

# Records

## Topp Twins Go Vinyl Festival

In the wake of the Topp Twins telly debut a re-issue of their vinyl debut has hit the shelves, with the added extras 'Graffiti Raiders' and 'Paradise' — both songs taken from the Web Women's Collective album *Out of the Corners*. All the favourites are here — 'Good Sisters Gone Bad', 'Untouchables', 'Bastion Point' and 'Mr Ronald Reagan'.

The EP is interesting historically, when compared to *Twinset* and *Pearls* — the straightforward guitar backing on *Vinyl* sounds fine in comparison to the instrumenta-

tion on *Pearls*. Those who said at the time "where do they go from here" were silly to think the Topp Twins couldn't add a backing. In fact, I doubt there's anything the Twins can't do.

What can I say? The Topp Twins are like a national treasure — a taonga if you like! Hopefully, lots of people who saw the Topp Twins on telly will rush out and buy the record and start being set free!

Fiona Rae

Taj Mahal  
Taj  
Gramavision

Taj has turned up the sweetest, clearest and possibly to our shores, the dearest example of his artistry to date. Included are two tracks penned by Herbs, 'Light of The Pacific' and 'French Letter', illustrating the bond held for some time between the two parties.

Included in his stack of supporting musicians are characters such as Jesse "Ed" Davies, a guitarist whose history runs through the Faces and solo projects by Ringo Starr and George Harrison. Taj's cast of thousands is thick with horns, vocals and percussion, with Babatunde Olatunji "putting the Juju in what we do and you do."

The result is a rich and impeccably bright blend of calypso, reggae roots and blues. Don't leave off the rhythm either. "Do I Love Her" grooves along with a strainer post of a bass line — and groove is the operative word on all tracks. Crying mouth harp and guitar lend themselves to the shady smoke filled nightclub and dark winding alley — but remember, this album is as clean as.

I love the steel drums on 'Kauai Kalypso' — an amazingly pretty and pacy tune that weaves the ol-

dest of blues formulas in a way that Malcolm McLaren (joke) could only dream of doing with black soulters. Other tracks 'Soothin' and 'Pillowtalk' sink away in a very humble form of jazz shuffle. None of the 10 tracks are in the least offensive or brash ... if you insist on being complex, then yes, it is a sophisticated album, but it never strays from the bottom line; never betrays itself.

From the charismatic opener 'Everybody Needs Somebody' to Herbs' 'French Letter' (given added beauty by Taj), the album clips through 40 minutes of the warmest sunshine you'll find this summer. You must have it.

Barry Caitcheon

Everything But the Girl  
Baby the Stars Shine Bright  
(WEA)

Yeah, they've come a long way

from their cover of Cole Porter's 'Night and Day.' These days they're writing their own Cole Porters. This third album, with an orchestra in tow, sees Tracey Thorn and Ben Watt turn the corner into a maturity that results in ballads as strong as 'Careless' and 'Little Hitler'. But of the 10 songs here only the classy 'Don't Leave Me Behind' and 'Sugar Finney' break out of the cocktail dinner jacket. Too restrained for me but if you think the night time is the right time then here's your backdrop. GK

Dream Syndicate

Out of the Grey (Bigtime)

As the sun sets on the guitar resurgence the likes of the Del Fuegos, Rain Parade and now the Dream Syndicate are struggling to find the ideas to survive. For a while they all basked in anti-tech accolades and Steve Wynn's Syndicate deserved applause for the psychotic lineup that was *The Medicine Show*. *Out of the Grey* slips down several notches into routine beginner's guitar songs — borrowing more than they create. 'Boston' and 'Now I Ride Alone' remain the exceptions on an album from a band in danger of losing the little identity they had. GK

Bad Company

Fame and Fortune (WEA)

A reformed version without singer Paul Rodgers, now busy with the Firm. Unfortunately it doesn't live up to the Bad Company name but still contains some great pieces, like the title track and 'Burning Up'. With Mick Jones at the controls it sounds more like a new Foreigner album than a Bad Company one, so it's hardly another *Straight Shooter*. GD

