

Vinyl★

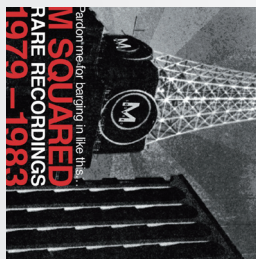
Collector
by Paul Rigby



Sandy Denny She Moves Through The Fair

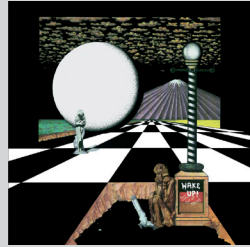
★★★★
Stamford Audio STAMPLP 1003
Conventional release for the hardcore fan
Recorded by Denny when she was just 19 years old, this limited, 500-only EP consists of just five tracks spanning 16 minutes or so playing time in total, and was last seen on the *Boxful Of Treasures* CD set. Recorded at her London home in 1967 (around the time of Denny's first Saga session) the EP comprises self-penned, borrowed and traditional songs. Denny's performance is pure of tone and full of restrained passion, though the sound quality is variable.

Rating this release is a little difficult, mainly because it will set you back £19.90 for what's just an EP of released material. Some will see it as a rip-off, other hardcore fans will just be happy to see this material on vinyl, while audiophiles will appreciate the well mastered and pressed 12", as opposed to a limited 7" of inferior sound quality. See it for what it is – a limited edition collector's item – and you won't go far wrong.



M Squared Pardon Me For Bargaining In Like This... Rare Recordings 1979-1983

★★★★★
Vinyl On Demand VOD 62 (5-LP)
Making round pegs fit in square holed
Out of Sydney, Australia, the M Squared label was most active during the late 70s and early 80s, producing works by the likes of SPK and Systematics. This collection is a treasure trove of rare and unreleased tracks from the likes of A Cloakroom Assembly, East End Butchers, Patrick Gibson and Shane Fahey. In beautifully pizza box-style packaging you get five



Out Of Focus Wake Up

★★★★
Missing Vinyl MV 004

Out Of Focus

★★★★★
Missing Vinyl MV 006

Four Letter Monday Afternoon

★★★★★
Missing Vinyl MV 005 (2-LP)

Lens your ears to this prog barrage

These three albums were the first LPs the German outfit released on the collectable Kuckuk label. A tight, largely instrumental group, they weren't afraid to improvise when necessary, cooking up a sound on their 1971



debut, *Wake Up*, which owed a debt to early UK prog outfits, weaving improvised passages through conventional song structure. The weakest of the three, *Wake Up* is, however, still a recommended listen, thanks to its funk-based grooves and a lyrical depth that reflected social and political ideas without hitting you over the head with its tenets.

The following year's *Out Of Focus* retained the rock, blues and folk elements, while swerving into jazz via extended saxophone and flute solos. Matching the musical progression, the lyrics become more confident,



more outspoken and targeted, highlighting religion as a particular cause célèbre.

Its follow-up, *Four Letter Monday Afternoon*, released the same year, presented a full-on Soft Machine-like jazz-rock fusion, with avant-garde touches and more extended instrumental experiments. Across the double album *Out Of Focus*, the group were able to push their own boundaries with Huchen 55, a single piece that sprawls over both sides of the second LP, combining freeform ideas with captivating instrumental sequences. The sound of a band evolving, this trio of albums make an ideal set.

LPs, plus a free 10" for members of the label's exclusive club. A brilliant collection of angular synth noises, nightmarish vocals, industrial noise and out of control feedback.



The Pretty Things Philippe DeBarge

★★★★★
UT UT-2207

DeBarge-ing out of the vaults

During 1969, with *SF Sorrow* out on the shelves and guitarist Dick Taylor, out of the band, the creative Pretty pair of Phil May and Wally Waller met Frenchman Philippe DeBarge – an eager young fan with cash to burn and a rock dream glinting in his eyes. Sung by DeBarge but written and backed by The Pretty Things, this album includes a number of intriguing tracks, such as the live staple, Alexander, which never saw a studio recording released, and Send You With Loving, which was recorded for a BBC session in 1969 but never appeared on record. After it was recorded, DeBarge, who died 10 years ago, took the masters home to France, where the album remained buried. Distinctly West Coast in sound, with only flashes of their primeval punk ethic, The Pretty Things

mix attractive harmonic vocals with free-flowing musicianship and psychedelic froth. A worthy addition to the canon.

