

Shake Summation

Crowded House 'Something So Strong' (Capitol 12")

History never repeats? In 1964 Capitol successfully marketed charming, refreshing pop to a blanded-out USA. Now, here comes the Fab 'free. 'Something So Strong' epitomises Neil Finn's knack for hard-driven acoustic guitar based melodies, made for sing-alongs, and unspoilt by Mitchell Froom's crisp, natural production. 'Can't Carry On' (from the CD) is a slight piece of Enzy paranoia, produced by Eddie Raynor with a great *Rubber Soul* middle eight. The album version of 'I Walk Away' completes this three-track EP; on a songs-for-cents basis, the LP is better value. Yesterday's sound today, but pure pop for now people.

Ardijah 'That's the Way' (WEA 12")

Not a dancer and held down by the heavy guitar, 'That's the Way' is saved by the wonderful chorus, with Betty Monga's silky voice multi-tracked to "reggae it up!" Co-produced by Ryan Monga and American Tony Hermeke, it's as accomplished as anything ever done here — but *great* production also needs good taste. The gem is on the B-side, which Ryan produced alone with a light touch. The seductive 'Give Me Time' has another great vocal and outclasses the soft soul that's been dominating our charts for months. The mini piano concerto at the end should be saved for live gigs, though; as a 7" this would be dynamite.

Fat Sally 'Shadow of the Night' (EMI 12")

Fat Sally has plenty of grunt and only disappoints during slower moments. But 'Warrior Bold' aside, this five-track EP must fuel some great parties in Christchurch,

where sound police are called and the neighbourhood cats run away. Keith Palmer has a Mercurial voice that could strip paint, and Night-shift Studios have achieved a superb fat and raw sound for the standard guitar-bass-drums lineup, only let down when keyboards are added. Good songs, 'Today's Pressure' and the title track standing out, with surprise endings. Another fine hunk of Kiwi metal.

Hammond Gamble 'Photograph of Your Heart' (WEA 7")

Hammond's familiar anguished voice returns to a plodding verse, but it comes alive at the uplifting chorus which takes me back to the better moments of early 70s radio: the Hollies and (yes) Ringo. The whimsical flip 'More Photographs' mixes things about, extends the Queen guitar solo and lets producer Dave McArtney make his mark.

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