Queen sounds so superior to Dreamboat Annie one would think an album was missing between them. Actually there is an album missing, entitled Magazine, which has just been released by Mushroom Records. Little Queen has satisfied; it remains to be heard what Magazine could offer.

(**) LIVE AT THE EL MOCAMBO --APRIL WINE (AQUARIUS RECORDS)

April Wine's second live album was recorded at the dates they played with the Rolling Stones at a small Toronto club, the El Mocambo. Two questions arise.

First, do any of us really want another April Wine live album? Possibly, but certainly not one such as this. All the well-worn Wine standards are back, this time more lack-lustre than ever before. "You Could Have Been A Lady", "Drop Your Guns", and "Tonight Is A Wonderful Time" all suffer from lifeless renditions. It's to be expected considering how many times these songs have been performed. Of the three new songs, only "She's No Angel" has any life to it, and will probably be the only single to be released from the album.

The second question is whether or not April Wine has musically run its course. Myles Goodwyn hasn't written a decent

song since "Gimme Love", never did write their best songs ("You Could Have Been A Lady", "Drop Your Guns", and "Weeping Widow") and has recently relied on either old material (the Forever For Now album) or this live material. None of the other members of the present April Wine can write so the artistic future of April Wine looks dim. Live At The El Mocambo is the product of a stagnant band.

(****) DREAMS DREAMS DREAMS -CHILLIWACK (MUSHROOM RECORDS)

Chilliwack have finally claimed their deserved place as one of Canada's foremost creative bands. The material on Dreams is a new approach for the band, one that many groups are making in order to attain some degree of success. It's a much more mellow format, retaining carefully placed outbursts of their past rock frenzy. "Fly At Night" is a prime example of this new and in most cases workable sound.

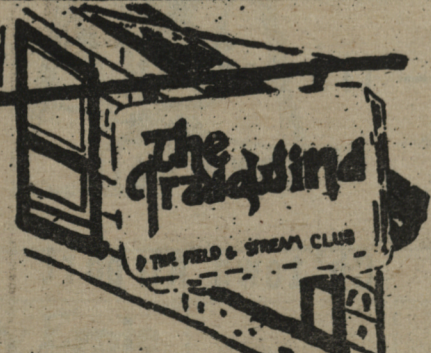
(***) MY OWN WAY TO ROCK -BURTON CUMMINGS (PORTRAIT)

This is a much superior album than his first solo effort, but Cummings still faces an identical problem. The material is still strong in some places, weak in others. While "Charlemagne" is fabulous, with Randy Bachman belting out those Chuck Berry riffs, the title cut sounds like an old Guess Who outtake. Maybe Bachman is the key. Now that he's disbanded

BTO and has joined Cummings' band, the future can only be brighter for both of them. They're a team that has clicked before and should again. Bachman-Cummings Overdrive. Hmmmnnnn.....

(*) WORLD ANTHEM -MAHOGANY RUSH (COLUMBIA RECORDS)

Jimi Hendrix could produce more interesting music playing with a straight-jacket on.



STEAK ROOM

11:30 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

FEATURING 8 oz. SIRLOIN STEAK 2.65
AND
OUR SMOKED MEAT ON RYE PLATTER 1.65
(A Dinner in Itself)

DISCOTHEQUE NIGHTLY
9 P.M. - 1 A.M.
QUADRAPHONIC SOUND

Tues, U.P.E.I. nite 'Specials'

THE "INN OUT OF THE SUN" GAMING ROOM
11-7 MONDAY TO SATURDAY
POOL PING PONG

189 KENT STREET
CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.

Phone 894-4291

JUNIOR CLASS ELECTION

TO BE HELD ON
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 16
MAIN LOBBY - ROBERTSON LIBRARY