

Enya and Jon Anderson vie for purest voice in pop music

arts

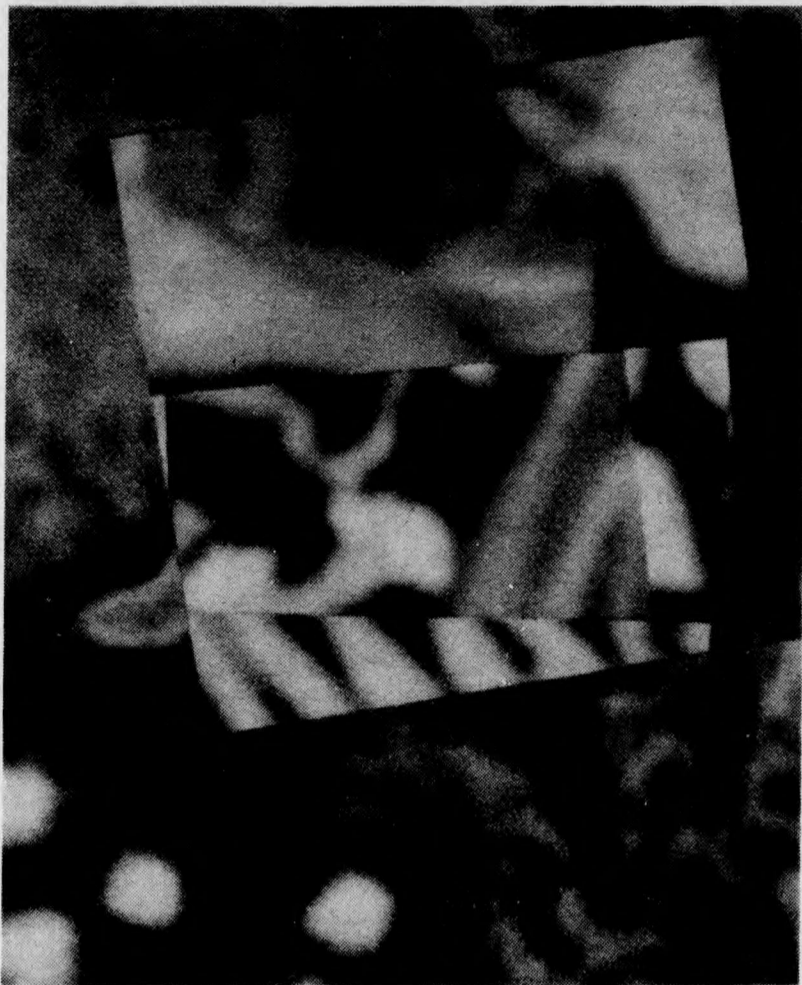
by Ira Nayman

Who has the purest voice in popular music: Jon Anderson or Enya?

It's a trick question: the purest voice in pop belongs to Sarah McLachlan. But since I've already reviewed her new release, I've decided to write about the latest albums by Jon and Vangelis and Enya instead.

"Caribbean Blue," the first single from Enya's second album, *Shepherd Moons*, is atypical of most of her work. Along with "Orinoco Flow," the most famous single from Enya's first album, it has a fast tempo and light string arrangements, giving Enya's ethereal vocals a heavenly feel.

The songs on the rest of the album are much darker, with slower tempos and heavy synthesizer arrangements. The effect is startling: Enya's voice becomes sorrowful, lamenting. Two or three of the songs are in other languages, Gaelic and Latin, freeing the listener from searching for literal meaning to concentrate on the melan-



MUSIC

Enya
Shepherd Moons
Warner Music/WEA
Jon and Vangelis
Page of Life
Arista/BMG

choly mood of the music.

"How Can I Keep From Singing?" is a beautiful song, and more typical of the album as a whole. Although generally tinged with sadness, Enya's singing, particularly her choir-like

effects, is often exhilarating; it's like listening to a serious gospel song but being uplifted by the beauty of the voices.

Those who are only familiar with Jon and Vangelis from their song

"The Friends of Mister Cairo" probably believe their music is light, good-natured fun. The duo's latest album, *Page of Life*, will likely surprise them. Unfortunately, the surprise isn't nearly so pleasant.

Long time Yes frontman Anderson's voice has been likened to a choirboy's; nobody mentioned that his lyric writing abilities have developed in the same way. "Why do we fight wars?" he writes. "When will we see the light?" His ideas are light

as air, and about as substantial, and his writing unsophisticated.

Vangelis, also known for creating the soundtrack to the film *Chariots of Fire* is an acquired taste which I've never found the time to acquire. I find his arrangements bombastic, and many of his synth lines really cheesy.

The highlight of the album is "Little Guitar," a simple guitar instrumental. If *Page of Life* had subscribed more to this less is more ideal, it might have been a better album.

Jodeci R&B music with hard hitting, soulful harmonies

by Colin P.

