

Album reviews

by Cary Stegall
Battalion staff



Kim Carnes
Cafe Racer
EMI America

Kim Carnes has combined her regular band with some of the members of Toto to create an album that has pleasant sounding and stylish songs, but without anything that promises to be a huge hit.

"Invisible Hands" is the first cut off the album to be played on the air and it is easily identifiable as Carnes' work. The sound from the backup musicians has not changed much since "Bette Davis Eyes," but everything is handled more evenly, most likely because of Toto's influence on matters of style. Carnes' vocals are more subdued but still strike out in the chorus.

This album relies more heavily on ballads than previous works, and succeeds because of it. Tunes like "Met You at the Wrong Time of My Life" and "The Universal Song" are absolutely lovely. Hopefully, "Cafe Racer" will not be ignored like Carnes' last work, which also was good but not destined for success.



Clarence Clemons & the Red Band Rockers
Rescue
CBS

Clarence Clemons has begun to build a reputation for himself. His hard playing on the sax in Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band has not gone unnoticed. Clemons has found his own people to back him up musically, and, with "the Boss" in for production, has recorded his own record.

The sound is what you would expect after listening to Clemons' other works — a basic R&B feel with smatterings of gospel and — a little surprise — some synthesizer borrowed from the Prince school of rock. The songs on "Rescue" are consistent, with the same pounding energy that has made a name for Springsteen.

The uptempo cuts like "Rock 'N' Roll DJ" and "Heartache 99" are the real guts of this album, providing a perfect setting for Clemons' sax and gritty voice. In fact, the only high energy that doesn't sound up to par is "Resurrection Shuffle," which has gone just a little too far with the lyrics.

Clemons' shows more soul in his laid-back tunes such as, "A Man in Love" and the album's first single, "Woman's Got the Power." With the incredible diversity of backup musicians in the Red Bank Rockers, it is easy for the album to switch from rock to ballads convincingly, as Clemons proves throughout "Rescue."



The Rolling Stones
Undercover
Atlantic

The Rolling Stones, after nearly 20 years of album producing, has shown the world that it's still the best rock band around. Of course, being the best has its disadvantages — one of which is constantly being at the mercy of the critics. The Stones are characterized as "old-fogies" when they stick to their original style, but as "sell-outs" when they react to new sounds.

On their newest album the band has responded to the influence of some current musical fashions and has integrated these sounds into their own repertoire without major changes. The percussion section has been built up for a stronger rhythmic pulse, much like the sound of "Sympathy for the Devil." The most noticeable change is the extended use of studio tricks to liven up the arrangement of tunes.

Those tricks are evident on the first single released, "Under Cover of the Night." The "fade in and out" during Keith Richard's guitar chord echo moves the song into a short, final reprise. "Under Cover" is the

most danceable, and probably the best, cut on the album.

Other cuts, such as "Too Tough" and "She Was Hot," have the energy and a dash of decadence that are the Stones trademark, but after those the album moves along with very highs or lows. Even the Stones' average work — like this — has more to it than 90 percent of the albums out, so it is worth a quick listen. Perhaps this is just one of those albums that has to "grow on you."



Barbra Streisand
Yentl: The Original Movie Soundtrack
Columbia

Barbra Streisand has been on a downswing since the release of "Guilty" in 1980, but her lull has not been a musical one as much as a personal one. "Guilty" was a fine collaboration of Streisand and Barry Gibb that spawned several hits, but her last album "Memories" had only three new songs to go with the old hits. So where has Barb been you ask? She's has been working on her new movie "Yentl," and out of the movie has developed a soundtrack.

Yentl is a young Jewish girl

who disguises herself as a man to go to a Yeshiva school. Whether this old theme works on the screen, it is strong enough to create several interesting songs by writer Michel Legrand and lyricists Alan and Marilyn Bergman. With Streisand's lush voice added, this album becomes her most satisfying work since "Funny Girl," produced in the late '60s.

Streisand is at her very best on the two singles produced separately for both the movie and radio play. These songs, "No Matter What Happens" and "The Way He Makes Me Feel" have been re-worked in the studio by Phil Ramone and Dave Grusin to have a remarkably smooth and jazzy feel. Streisand

winds her way through the melody lines like the old pro she is.

The finale for the movie, "A Piece of the Sky," is an incredible climax to the album, culminating in one of those pure sustained notes that seem to float high above the instrumentation. This song is unfortunately overdone in the last few bars where the listener is forced to listen to a tympani and harp orchestration that sounds like the closing line of a 1930 melodrama.

"Yentl" is the best album from Streisand in quite a while, and the early returns say the movie is just as good.

Review albums provided by Hastings' Books and Records.

Holiday recipes

by Angel Stokes
Battalion staff

Going home for the holidays means having lots of good food and drink.

If you're tired of the old favorites, you might want to try some of these. They also make great inexpensive gifts.

Egg Nog

Beat well:
9 egg yolks until fluffs and cream with 1 c. sugar.
Add:
3 cups half and half
one-half c. sherry
one-half c. brandy
Beat:
one-fourth t. cream of tartar
6 T. sugar
Fold in egg whites and sprinkle nutmeg over top.

Peanut Brittle

3 c. sugar
one-half c. water
3 t. butter
2 t. soda
1 c. white Karo syrup
3 c. raw peanuts
1 t. salt
Boil sugar, Karo and water until thread spins. Then add peanuts and stir continuously. Cook until it turns a brownish gold. Take from heat, add butter, salt and soda. Pour onto butter board to cool.

Ice Cream Pumpkin Pie

2 pints vanilla ice cream
1 16 oz. can pumpkin
1 and a half c. sugar
1 t. cinnamon
one-half t. ginger
2 nine inch graham pie crusts
one-half t. salt
1 t. vanilla
1 c. whipping cream

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Two country singers to perform this week

by Shelley Hoekstra
Battalion staff

If country western is your musical preference, then this is your week in heaven.

Wednesday night Roadrunner Productions and WTAW will present George Strait in concert. Some of Strait's more recent hits include: "If You're Thinking You Want a Stranger," "Down and Out," "Amarillo by Morning," "Fool Hearted Memory" and "Marina Del Rey."

Strait will perform in the Heavy Metal Coliseum located at the corner of Hwy 21 and the East bypass of Hwy 6. James and Michael Younger

will open the concert. Tickets are \$8.50 and are available at Hastings Books and Records.

Thursday night MSC Town Hall presents Don Williams in concert. Some of Williams more recent hits include: "Nobody But You," "Love Is On a Roll," "If Hollywood Don't Need You," "Listen to the Radio" and "Lord, I hope This Day is Good."

The Dallas Times Herald recently said of the performer that "he is top-notch ... his styling adds nuances of meaning, subtle shading, to the feelings which fill his songs. He can shift a rhythm just enough to make it clear that a sad song isn't a tragic one, that the hero will bounce back. He can hang on to a

whisper longer than you expect him to, caressing it intimately before he lets it go..."

A musician since the age of 10, Williams is an outstanding performer on the guitar, mandolin and banjo, as well as a strong vocalist and accomplished songwriter. In 1981 Williams had two gold albums ("Greatest Hits Volume I" and "Best of Don Williams Volume II") and one platinum ("I Believe in You"). In 1981 he also received an award for Country Album of the Year — "I Believe in You."

Don Williams will perform at 8 p.m. in G. Raleigh White Coliseum. Tickets are available in the MSC Box Office for \$8, \$9 and \$10.