

# Rhythm Review with Alan English

## GOLDEN DISCS

The records reviewed in this column are available at Golden Discs, downstairs in Todds.

### Your choice

Send your Top Ten albums of all time to Rhythm Review, 54 O'Connell St., Limerick. Publicity shy readers need not enclose a photograph if they so desire.

### RECORD RATINGS

- \*\*\*\*\* Magnificent
- \*\*\*\* Excellent \*\*\* Good
- \*\* Weak \* Abysmal

### MY TOP TEN

This week Liam O'Sullivan of Garryglass, Ballysimon gives us his Top Ten. Could it be true that Liam has a sneaking regard for the many talents of Mr Mark Knopfler?

- 1: DIRE STRAITS "Alchemy Live" (1984)
- 2: PHILIP LYNOTT & THIN LIZZY: "Soldier of Fortune" (1987)
- 3: DIRE STRAITS "Brothers In Arms" (1985)
- 4: THE EAGLES "Greatest Hits" (1985)
- 5: DIRE STRAITS "Making Movies" (1980)
- 6: DIRE STRAITS "Love Over Gold" (1982)
- 7: HOTHOUSE FLOWERS "People" (1988)
- 8: AEROSMITH "Toys In The Attic" (1975)
- 9: GEORGE HARRISON "Thirty Three And One Third" (1976)
- 10: DIRE STRAITS "Communiqué" (1979)

## Golden Discs Top 20 Album Chart

- 1: VAN MORRISON & THE CHIEFTAINS "Irish Heartbeat"
- 2: BROS "Push"
- 3: HOTHOUSE FLOWERS "People"
- 4: TRACY CHAPMAN "Tracy Chapman"
- 5: VARIOUS ARTISTS "Dublin Songs"
- 6: AZTEC CAMERA "Love"
- 7: NANJI GRIFFITH "Lone Star State Of Mind"
- 8: FLEETWOOD MAC "Tango In The Night"
- 9: MARY BLACK "By The Time It Gets Dark"
- 10: GEORGE MICHAEL "Faith"
- 11: WHITNEY HOUSTON "Whitney"
- 12: VARIOUS ARTISTS "A Celebration Of Dublin"
- 13: INXS "Kick"
- 14: WET WET WET "Popped In, Souled Out"
- 15: NANJI GRIFFITH "Little Love Affairs"
- 16: THE CHRISTIANS "The Christians"
- 17: PRINCE "LoveSexy"
- 18: SOMETHING HAPPENS "I Know Ray Harman"
- 19: A-HA "Stay On These Roads"
- 20: THE STARS OF HEAVEN "Speak Slowly"

### Fun in the country

What looks decidedly like an enjoyable Sunday in the country takes place on July 10th at the Scouts Campsite, Castleconnell. It's billed as a "Family Concert Fair & Carnival", begins at 12 noon and continues until 7.30 approx. Topping the bill is Brush Shields; also appearing are The

Groove, The O'Malleys, Celtic Fusion, Jon Kenny and Tom and Paschal. Your host is Gerry Ryan, with Michael McNamara also in attendance.

Tickets priced £4 and £3 (concessions) are available at Golden Discs in Todds.

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## ALBUM REVIEW

# A very happy Van

VAN MORRISON & THE CHIEFTAINS: "Irish Heartbeat" (Mercury). Van Morrison in "laughing on stage" antics. Van Morrison in "joking with audience" shock. Van Morrison in "No. 1 album sensation."

All these things are true. Just which of them would have been deemed most ridiculous a little while ago is debatable. Van's recent and reputedly

a pretty inspired creative period in recent years and "Irish Heartbeat" is a valuable addition to his back catalogue. He wrote just two of the tracks but sings brilliantly throughout. Highlights for me are a rousing rendition of the classic "Star Of The County Down" and a classy "Carrickfergus". Indispensable to fans of either of the two participants, it is recommended to fans of great singing and gifted musicianship.

Rating: ★★★★★  
SOMETHING HAPPENS: "I Know Ray Harman" (Virgin). Just how many more lush LPs are loitering with intent as we prepare for the second half of an astonishingly productive

no claims to be anything other than a short six-track live recording retailing for a reasonable £4.99.

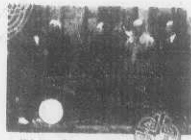
As a taster for the forthcoming studio LP this works pretty well; the Happen! can really cut the old live mustard. However, promising though it is, it's too insubstantial to warrant much more than that. But the feeling that it grinds to a halt on the turntable with what seems like indecent haste can only augur well for the studio debut.

Rating: ★★☆☆

BILLY IDOL: "Idol Songs: 11 of the Best" (Chrysalis). This isn't dramatically different to the previous compilation "Vital Idol" but its inclusion of material from the excellent "Whiplash Smile" LP from 1986 reveals a different side to the Idol character. The man who declared "In the midnight hour, she cried more, more, more" now bares his own soul with an honesty that is almost touching.

All your favourites are here. "White Wedding", "Rebel Yell", "Sweet Sixteen" and the relic from his days as King Rocker with Generation X, "Dancing With Myself". You could do worse with your pocket money. More of the same soon, Billy my boy.

Rating: ★★★★★



Quite a few it seems, including the real debut from this useful Dublin band. "I Know Ray Harman" makes

superb performances with The Chieftains seem to have loosened the old bugger up fairly remarkably.

The evidence is stamped all over "Irish Heartbeat", nowhere more obviously than on the curious new single, that old standard "I'll Tell Me Ma". There's no doubt that Paddy Moloney's influence on this record is both significant and enormously beneficial.