MUSIC

Jodeci
Forever My Lady
MCA

Jodeci is a relatively new group to hit the R&B scene. With some help from A.I.B. Sure!, and drawing upon their own production and vocal talent, Jodeci has managed to produce an R&B style with hard hitting, soul-filled harmonies on *Forever My Lady*.

On the slow tip, Jodeci's "Forever My Lady" and "Stay" are two of the most played and respected slow jams on the airwaves (those stations which do play R&B). Jodeci has shown that they have what it takes to move people with music.

On the quick tip, however, Jodeci

seems to lack that flavour which makes the New Jack Swing-style groove work. Album fillers like "My Phone" and "Play Thang" could use some serious work.

Minus the fast tracks, Jodeci can be rated highly on their exceptional slow jams — reasons enough to pick up the album.

On a scale of four stars, Jodeci gets three and a half.

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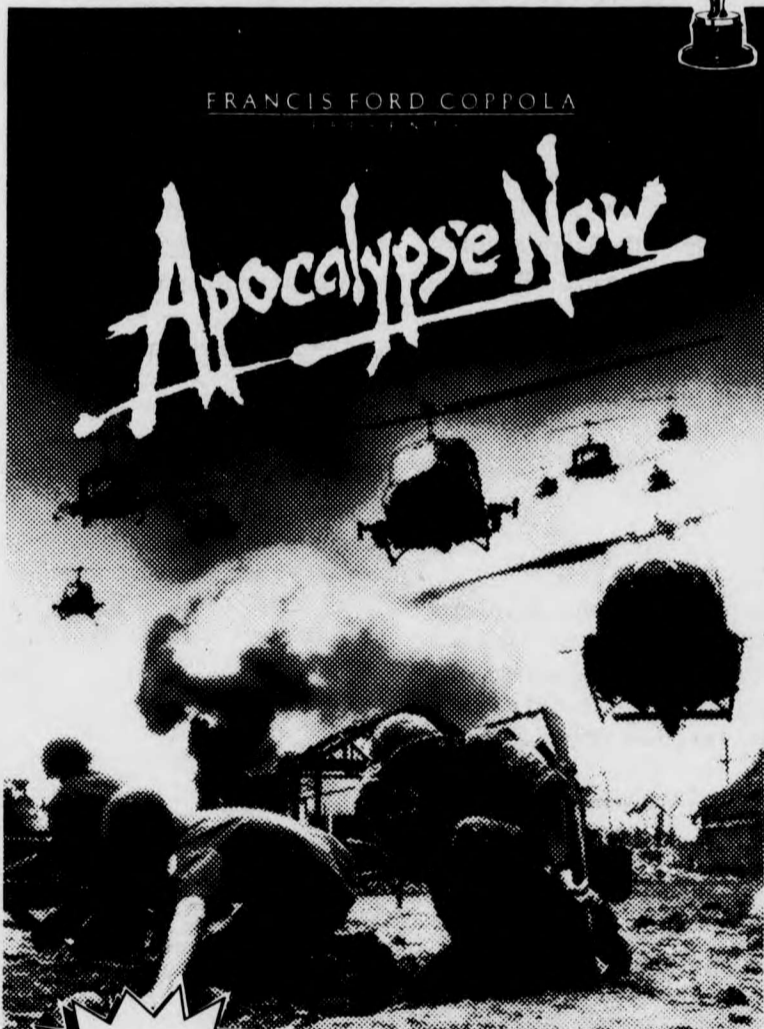
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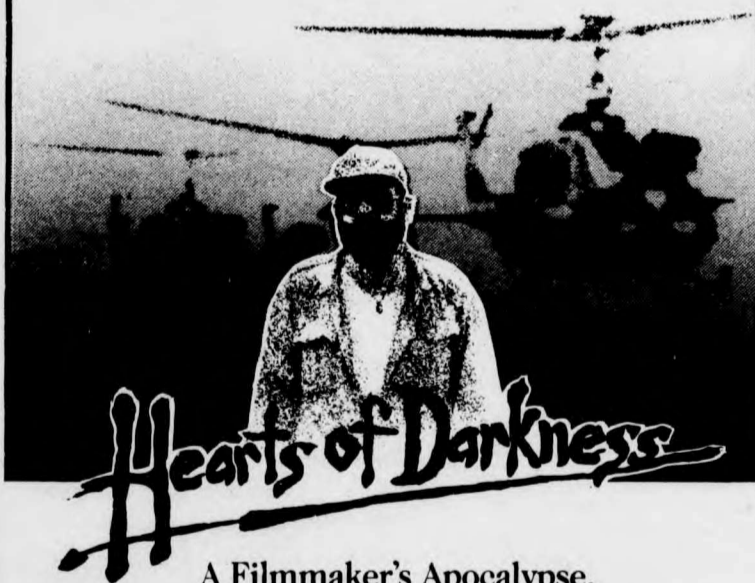


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