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music

- three reviews by Gary Constantine

BRUBECK IN AMSTERDAM- THE DAVE BRUBECK QUARTET (Columbia CS9897)

Ask anybody to name three personalities in the jazz world and chances are pretty good that one of them will be Dave Brubeck.

Recorded live at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Holland, on December 3, 1962, the album was not released for almost six years. It's too bad we had to wait that long for it.

Brubeck is always good, but this recording shows that time has not passed him by. The music is as alive and vibrant as when your old man first heard him. He's changed or time moved on.

The other members of the Quartet, Paul Desmond on the alto sax, Gene Wright on bass, Joe Morello on drums, combine to give Brubeck's heavy-handed piano playing a mellow quality.

The best cuts are: 'Since Love had its Way', 'They Say I look Like God', and 'Brandenburg Gate', but all the cuts are worth listening to.

Very few people know very much about jazz and this record is an opportunity for the jazz novice to learn its basics.

SOMETHING IN THE WIND - THE WINTER CONSORT (A&M SP 4207)

Ever want to listen to music to relax? Just sit back and let it flow, not have to pick out the lead on the bass to see how good they are, because the rest of the band is shit? Wouldn't you like to hear a group in which each member is good? The music on 'Something in the Wind' is just like that.

The album has a little bit of everything on it - but it's not put together like a '24 electrifying hits' record. It has taste and the songs seem to blend together from one track to the next.

There's something for everyone from Bach (Canata 127, Ayre on a G-string) to Sam Browne (My Horse Knows the Way) to the 'Love Theme from Romeo and Juliet.'

OFFICIAL MUSIC - KING BISCUIT BOY WITH CROWBAR (Daffodil SBA-16001)

Richard Newell (King Biscuit Boy) has come up from the bottom and his music shows guts.

The Blues lover will find this record right up his alley.

Newell can play the mouth harp better than anyone I've ever heard.

Ronnie Hawkins said that, "No one's ever been that good on the mouth organ before."

Not only does Newell play the harp but his riffs on the guitar are more than adequate.

The lyrics are sometimes a little loose and strung out, especially in 'Hoy Hoy Hoy', but the rest of the songs are fairly good lyrically.

Crowbar is an excellent blues group from the Toronto area and have been around long enough to dispel any rumors of type or shit that usually surrounds a new group.

This is a new Canadian sound unlike any other. They have copied nobody, and they are going to go places.

You won't hear them on radio because everyone knows Canadian groups don't make it.

If you get the chance, give them a listen. Official Music, King Biscuit Boy with Crowbar.

The music is hard and driving in spots (not heavy) and light 'n' easy in others (not Mantovani).

'Something in the Wind' is not original material but the way it is played makes you wonder if it shouldn't be.

'Something in the Wind, The Winter Consort', an album to think about or with.