

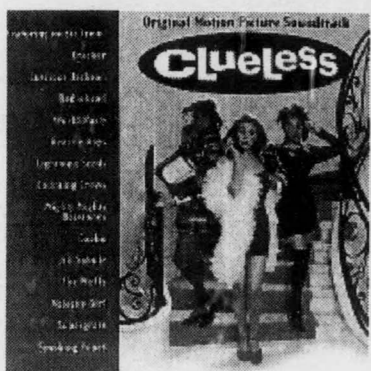


In keeping with my rather grand idea of having a sort of theme to my column every week, this week we are going to concentrate on compilation albums. Or maybe albums which have more than one artist appearing on them might be more appropriate as we are going to start things off with a couple of movie soundtracks.



I still remember the time when a movie soundtrack used to consist of music that was actually used in the film. Or in other words, either those huge orchestral scores that nobody bothers to listen to after a few weeks or those sing-a-long numbers that make musicals so damned memorable (ahem). Now things are rather different as most soundtracks seem to bear little resemblance to the music you actually see in the film; all it takes is a couple of seconds of a song to appear in the film and the entire song turns up on the CD. But some films do make music an important, integral part of the story (*Pulp Fiction* jumps to mind...) and can make for at least an interesting listen for that very reason.

So what about the two movie soundtracks that I have in my hot little hands at the moment? Well, one of them falls into the first of the two categories as it is mainly instrumental with the added bonus of a new song by Sarah McLachlan. And that is why I am not particularly enamoured with the way that *The Brothers McMullen* is being marketed. The big selling



point is that it contains the first new material by Sarah since *Fumbling Towards Ecstasy*, and so is must for all her fans. Except that it only has that one rather unimpressive song by Sarah and the rest is purely instrumental, being performed by Seamus Egan. It has a distinct Celtic feel to it with quite a few traditional folk tunes being used to conjure up the same sort of feeling that the music did in *Local Hero*. It is very atmospheric and soothing, and dare I even say nice? Very easy listening, but in the best possible way. So if you enjoy the music in the film then pick this up, but don't just because you like Sarah McLachlan as you will be

disappointed.

The other soundtrack falls quite happily into the second category (I suppose) as it has a whole bunch of songs by all those cool bands that you kids seem to like so much. Yup, the soundtrack to *Clueless* is quite a pot pourri, but it really is a pretty good album - it tells me absolutely nothing about the film, and doesn't even make me want to see the film but as an album it stands up rather well. There are songs by all sorts of people such as the Beastie Boys, Supergrass, Counting Crows, Coolio and Jill Sobule with much of the emphasis being on cover versions. That isn't always a bad thing, but the Muffs' version of Kim Wilde's 'Kids In America' gets tedious really quickly. Thankfully the whole cover version thing is saved by the majestic World Party's equally majestic 'All The Young Dudes' which might be note-perfect but just oozes respect for Mott The Hoople's original. As soundtracks go, this might be worth investigating as it has more than its fair share of good songs.



So now that we have covered soundtracks, let's begin the search for a decent compilation album. And perhaps it isn't going to be the endless quest that I anticipated as the first one I have to talk about is *Rare On Air Volume 2* which does a fine job following up last summer's volume. The *Rare On Air* series collects songs performed live on a Californian campus radio station by a wide variety of artists, and last summer's Volume One did a fine job of showing just how good a compilation can be. The thing that I really like about this collection is the eclectic nature of it - I can't think of any vague term that could describe the music of Philip Glass, Sebadoh and MC 900 Ft. Jesus quickly and easily. Incidentally, those three performers provide some of the many highlights on the CD, as do Bettie Serveert, Lloyd Cole and World Party. But it is unfair to actually pick out just a few bands as there are no weak songs on here, even by the more obscure bands (Cibo Motto), or some of the older performers (Canada's very own Joni Mitchell). And in addition to all this wonderful music, it has some of the best artwork around too, thanks to Vaughan Oliver. Highly recommended.

Things are not quite so sunny with another compilation that celebrates that most fearful of decades, the Seventies. *Spirit of '73* is a benefit album with its proceeds going to Rock For Choice, and the "1973" in the title

is connected to the famous Roe vs. Wade decision of the that year. So it is only fitting that all the voices on this CD are female, and all the songs come from the 1970's. And how does it sound? Well, the best songs are the ones that performed much like the originals and that means that you may as well be listening to the originals.



That's good news for the Fleetwood Mac fans who can savour Letter To Cleo's version of 'Dreams'. It doesn't help that some of the songs were not all that enjoyable in the first place. So that gives you the two extremes (I'll leave you to work out which is which...) of Cassandra Wilson's 'Killing Me Softly With His Song' and the Indigo Girls' 'It Won't Take Long' with Letter to Cleo and L7 & Joan Jett sandwiched neatly in the middle. It can be pleasant enough at times, but there is something about the music of the Seventies that makes me feel weird. Maybe it's just the prospect of *Frampton Comes Alive II*, but I really do think it might be time to move on.

But I have to mention the Seventies just one more time as the final compilation is entitled *Mighty Real Lifebeat Dance Classics Volume 1*, and is just what it says. Dance classics. Disco. All those songs that make you think of polyester suits and mirror balls. Maybe not the most thrilling of prospects, but there are some really good songs on here that will have everyone singing along under their breath as no-one wants to admit they



know all the words to 'It's Raining Men'. All your other favourites are there too - Sister Sledge's 'We Are Family', Sylvester's 'Mighty Real', Chic's 'Good Times' - you get the idea. And if that wasn't a good enough reason to pick this up, all the profits from its sale goes towards AIDS charities. After all, if you really have to revisit that decade one more time, you may as well do it with the original artists. But the most frightening thought that I keep having is that disco is making yet another comeback, and that really does scare me. After all, it is just a matter of time before the Village People do that reunion tour. Sigh.

GRECO'S Great Campus Special Medium Pan

2 Items

GRECO \$8.99 GRECO
plus taxes

Add a Loonie
for 8" Garlic Fingers with sauce

ONLY GRECO GUARANTEES FREE Delivery
in 30 minutes or **FREE FOOD***

* After 5PM conditions Permitting

Greco Student Number 452-0033

We also deliver Free*

Donairs, Oven Subs
Garlic Fingers, Chicken Wings
Mozza Sticks * Minimum \$8.00 order

QUALITY EDUCATION for new drivers of all ages

Next course;

Coming Soon
Le Centre communautaire Saint-Anne
Room B-222 715 Rue Priestman st.

the PROPULSION Driver Education Program

offers more...

Approved by the Province of New Brunswick • Our graduates will reduce Stage One of their Graduated License by up to eight months • Male and Female Instructors • 25 hours of classroom instruction Classroom & in-car manuals • 10 hours of behind the wheel training Defensive driving • Collision avoidance • Emergency manoeuvres Air conditioned company owned and maintained vehicles equipped with anti-lock braking systems dual air bags and dual controls • the use of our vehicles for the Provincial Road Test is a program bonus

PROGRAMME

D'Education de conduite

Approuvé par la Province du Nouveau Brunswick • Etape 1 de license Graduee peut etre reduite jusqu'a 8 mois • Instructeurs & instructrices 25 hrs de cours theorique • et 10 hrs de cours pratique • Conduite preventive • Manoeuvres d'urgences • Vehicules equipes avec freins ABS double commande et double sacs gonflables • En prime: vehicule fourni pour l'examen de conduite provincial

GWTS
G.W. Training Systems Inc.

Serving the Greater Fredericton Area
Individual Driver Improvement Courses are available
Please call at your convenience

1-800-363-1194

We stress responsible driving and look forward to being of service to you