

Sheila Chandra

The Zen Kiss

(Virgin/REAL WORLD)

I think this is probably the most interesting music which I have ever heard. It is a mix of styles - namely Islamic, Andalusian, Bulgarian and Celtic. You cannot help but get lost in the music. Most of the songs are performed acapella by Chandra herself, and even when instruments are added, they are so subtle I hardly noticed them.

Chandra is definitely making a statement to and about women on this album. The first song is inspirational. "La Sagesse (Women I'm Calling You)" is a song for women in which Chandra states "...Our wisdom cannot be lost and our spirits cannot be broken."

Once again, Real World Productions has been able to find another fine representative of beautiful music from around the world.

(5)

-- Grace Kimpinski

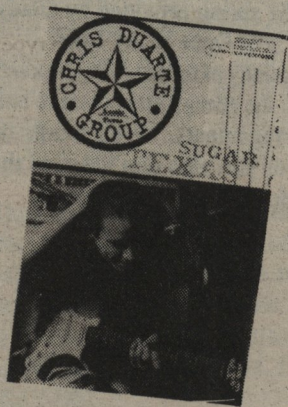
The Chris Duarte Group

Texas Sugar/Strat Magik
(Silverstone)

This tight little blues power trio bears a striking resemblance to the late Stevie Ray Vaughan and his band Double Trouble. The nine minute slow-blues instrumental "Shiloh" is actually dedicated to Stevie and his brother Jimmie. Fortunately, the band pulls off the Vaughan style with flying colours. Texas Sugar / Strat Magik is a fine addition to any blues collection.

(4)

-- Mike Beagan



MUZIK REVIEWS

Dink

s/t
(EMI)

The cover art is interesting, but the artwork on the CD leaves a little-- no, a lot to be desired, unless you like diagrams of hairy hands giving you the finger. The music itself was run-of-the-mill alternative-- the like of which you'd find in any amateur bar band.

(1)

-- Kathy Giesbrecht

Buddy Guy Slippin' In (Silverstone)

A superb release from master string slinger Buddy Guy. Once again the Old Master of the blues proves he has still got the touch. The music is tighter than ever, yet still fits comfortably like a favourite pair of old shoes. The band features Stevie Ray Vaughan's Double Trouble rhythm section and a host of other fine musicians. Tying this all together is the producing and engineering of the infamous Eddie Kramer, the man whose genius is behind Jimi Hendrix's "wall of sound" studio sound. Kramer's touch is evident in the beautiful tones of each note that Guy gut-wrenchingly wrings from his guitar. This is Buddy Guy's best effort since his days with Junior Wells.

(4)

-- Mike Beagan



The Cranberries

No Need To Argue

(Island)

Listening to this recording I was transported back to the summer and the warm evenings I spent sitting in my room peering out at the world while listening to my newest favourite CD, *Everybody Else Is Doing It, Why Can't We*. I loved that album, but I love this recording even more.

The reason I like this recording better is that the group doesn't try to hide their roots at all. The lead singer, Dolores O'Riordan, sings with an unmistakable Irish accent that can be both sweet and raucous. The lyrics on this album are also very personal. My favourite is the first song, "Ode To My Family".

One of the measures I use to judge how much I like a CD is how long it survives in my car stereo test. If I am able to listen to the album for more than a week without getting sick of it, it is excellent. This recording hasn't left my car since I received it almost four weeks ago.

(5)

-- Steve Ellis

Hangin' Tree

(+ one poem productions inc.)

My roommate called it "funky, new-age alternative". At first, I just thought it sucked, but it does kind of grow on you after you play it a few times. The lyrics (for the most part) are not particularly intelligent or interesting, but the music itself is decent.

(2.5)

-- Kathy Giesbrecht