Wipers Over The Edge

★★★★★
Jackpot JPR 82803

Hotter than a squeegee on fire

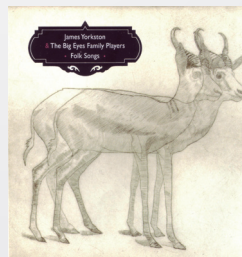
Lauded by Kurt Cobain, and one of those rare bands who sought to pursue true punk ideals without actually calling themselves a punk band, Wipers wanted to be free of all corporate music strictures. The creative goals they set, however, inevitably failed to materialise. Despite that, this brilliant 1983 album mixes pop and punk in a manner that lifts both genres without diluting either. With a strong, edgy presentation, *Over The Edge* releases the pressures of life directly into your head, while providing an originality all too often missing from their peers.

James Yorkston & The Big Eyes Family Players

★★★★★
Domino WIGLP 236

Trad songs from Scotland

Though born in Fife, Yorkston has scoured the length of



Britain and Ireland (and, on one occasion, Galicia in Spain) to source a selection of traditional songs that almost seems a luddite's reaction to the recent plethora of acts coming out under the alt.folk, nu-folk etc banners. In fact, Yorkston himself admits that most of this LP is derived from the 60s folk revival and his Anne Briggs influence. Tackled with sensitivity and a laidback attitude, Yorkston applies a light, even delicate touch to these old works.

Vinyl Round-up

All releases are out now, unless otherwise stated
Eric Clapton *Slowhand* (Back To Black)
Free Fire & Water (Back To Black)
Lisa Hannigan *Sea Saw* (ATO)
Grace Jones *Nightclubbing* (Back To Black)
Moby *Wait For Me* (Little Idiot)
Jack Peñate *Everything Is New* (XL)
The Specials *The Specials* (EMI)
Tom Tom Club *Tom Tom Club* (Back To Black)
UFO *The Visitor* (SPV)
Vetiver *Tight Knit* (Sub Pop Import)

spanned an often balladic broad musical palette – the main continuity being the queues to record cover versions.

This 25-track compilation of career highlights is packed with classics, starting with The Troggs (who also covered *Anyway That You Want Me* – here by Tina Mason) and ending with Taylor's later forays into country music. In between there are timeless gems such as Lorraine Ellison's *Try* (Just A Little Bit Harder) (later huge for Janis Joplin), Merilee Rush's *Angel Of The Morning* and *Picture Me Gone* – originally a hit for Taylor's protégé Evie Sands (present with *I Can't Let Go*) and covered sublimely here by the often-overlooked Madeline Bell.

Other names include Aretha Franklin, Peggy Lee, Billy Vera, Walter Jackson, Reparata & The Delrons and The Hollies, while Ace's customarily thorough sleeve notes give the full story behind each song, complimenting a truly luscious package. *Kris Needs*



ZE30

★★★★★
Strut STRUT 47 CD

Cult NY label revisited

The 31st anniversary of New York's Ze label is commemorated in style here. It's something of a danceable set of tracks, too; any album that starts with a six-and-a-half minute 12" mix of a Was (Not Was) track – *Tell Me That I'm Dreaming* – is setting out its stall from the outset. Casino Music's take on *The Beat Goes On* is excellent, while James White & The Blacks are jerky and dotty on *Contort Yourself* and the ever-jaunty Kid Creole & The Coconuts are given a none-more-80s remix by Larry Levan on *Something Wrong In Paradise* – which sounds exactly as it should. Both Alan Vega and Suicide also crop up, the former with the poppy *Jukebox Babe* and the latter contrasting with an extended version of *Dream Baby Dream*.

The label's break between 1986 and 2003 was merely a gasp for air, as new tracks such as the distinctly odd-industrial-smoother piano of Michael Dracula's *What Can I Do For You* (from their forthcoming Ze debut) indicates. The CD and vinyl packs feature a full history of the label, sleeve notes by RC's Kris Needs, interviews with founder Michel Esteban and a host of original artists, plus previously unpublished photos. *Joe Shooman*