Van himself has been going through



Pictured at the press conference to announce details of this weekend's Full Moon Review at The Cartwheel were: Hayman Harris and Eddie Duffy, Tuesday Blue management, Ann Marie and Nicky Woulfe, promoters, Paudie Ryan, manager The Cartwheel Bar, Bob O'Connell, manager The Groove.

## Full Moon on the rise

YOUNG Nicky Woulfe has had a refreshing and revitalising effect on live music in Limerick since his Blue Note Music Club surfaced in recent months. This weekend at The Cartwheel, Todds Bow, he hosts by far the most ambitious live event of his promotion career and quite probably the best showcase gig for unsigned acts seen in this city; ladies and gentlemen, are you ready for the Full Moon Revue?

The Limerick live scene has been steadily improving since the Savoy took a raincheck last March. We may still have no venue suitable for the handful of heroes who honoured us with their often dubious talents but live music of real quality is readily available in the city.

This weekend's event is something of a minor revolution in live music locally. On view are some of the best unsigned bands in the country. As has been publicised earlier a band that is very much signed, sealed and almost delivered. Tuesday Blue, get the proceedings under way on Thursday night with a hotly awaited live return. They then give way to the up and coming recording stars of the future over the following three nights.

Friday nights line-up, with each band on stage for a 40 minute set, is as follows: PRIVATE WORLD (Savoy veterans, now ready for a serious live assault after a

sabbatical during which two of their members set up the roundly praised Xeric Studios), THIS ONE'S FOR HER (local band formed in '88 with a rhythm section comprising Ber O'Neill and Pat Ryan, twin guitars by Jack Kenny and vocalist Mike Kenny and saxophone courtesy of Peter Fielding. Haven't seen them yet, hope to review them (and others) in next week's column), DO THE DO, REX AND DINO and headliners the rather good BURNING EMBERS from Cork.

Saturday night looks like the best line-up with Limerick's Toucan dance headlining and following top-rated Cork band Belsone Sound on stage. First on are Northern band Cut The Bag, Cavan's Fireflys and that classy Limerick combo The Groove.

Sunday night sees new Limerick band The Perfect Moment given a valuable opportunity to impress. The band are Christy Looney, drums, Leada Hayes, bass, Brian O'Connor, vocals and guitar and Pat Jones, keyboards. The interestingly named Triplate Book are another Limerick band appearing on Sunday. The line-up is completed by the North's Saviours and Donnelly Brothers and Limerick's own Up The Down Stairs (Sett Neiland, vocals, Brian "Boj" O'Grady, bass, Willie Cough-

lin, guitar and drummer Pat Fitzgibbon).

There has been a substantial amount of national media attention in The Full Moon Revue. A few record company A & R men on a mission to unearth the next Hothouse Flowers would be welcome also.

### Lark in the Park

The Lark In The Park comes to Limerick this Sunday at the People's Park. Hardly one of the most hyped up rock happenings of our time, perhaps the organisers are fearful of an unruly riotous assembly descending on the tranquil city gardens.

In any event, the Lark line-up is as follows, in no particular order, The O'Malleys, Tuesday Blue, Toucan dance and The Groove. With the assistance of a sunny afternoon it should prove a very enjoyable outing. Rumours that U2 will be making a surprise appearance were non-existent at the time of going to press.

The busy Groove are appearing this Friday at The Oranary, supported by Dancing Back To Scratch.

### Family concert

ONLY two more weeks to the Family Concert, Carnival and Fair which is to be held at the Scouts Campsite, Castleconnell, on Sunday 10th July from 12 noon to 7.30 p.m.

Heading the bill at the Concert will be Brush Shields. Brush is no stranger to Limerick audiences as he appears regularly around the county. From Dublin, he is probably better known from his appearances on RTE where he is loved by audiences young and old.

Gerry Ryan from Radio 2 will host the show. Gerry needs no introduction as he has been with Radio 2 since the inception of the station. Gerry also appeared in Limerick last year in the famous Radio 2 "Beat on the Street".

Michael McNamara also of Radio 2 fame will make a guest appearance later in the evening.

Also appearing in the Concert are three of Limerick's most popular bands, The Groove, the O'Malley's and Celtic Fusion.

The Groove have gigged extensively to appreciative audiences around the country and have built up a large and loyal following. Their biggest gig to date was with David Bowie at the mega-concert in Slane where they impressed both the great man himself and the huge crowd. The current line-up of the Groove has been together now for three years and they produce their own songs and sound to their own taste. The guitar based create an energetic guitar based performance which never fails to excite the audience. The band went two competitions, including the Wood Quay Band of the Year competition in Galway. Their single "Blue, Blue Monday" received extensive air-play on RTE Radio 2.

The O'Malley's, known as Limerick's wild boys, have just returned from a very successful London tour. This crazy bunch, who have built up a cult following, describe their music as "bluesy" country with some folk, gospel, rock as well as Irish, Spanish and Hungarian thrown in. At present the lads are in the process of recording their first single.

Celtic Fusion have been described by the BTM as being the most original act to appear on the Late Late Show for years. All the group's material is distinctive. Their music has a traditional Irish flavour married to contemporary forms. The band are off on a two week tour of Boston, U.S.A., as part of the Boston Music Festival in August.

High comedy will be provided by Tom and Paschal and the entertainment will continue with Jon Kenny (of Spaced Hill Lane, and DJ Dave Gaynor).

This fun day for all the family with many other activities and real carnival atmosphere will continue at the Campsite which is being developed by a massive community effort to provide a camping, training and recreational centre for the use of all scouting, recreational and youth organisations.

Tickets are on sale at Golden Discs, Limerick, Children, students, O.A.P.s and unemployed, £3. Adults, £4. Special family ticket for two adults and three children, £15. Children under 4 years free.