



poet's Corner

There you are in darkness
I see you
For it is not that dark.
You say you have nothing.
But I am here.
Am I nothing?
What is that all around you?
In you?
The sparkle of life is here.
There never was any darkness,
But only a blindness.
Swept away by the hand of happiness.
And in its grasp
Love remains.

Sitting in a world of black and white
On this strange picket fence
The wind grows fierce.
Becoming stronger and stronger with each thought I think
And, all of a sudden, I was falling.
Falling beyond all sight and sound of the world I once knew
Into a place of colour and wonderment
Full of bells and happy faces.
My thoughts run free
And my visions are cleared.
Now my life has begun.

HOWARD KURLANSKI

Records, records, records, records...

By STEVE GELLER

James Gang: When the film Zacchariah (i.e. the first electric western) left town last year, opinions as to its quality were varied. About the only thing that was generally agreed upon was that the musical contributions of the James Gang were a solid standout.

Their latest release, Live in Concert (ABC/Dunhill Records) is a more than adequate display of what this group is capable of putting together during a live performance. Pushing electric rock to its outer limits, it features a continuous barrage of energy and an amazing ability to control and direct this musical force. Included on the album are a few James Gang trademarks such as Stop, Tend My Garden and Walk Away.

Cat Stevens: Teaser and The Firecat, Cat Stevens' latest album on A and M records has lived up to the precedent set by Tea for the Tillerman. Teaser is a collection of sincere, well-developed ideas which have been perfectly united with sensitive musical counterparts. The arrangement and production techniques add to the cohesiveness of the album by allowing Cat's intricately simple lyrics to be complemented by appropriately constructed instrumentals. Cat Stevens is backed by Larry Steele on bass, Gerry Conway on drums and Alun Davis on guitar. These are the same musicians that are currently touring with the Cat and their contributions can only add to an already great album.

Poco: From the Inside, Poco's latest album on Epic records, may be an attempt to sophisticate and stabilize their country sound. This album does not have the vitality so evident in their previous L.P.'s. Jim Messina is no longer with the group and his arrangements are noticeably lacking.

Steppenwolf: Steppenwolf appeared to be going under until For Ladies Only (ABC/Dunhill records) was released. It's a very coherent album with Steppenwolf showing some new directions as far as production goes.

Led Zeppelin: Led Zeppelin's fourth album is generally dull and lacks innovation. This collection of commercial noise only offers one cut worth listening to and that is When the Levee Breaks, a seven-minute, basically instrumental track.

James and The Good Brothers: (Columbia records). James Ackroyd along with Brian and Bruce Good put forth some very solid contemporary folk music with this, their first album. Ten of the songs were written by the group while the other two tracks, one a Harry Nilsson tune and the other written by Stevie Winwood, are performed with care and thoughtful arrangements.

Isle of Wight — Atlanta Pop Festival: (Columbia records). This triple album set is an attempt at putting another Woodstock on the market; however, it falls very short of the quality established by the Woodstock L.P. The overall sound production is not even close to being as good as it could (or should) have been and there seems to have been a tendency to record a mediocre effort by some of the musicians. For example Ten Years After, Mountain and Cactus are very trying on one's patience while David Bromberg's interpretation of Mr. Bojangles is rank to say the best. Sly and Procul Harum offer their usual steady performance but there are few outstanding performances aside from the Chambers Brothers' Love, Peace and Happiness. Leonard Cohen singing Tonight Will Be Fine followed by Jimi Hendrix doing Power to Love and Foxy Lady are the only part of the album that is completely satisfying.

This Friday, December 3, Ike and Tina Turner are coming to Maple Leaf Gardens and if you saw "Gimme Shelter" you'll probably agree that Tina is coming first. Rare Earth will also be on hand so bring your favorite orgasm as this show should really be something else. Tickets are \$3.50, \$4.50 and \$5.50 plus tax at the box office and all Gardens agencies.

On Thursday, December 9, Rod Stewart and the Faces will be at Maple Leaf Gardens. Rod Stewart was the backbone to the Jeff Beck Group and was the main focal point with the Small Faces — and that's not underestimating the quality of either former entity. The only way to describe this performer is dynamic and it just may be that the Gardens is the only place that will be able to contain Rod Stewart.

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