

Jazz!

Ornette Coleman
Of Human Feelings
Air
80 Below 82
Antilles

What a tremendous year it's been for jazz. Enthralling concerts from the Von Schlippenbach Trio and Mike Nock, ECM continuing to set the pace with a brace of spine-tingling releases and now a limited import of the Antilles label from Festival. These two simply rate as supreme examples of contemporary music.

Ornette Coleman is the inventor of the harmolodic style, popularised by James Blood Ulmer. The discipline in Coleman's compositions is plain in this, a long-awaited release after a lean period of recording — the sessions are actually three years old.

The tunes (and there's melody to spare) are lead away by Coleman's fluent alto, skating along the rhythmic plain, while the Prime Time Band (two drummers, including Coleman's son, two guitarists and a bass player with at least 20 fingers) lay down the parallel funk lines and sympathetic melodies.

The rhythm is irresistible (and danceable), the tunes so logical and accessible. Will this man be a cult figure the rest of his days? I guess so. He's just too good.

Air are a trio, comprising Henry Threadgill on alto sax, Frederic Hopkins on bass and Steve McCall on drums. The strength of their music lies in its simplicity, the unstated being as important as the stated.

The sound is a modern urban landscape, often using old blues-based stanzas as a starting point of expansions. The playing often rises to steaming crescendos. There is fury, passion, elation and finally, peace. Pictures in sound.

The compositions are Threadgill's, with the exception of the opener, a sweat rethread of Jelly Roll Morton's 'Chicago Break-down'. Utterly disarming music and a gamut of strong emotions at work.

Duncan Campbell

BRIEFS

Holly and the Italians
Holly Beth Vincent (Virgin)

A second album from one of the smarter women working within the conventional pop framework. *Holly Beth Vincent*, the album and the woman, mix vague nostalgic 50s elements with contemporary bite and

imagination. 'Honolulu' a good song punctuated by John Gatchell's incisive trumpet playing, then there's an effective reinterpretation of Stills' 'For What It's Worth'. The best songs though are of the love bites mould, namely 'Samurai' and 'Courtesan' and 'Unoriginal Sin'. Not an essential album but don't be in a hurry to overlook it. GK

Santana, Shango (CBS)
Santana offers few surprises these days. In fact, the old Latin percussion, poppy vocals, flash guitar solo formula is sounding pretty stale. Carlos' guitar continues to be the band's reason for being, but mostly he sounds as if he is re-running his best ideas.

Alexander Ligertwood remains one of rock's least charming vocalists, so attention must focus on Santana's instrumental work — and, sadly, that arouses only a flicker of interest. KW

Various Artists
The INDI-CompilASIAN Album (Virgin)

I'm an unashamed fan of Harrison's experiments with Indian music (Beatles and *Wonderwall Music*), plus the Stones' and various Yank pop-sidelined bands' dabbings, but most of this British/Eastern seripop leaves me cold. It appears to be hastily thrust together by Virgin after Monsoon's chart success and the first of their two songs is one of the four tracks on it that I can get close to enjoying. It's all too clean, too polite, too serious. Maybe you need to be Indian. CK

Bob Dylan/The Band
Before The Flood (CBS)
Recorded on a 1974 American tour, this double album was originally on the Asylum label before Dylan returned to CBS. Dylan drastically — even perversely — reworks his classic songs. In a solo setting it sometimes works, often doesn't. For their part, the Band on their own sound rather stiff. But it's the other half of the album, Sides One and Four, which is the real meat. Here Dylan drives the Band, and vice versa, until songs such as 'Most Likely You Go Your Way', 'All Along The Watchtower' (in sound, a tribute to Hendrix), and 'Highway 61 Revisited' become the music of the tempest. Ripsnorting rock 'n' roll from the eye of the hurricane. KW



Rowan (Dabs), Nigel (Macabre), Wastrels.



RUMOURS

'AK RUMOURS' FROM PAGE 6
send to President Mitterand. Sign at stores. New single, 'Jah's Son' is released early November, prior to their album.

The Danse Macabre album is entitled *Last Request*, produced by Trevor Reekie and engineered by Tim Fields at Mandrill, tracks: 'Skyline', 'Nexus', 'Each Day Sees', 'Terminal', 'Sanctum', 'Web' and 'Ambassador' ... Screaming Meemees have delayed the release of the extended mix of 'Day Goes By' while they record a new track 'Dancing With Stars in My Eyes'. Both will appear on a 12 inch.

Tomorrows Parties have recorded three tracks at Innovation ... Alastair Riddell will release an album soon entitled *Positive Action*. He will perform live as Alastair Riddell and Modern Contours. Bookings 579-009 Ext 885, or 565-631 ... DD Smash won Group of the Year in NEOA awards and *Cool Bananas* is now the biggest selling album by an NZ resident band ... David Cole (*Abracadabra*) is remixing Grammar Boys LP in Sydney.

Smelly Feet is no longer. He has been absorbed by Kiwi Animal ... Mark, Bones, Andrew are looking

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