WASP

Inside the Electric Circus (EMI)

Blackie Lawless welcomes you to the wild wicked WASP world of

sex and outrage, so hang on as they rip through these nasty nine and two covers. Delivered with all the grace of ... well, a buzz-saw cod-piece, this offering is sure to please WASP's ever-increasing swarm of followers. GD

Triumph

The Sport of Kings (WEA)

After more than a decade of making good rock records without a great deal of commercial success, it seems Triumph are aiming for wider audience appeal. An acoustic guitar piece called 'Embrujo' precedes the hard-hitting song 'Play with the Fire'. The rest is pretty light material, though all finely played with nice crisp production. Still good but maybe too mellow for some. GD

Megadeth  
Peace Sells, But Who's Buying  
(EMI)

Second recording from this new band and they sound sorta like Metallica's little brother, which isn't surprising since guitarist Dave Mustaine was in the first line-up. Sure they play hard and are tight enough, but they seem limited lyrically with nearly every track being about death. If you like your metal very heavy this will be your cup of tea; to others it'll be more like a cup of cyanide. GD

Various Artists

Masters of Metal (K-Tel)

As far as compilations go, this one's alright if you want to sample the range of heavy rock artists around and don't want to fork out the bucks for all the original albums. A fairly good coverage and there's a couple of local bands included too. Knights of 'Blood and Money' is the better produced and fits in well. Now what do you do with the free plastic patch of a bald evil moron wielding a big stone hammer? Geoff Dunn

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30 Sweetwaters issue programme; John Martyn, Elvis Costello, Renee Geyer, No Nukes, Squeeze, NZ Band profiles, Split Enz, Toy Love, Hello Sailor Citizen Band, Ty Durds, Street Talk.

32 Police & Split Enz interviews.

34 Tom Petty & Street Talk interviews, Mi-Sex, Virgin supplement, Whizz Kids & Pop Mechanix bandfiles.

38 Howard Devoto, Tim Finn interviews.

39 XTC, Lip Service, Motels.

40 Martha Davis, David Byrne, Dave McCartney, Doors, Bruce Springsteen, Hammond Gamble.

42 Clash interview, Cold Chisel, INXS, Tigers, Jo Jo Zep, Bonich/Tilders.

48 Cold Chisel, Blams, Wgtn Zone.

49 Angels, Beat, Lemmy Motorhead, Desmond Dekker, Heavy Metal Gulch.

50 Swingers, U2, Psych Turs, Clean.

51 Newmatics, Cramps, Stray Cats, UB40, Blind Date & Gordons interviews.

52 Echo and the Bunnymen, Dance Macabre, Penknife Glides, Mockers, Valentines, Jimmy & the Boys.

54 Dave McCartney & Pink Flamingos, Go-Gos interview, Sunnyboys, INXS.

56 Teardrop Explodes, DD Smash, Mick Jones, Part 2, Neighbours.

57 Clean, Prefetters, South Island bands, Joan Armtrading, Mental As Anything, Chaz Jankel.

58 Blams, Teardrops, Hall & Oates, Bill Wyman, Kottke/Redbone interviews.

59 Human League, Men At Work, Chills, Tim Finn, Motels, Elvis Costello live.

61 Graham Brazier & Harry Lyon, Fall, Jim Carroll, Daggy & the Dickheads, Hip Singles, Dropbeats.

63 Simple Minds' Jim Kerr interviewed, Split Enz Part 2, Renee Geyer, Nocturnal Projections, Willie Dayson Blues Band, Hunters & Collectors.

65 Yazoo (Alison Moyet interview), Joe Cocker, Zoo (ex Pop Mechanix), Guriz, Jo Jo Zep.

68 Herbs, Culture Club, Bauhaus, Kiwi Animal, No Tag, Sharon O'Neill, Thompson Twins, ChCh Special (Wastrels, Flying Nun, Bill Dreen, etc.).

