

Critics like her cute

by Harold Kuckertz

Some music critics suggest that the majority of Olivia Newton-John's records are sold on the strength of her looks rather than because of her musical abilities. There is certainly some truth in this statement although it does not explain Olivia's phenomenal success over the last nine months.

If good looks are the only reason for the lady's success, why haven't Linda Ronstadt or Rita Coolidge managed to sell similar vast quantities of



records?
Olivia's latest album *If you*

love me, let me know currently in the Billboard Top Five, offers some explanations for the Newton-John phenomenon. Her success is primarily based upon the extreme professionalism with which she and her producers, Bruce Welch and John Farrar, exploit her cuteness, both visually and vocally.

Olivia's voice is not great but somehow charming and - there is no better word to describe it - cute. The vocals are tailor-made for the easy listening material which was obviously carefully selected including Gerry Rafferty's *Mary Skeffington*, Barbara Keith's *Free The People*, and the old Beach Boys' classic *God only knows*. Thanks to the careful selection, the album includes a variety of musical styles ranging from straight pop to country, folk and even a few touches of gospel.

All cuts are extremely commercial and potential hit singles like the title song or Olivia's current hit *I love you, I honestly love you*.

There is very little wrong with *If you love me, let me know* if you regard it as a simple pop album aimed at providing a few hours of easy listening pleasure. If you like this type of music, the album is worth its money. Watch out, however, that your saccharine level does not rise too much.

One last warning, if you consider buying the record. The sound quality and surface noise of some copies are sub-standard.

P.S. I understand that there are even some Emerson, Lake and Palmer freaks who dig Olivia's records in between Emerson's piano solos.

Du Maurier Promenade

The duMaurier Council for the Performing Arts will once again present its popular Promenade Series of pops concerts with the Edmonton Symphony.

This year's series comprises three concerts starting on October 25-26, when Tom Kneebone and Dinah Christie will present a production of words and music by Noel Coward and Cole Porter.

The two other productions of the duMaurier series will feature the music of Gershwin and Strauss. Stars of these concerts will be Stanley Black, The Alberta Ballet Company, and Mary Costa.

Subscriptions to the Promenade series are now

available at the usual ticket outlets. Student tickets range from \$8.00 - \$10.00.

Subscription record

Subscriptions for the Citadel Theatre's 1974-75 season have reached a record high of 8,600.

It is still possible to obtain tickets for the third and fourth Saturday afternoon performances of the run of each play. These performances begin at 2:30 p.m.

This year's first previews, which are held on the Thursday and Friday prior to the official opening night, were also practically sold out. This is a great chance for students to see the shows - especially at \$1.50 a head (\$2.00 for adults).

Please call the Box Office at 424-2828.

Rucker at Hovel

Sparky Rucker will perform at the Hovel on Oct. 18, 19, 20 at 8:30 p.m. Admission is \$2.00 for members and \$2.50 for non-members.

Richard White will appear on Oct. 21, 22 at 8:30 p.m. Admission is \$1.50, members, \$2.00 non-members.

Open Stage Wed. Oct. 23, 50 cents for all.

Rock Night at the Hovel featuring Aerial on Oct. 24, 8:30 p.m. \$1.50 members, \$2.00 non-members

At the library

The Edmonton Needlecraft Guild is exhibiting a display of needlecraft on the second floor of the Central Library throughout October. The display features some innovative stitchery in the making of the creative works.

The Edmonton Public Library is offering gallery space for sole exhibitions by artists. For application form or further information, please contact Skip Wilson at 429-5351.

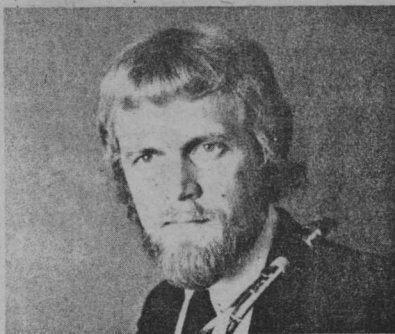
Classical saxophonist with Symphony

The Edmonton Symphony's second concert of the 1974-75 season offers the unique experience of a classical saxophonist as guest artist. Jack Kriple, a winner of the Geneva Competition for Musical Performers, will highlight the ESO's performances this weekend.

Mr. Kriple's repertoire includes all of the major compositions for the saxophone with orchestra, band, chamber ensemble or solo. Marcel Mule said of Jack Kriple, "(he) possesses a most remarkable talent and is proving to be an excellent artist for the saxophone."

This weekend's program comprises Hadyn's *Symphony No. 4*, Ibert's *Concertino da camera* Roussel's *Petite Suite* and Glazunov's *Concerto for*

Alto Saxophone and String Orchestra in E Flat Major.



JACK KRIPL—Oct. 19-20

rock notes

JAZZ CONCERT

The seventh in a series of eight jazz concerts in the Central Library Music Rooms will feature Big Miller in concert with a folk group, On Sunday October 20th at 2:30 p.m. Admission is free.

BURTON CUMMINGS

Although he's working on a motion picture and has been sitting in on Poco's recording session, Burton Cummings, says he is not leaving his band, The Guess Who. Cummings' film, "A Fool, A Fool, I Met A Fool," opens at the Cannes Film Festival next spring. Cummings stars in and wrote the music for the film.

STONES NEWIE

Atlantic Records has shipped the new Rolling Stones album, "It's Only Rock 'n Roll," and it should be available in music shops any day now. The album features such songs as "Dance Little Sister," "Ain't too Proud to Beg," and "Time Waits for No One," in addition to the hit title cut. Backing the Stones on the L.P. are Billy Preston, Nicky Hopkins, and the rhythm 'n blues group Blue Magic of "Sideshow" fame.

MELODY MAKER POLL

Bad Company has swept this year's annual Melody Maker Magazine Pop Roll. According to readers of the British magazine, Bad Company is the top new English band; its lead singer Paul

Rodgers (formerly of Free) is the best vocalist, and the group's first single "Can't Get Enough" is the best 45 r.p.m. record of the year in England.

Other winners in the British categories are Maggie Bell as top female singer, Yes as best established band, and Genesis as best live act. In Melody Maker's international competition, David Bowie was voted best male singer, Joni Mitchell best female singer, and Yes best band. Best live act is Emerson, Lake, and Palmer.

The most popular album of the Year in both the British and international categories was Mike Oldfield's "Tubular Bells." "This Town Ain't Big Enough for Both of Us" by Sparks was voted best international single of the year.

BEATLES(AGAIN)

When asked if the Beatles will get back together, John Lennon told Radio and Records magazine: "There's always a chance. That's the answer. There's certainly no rift between us. I talked with George yesterday. I talk with him and Ringo more often than with Paul, but that's only because Paul is on the road right now". Lennon said that if the Fab Four did get back together, the results probably "wouldn't be good enough for the old Beatlemaniacs.... but that wouldn't stop us if we felt like doing it."

END OF KING CRIMSON

Popular British band King Crimson has disbanded after five years together. The group recently concluded a successful tour of the U.S. during which a live album was recorded. The L.P. is expected to be released early next year.

Meanwhile, King Crimson's final studio album "Red", is due to be released in England next month.

Most of the band's members have no immediate plans, although bassist John Wetton is working with the Roxy Music group on its concert tour this fall.

King Crimson's leader, Robert Fripp, says he decided to dissolve the group because it "was time for King Crimson to come to an end."

Room At The Top

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