

Compilation tribute to Cole Porter

Modern renderings focus on AIDS

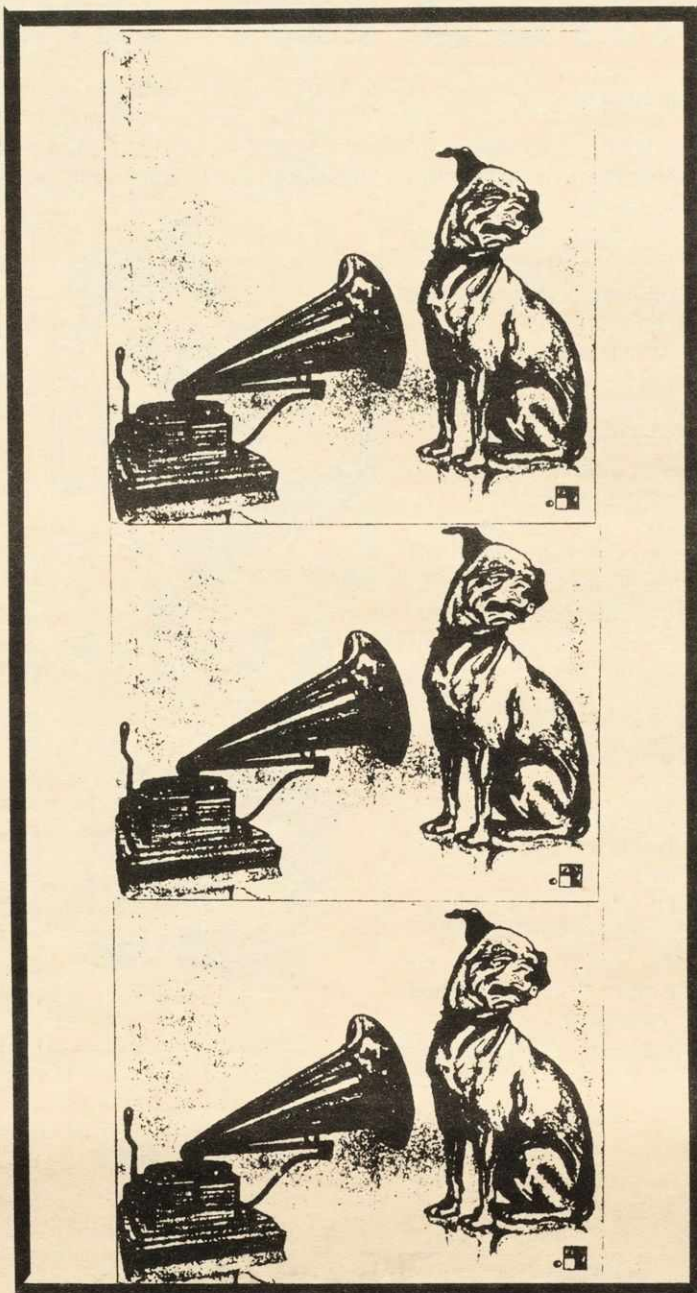
by Laurie Kinsman

IT'S not a tribute to Cole Porter. It's not part of a huge multi-media information campaign. It's not an AIDS research benefit project. It's not a showcase of some of the hottest musical talent of our generation. It's not a profound social statement. Incredibly, it is every one of these characteristics—and more—in one.

It is Red, Hot and Blue a twenty song compilation tribute to 30s and 40s songwriter Cole Porter with proceeds going to benefit AIDS research and relief. The album could stand alone but it is only one facet of a TV, video, merchandising, and informative education project dedicated to AIDS and social awareness.

The participants in this gathering encompass artists from almost every musical category from rock to dance, from rap to country. The combination may seem a little questionable but Cole Porter's uncomplicated, innovative music maintains a powerful link. As cover songs, the selections have the potential to be swept up in the tide of the 60's bastardizations. But even reworked, reinterpreted, reproduced and sparked with the occasional bit of artistic consciousness, the music remains true to Cole Porter's sincere, upbeat and stylish renderings.

The diamonds on the album include voices-to-melt-by ballads by Sinead O'Connor ("You Do Something to Me" - 1929), our own k.d. lang ("So In Love" -



1948), and Annie Lennox ("Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye" - 1944). A couple of fun, toe-tappin' romps by Debbie Harry and Iggy Pop ("Well, Did You Evah" - 1956) and Kirsty MacColl and the Pogues ("Miss Otis Regrets/Just One of Those Things" - 1934/5) echo a forgotten time, 90's style. U2 ("Night and Day" - 1932) and the Neville Brothers ("In the Still of the Night" - 1937) croon some classics. While the Jungle Brothers rap around "I Get a Kick Out of You" (1934), the Thompson Twins funk up "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" (1955) and ex-Bronski Beater Jimmy Sommerville grooves to "From This Moment On" (1950).

Rounding out the cast is Neneh Cherry (with the first release "Under My Skin"), Salif Keita, Fine Young Cannibals, David Byrne, Tom Waits, Les Negresses

Vertes, Erasure, Lisa Stansfield, Jody Watley and Aztec Camera. There is something here for everybody, including a few surprises.

A major key to the solid integrity of this artistically diversified album is the AIDS theme. Presented in some of the lyrics and accompanying information booklets, stories, definitions, truths, myths, preventions, and other general, yet still little known, facts are offered.

Another important part of the project is the story of the development of Porter-era music, its loss to time, apathy and new ideas, its rediscovery, its attraction and its present use in this compilation as an honest AIDS awareness tool.

If you had to pinpoint one success of this effort it would have to be its quality as a timeless reminder of the ability to find compassion that is not quite buried by ignorance yet.

GULF

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die. And for what? Oil profits and the continued domination of the world by the major imperialist powers. The Coalition is comprised of a large group of university and high school students, community groups and individuals horrified and angered at the prospect of another Vietnam or worse."

DBS

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Convention Centre. We want to make the seminar classy even though it's put together by students."

Morrison said the DBS benefitted both students attending it and the organizers. "It helps to get students together from all over. It augments a lot of what we're learning with real-life experience."

"Besides, it's a lot of fun. We get a lot of contact with business people — and contacts never hurt when you're looking for a job."

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Music: *Mendelssohn, Darke*

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Sermon: *The Voice Of God*

Rev. John E. Boyd

Music: *Purcell, Buxtehude*

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