69 Joni Mitchell, Dance Exponents, Who, Neighbours, Dife Strats, Talk Talk, Milton Stowaways, Blond Comedy.

73 Wilbur, Dead Kennedys, Coconut Rough, Angels, Marginal Era, Grenimar Boys, Fishschool, John Cale, I.

74 Malcolm McLaren, Heaven 17, Joan Armatrading, Sharon O'Neill, Children's Hour.

75 Tim Finn, John Cale, Jonathan Richmond, Hammond Gamble, Dick Driver.

80 Police, Paul Young, Motown feature, John Peel Wastrels, Bryan Adams.

81 Smiths, Mockers, Def Leppard, Violent Femmes, Milton Stowaways, Chills, Doublehappys, Marvin Gaye.

82 Billy Idol, Pamela Stephenson, Four Tops, Temptations, Verlaines.

83 Elvis Costello, Thompson Twins, Netherworld Dancing Toys, Mockers, Paul Morley.

84 Style Council (Paul Weller interview), Echo & the Bunnymen, Midnight Oil, Kiwi Animal, Sneaky Feelings, Depeche

DD Smash, U2, Bill Dreen Pt 1, Nick Cave, Stevie Ray Vaughan.

88 Herbs, Talking Heads, Aztec Camera, Narcs, Car Crash Set, Akemen, SPK.

90 Lou Reed, Go-Between, Paul Hewson, Topp Twins.

91 Neil Young, Giorgio Moroder, Waterboys, David Puttnam, Freudian Slips, Electric Pandas.

92 Hunters and Collectors, Lloyd Cole, Pelicans, Peter Garrett, Left Right & Centre, Economic Wizards.

93 Dance Exponents, Huey Lewis, Robert Palmer (Power Station), Peking Man, Circus Mock 4, This Kind Of Punishment.

94 New Order interview, Iron Maiden, Synglens, Johnnys, Michael Winslow, Plans For A Building.

95 Chills, Killing Joke, Dazz Band, Expendables, Jason & the Scorchers, Last Man Down.

96 Netherworld Dancing Toys, China Crisis, Robert Plant, Doublehappys, Kiwi Animal, Nils Lofgren.

97 Bryan Ferry, Dynamic Hepnotics, Men At Work, Bats, Shriekback.

98 Mockers, Mental As Anything, Reggae, John Boorman, Bird Nest Roys.

99 Narcs, Bangles, REM, Jerry Harrison, NZ Church in Spring.

100 NZ Music 1977-85, Rili's Believe It Or Not.

Tina Turner, Danned.

101 Verlaines, Orongos, Sam Hunt, WASP.

102 Thompson Twins, Tom Petty, Violent Femmes, Chills.

103 Pearly Sharkey, INXS, Fetus Productions.

104 Atlantic Soul, Bob Dylan, Stevie Ray, Go-Betweens, BFM LP, Johnnys, Roy Harper.

105 Hunters & Collectors, Tim Finn, Flesh D-Vice, Kiwis in Oz, Nico.

106 JD Smash, National Anthem, Terry Gilliam, Music Quota, Orange, Everything That Flies, Chrome Satari.

107 Peking man, Amy Grant, Cramps, Martin Plaza, Psychic Pet Healers, Ruby Turner, Ardijah.

108 Pogues, Bats, Flamin Groovies, Wilko Johnson, Brazil, Tex Pistol.

109 Young Ones' Vyy, Cramps, Residents, Herbs, Fetus Film, Saints.

110 Patea Maori Club, Husker Du, Patti LaBelle, Art of Noise, Last Man Down, Alpaca Bros.

111 Simple Minds, Dance Exponents, Shriekback, Dwight Yoakam, Jason & Scorchers, Texas Rangers, Screaming Blue Messiahs.

112 Genesis, Def Jam, OMD, Jean-Paul Sartre, Manawatu.

113 Hello Sailor, Sneaky Feelings, Dream Syndicate, Frankie.

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Bob Marley survival, photo on gold.  
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