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record review ratings

EXCELLENT ★★★★★ VERY GOOD ★★★★ GOOD ★★★ FAIR ★★ POOR ★

with Pamela Littlejohn

Gwen McRae

Funky Sensation, Poyson, Feel So Good, All My Love, Stood the Test, Do You Wanna Be Mine, No Deposit - No Return, Have A Good Time, Movement.

Atlantic: SD 19308
Rating —★½

Although there are close to 50 musicians and singers listed in the credits for this album, it never seems to get off the ground. The impression gleaned from the Dawn panel is that Gwen really wanted to get down and jam, but was limited by the sheer magnitude and plushness of the over arranged pieces.

Baby Brother

You Make My Warm Spot Hot, Movin' Music, How Do You Lie Movin' Music, How Do You Like I'm Boogie Bound), Funky Situation, (Hang On) I'm Coming For You, Bad Thing, All Night's Alright, You've Got Me Wanting You, You Asked For It.
Cotillion: SD 5225
Rating ★★½

This album promises a lot. The jacket is attractive, so much so that it was hoped that the music contained in it would be equal — but alas, it is not. Interspersed in the hodgepodge of sameness that permeates the album is one gem, which has been previously released as a 45 rpm single, "All Night Alright." The group shows promise, but it really doesn't click here.

Slave

Showtime: Snapshot, Party Lites, Spice of Life, Wait For Me, Smokin, Steal Your Heart, For the Love of U, Funken Town.
Cotillion: SD 5227
Rating ★★½

There is a piece of good and a piece of bad on this. As a matter of fact, the cut "Snapshot," is the only redeeming feature of this particular album. The panel was up and enjoying this cut. But then, there was a tremendous letdown as the remainder of the set deteriorated into a sameness that is prevalent throughout the remainder. "Snapshot" saves the album from total disaster.

The M-Zee Band

Doctor Rhythm: Doctor Rhythm, Who's Funkin' You, Bop Box, Sure Shot, I'm Savin' It For the One I Love, Fun House, Street Beat.

Miracle: WTB 19309
Rating —★★

Another pure formula mix. This one sounds like a collection of tracks put together in a studio according to precepts laid down by previously successful albums. Unfortunately, it doesn't quite come together, and sounds simply traditional.

The Meadows

She's Gone, Don't Take It Away, I Wanna See You Right Now, What a Day This Has Been, I Can't Understand, I Tried It All, I'll Be Your Sunshine, My Love Was Sleeping, Wheels, Body Power.
Radio Records: RP 19305

Rating —★★★

This one has a nice foot-patting, head nodding ring to it and is really easy listening. There is not too much screaming and hollering going on, which leads itself to pleasant enjoyment. While there is nothing particularly distinguishing, the overall effect of this effort is nice.

Frankie Smith

Children of Tomorrow: Double Dutch Bus, Slang Thang, Handbone, Children of Tomorrow, The Auction, Double Dutch, Teeny-Booper Lady, Triple Dutch.
WMOT: FW 37391

Rating —★★★

The album comes along far behind the very successful single, "Double Dutch Bus" was released as a single. It caught on immediately and spawned a new dance, based on the children's game of jumping rope with two lines. The remainder of the album, although designed for dancing, does not generate the excitement of the DDB, until you get to the instrumental "Triple Dutch" which makes for flying feet.

Barry White

Beware: Beware, Relax to the Max, Let Me In and Let's Begin With Love Your Love, Love, Tell Me Who Do You Love, Rio De Janeiro, You're My High, OOO. . .AHH. . ., I Won't Settle For Less Than the Best, Louie Louie.
Unlimited Gold: AL 37176
Rating —★

Too much of the same thing could be the affliction of this one, for Barry still sings on a pleading note, which depresses the mood and brings out sadness. A little of it goes a long ways since we have begun to associate Barry with this type of music and really have heard enough of it. It's time this talented musician found a new niche before he gets embroiled in the morass which is threatening to swollow up his output.

The Stylistics

Closer Than Close: What's Your Name, I've Got This Feeling, Mine All Mine, Habit, Searchin', It's Only Love, Closer Than Close, Almost There.

TSOP: FZ 37458
Rating —★★½

This is unlike anything the original tracks of the group produced. This one sounds as if they threw all the tapes into the air, caught a few and released them as an album. Every now and then the pure Stylistics sound emerges, but not enough.

Skool Boyz

Your Love, Jam Beneath the Groove, Can We Do It Again, This Feeling Must Be Real, Burning Up, I Ain't Gonna Go Searching, You Took the Best Part of Me, You Can Get Down.

Destiny: DLA-10001
Rating —★★★½

Another example of an album issued with one worthy cut, this time "You Took the Best Part of Me" is the one which soars. For the remainder, if you listen to "Jam Beneath the Groove," you will have heard the essence of the album, for the rest falls right into the same groove.

Jean Carn

Sweet and Wonderful: Bet Your Lucky Star, Don't Say No To Love, Sweet and Wonderful, Love Don't Love Nobody, We Got Some Catching Up To Do, Mystic Stranger, Just Thought of a Way, Love Makes Me Do Foolish Things.
TSOP: BL 36775

Rating —★★★½

Unquestionably Jean, and that in itself is enough. The singer projects enough versatility to keep things in perspective and keep you looking forward to the next cut. She has a style all her own, and it shines through on many of the cuts on these sides.