

## RECORD REVIEWS

### "Television's Greatest Hits" Various Artists Tee Vee Toon Inc.

★★★

For Christmas in 1974, I got a cassette tape player. In the early 1970s, it was pretty hard to find very many cassette tapes at the record stores so I made my own. For one of my tapes I recorded some music that I really enjoyed — the theme songs of various TV shows. After 11 years I no longer have that tape, but now there's "Television's Greatest Hits."

"Television's Greatest Hits," the brain child of Steven Gottlieb, is a two-record set that features the theme songs of 65 TV shows from the '50s and '60s.

Side one begins with the classical tune "Peer Gynt," which has been used by several morning shows. The voice of Don Pardo announces the start of the broadcast day. Side one is dedicated to the themes of cartoon and children's shows including "Captain Kangaroo," "The Little Rascals," "The Flintstones," "The Woody Woodpecker Show," "The Bugs Bunny Show," "Caspar, the Friendly Ghost," "Felix the Cat," "Popeye," "Yogi Bear," "Magilla Gorilla," "Top Cat," "The Jetsons," "Fireball XL-5" and "Howdy Doody." Side one ends with a test of the Emergency Broadcast System and "Duck and Cover," a song that accompanied a Civil Defense cartoon that told school children to hide under their desk in case of a nuclear attack. The sound quality on these songs is poor due because they are the original recordings of the themes.

The biggest problem with the rest of the album is that many of the theme songs are not the original. Side two, which is dedicated to comedy shows, has the original versions of "Green Acres," "Mr. Ed," "The Addams Family" and "The Patty Duke Show." The versions of "The Munsters," "My Three Sons," "The Donna Reed Show," "Leave It To Beaver," "Dennis the Menace," "The Dick Van Dyke Show," "McCale's Navy," "I Dream of Jeanie," "I Love Lucy" and "The Andy Griffith Show" are pretty good but the versions of "The Beverly Hillbillies," "Petticoat Junction," "Dobie Gillis" and "Gilligan's Island" don't stand up too well because of the vocals. Side two ends with Don Pardo telling the "viewers" to Please Stand By.

Side three, dedicated to science fiction, adventure and western shows, features only three original recordings: "Superman," "Branded" and "The Lone Ranger." Once again the theme songs with vocals, "Flipper," "Rin Tin Tin," "Batman," "F Troop" and "Daniel Boone," are slightly disappointing. "Happy Trails" is sung by Roy Rogers but the recording is not the one that was used on the show. The "Star Trek" theme features a good imitation of William Shatner's narration but "The Twilight Zone" doesn't use even one of the three different Rod Serling narrations. Other non-original songs include "Alfred Hitchcock Presents," "Combat," "The Rifleman," "Bonanza" and "The Wild, Wild West." There is also a version of the John Williams theme for "Lost in Space." Side three ends with a medley of news stories.

Side four, dedicated to spy and cop shows features the themes from "Mission Impossible," "Get Smart," "Perry Mason," "Adam-12," "The FBI," "Hawaii Five-O," "77 Sunset Strip," "Surfside 6," "Mannix," "The Mod Squad," "The Man from U.N.C.L.E." and "Ironside." For some reason, P.F. Sloan and Steve Berri's "Secret Agent Man" is included on side four. This "Secret Agent Man" is not the Johnny River's hit nor the theme for the show "Secret Agent," which starred Patrick McGeehan and ran from 1965 to 1967.

The album ends with the Johnny Carson-Paul Anka theme from "The Tonight Show" and "The Syncopated Clock" theme from "The Late, Late Show." The national anthem plays as Don Pardo announces the end of the broadcast day.

"Television's Greatest Hits" is fun because it provides a chance to hear some of your favorite TV theme songs, but the number of non-original recordings detracts heavily from your enjoyment and the album is just too long. The best use for this album is to sneak on a few tracks during your next party. □

— KARL PALLMEYER

### "Sun City" Artists United Against Apartheid Manhattan Records

★★★★

This year in music will probably be remembered as the year of the benefit. So far we have had Band Aid, U.S.A. for Africa, Northern Lights, Live Aid, FarmAid, and various other lesser-known albums and concerts to raise money for famine victims in Ethiopia. Many musicians have donated their time and talent for the cause of ending world hunger. Now many have donated their time and talent for another cause: ending apartheid.

Sun City is a Las Vegas-like resort in Bophuthatswana, a city in South Africa. The South African government claims that Bophuthatswana is an independent country but actually it is an artificial country set up to get around a cultural and sports boycott imposed on South Africa by the United Nations. Some entertainers, including Frank Sinatra, the Beach Boys and Dolly Parton, have played Sun City claiming that Bophuthatswana and South Africa are not the same. On the other hand, other singers and sports figures, including Stevie Wonder, Gladys Knight, John McEnroe and the Harlem Globetrotters, have turned down huge sums of money and have refused to play Sun City. Artists United Against Apartheid have chosen Sun City as a focus for their protest.

"Sun City," the album, is a diverse collection of music from a diverse collection of artists brought together by Little Steven, a.k.a. Miami Steve Van Zandt, who used to play for Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band. All proceeds from the album go to the Africa Fund to aid political prisoners, exiles and anti-apartheid groups.

"Sun City," the song, is an attack on apartheid and Sun City, the resort. "Sun City" features a long list of rockers and rappers including Little Steven, Linto Kwesi Johnson, Joey Ramone, Run D.M.C., Ruben Blades, Grandmaster Melle Mel, Jimmy Cliff, Daryl Hall, Duke Bootee, Darlene Love, Bonnie Raitt, Afrika Bambaataa, Kurtis Blow, Big Youth, David Ruffin, Pat Benatar, Eddie Kendrick, Bruce Springsteen, George Clinton, Via Afrika, John Oates, Lou Reed, Bobby Womack, Jackson Browne, Bob Dylan, Peter Garrett, Nona Hendryx, Bono, Kasif, Ringo Starr, Zak Starkey, Pete Townshend, Stanley Jordan, Herbie Hancock, Miles Davis, Clarence Clemons, Shankar, Daryl Hannah, Peter Wolf and Bob Geldof. Unlike the other benefit songs, "Sun City" is hot and danceable.

"No More Apartheid" is an experimental, mostly instrumental piece by avant garde violinist Shankar and ex-Genesis leader Peter Gabriel. "No More Apartheid" is similar to the electronic music Gabriel and Robert Fripp recorded on Gabriel's third album. "Revolutionary Situation" is a collage of music and news reports about South Africa by Keith-Le Blanc and the News Dissector.

Side two has another version of "Sun City." "Sun City (Version II)" is more straightforward rock without the rappers. "Let Me See Your I.D." is a rap song featuring Gil Scott-Heron, Miles Davis, Grandmaster Melle Mel, Peter Wolf, Sonny Okosuns, Malopoets, Duke Bootee, Ray Barretto and Peter Garrett. "Let Me See Your I.D." is a sarcastic attack on the U.S. government's policies in South Africa and the ignorance of most Americans on world affairs.

"The Struggle Continues" is a jazz instrumental featuring Miles Davis, Stanley Jordan, Herbie Hancock, Sonny Okosuns, Ron Carter, Tony Williams and Richard Scher. "Silver and Gold," by Bono, Keith Richards and Ron Wood, tells about the willingness of some countries to sell out their South African brothers for the valuable minerals found in South Africa. "Silver and Gold" was recorded too late to be listed on the album jacket.

Artists United Against Apartheid marks a reviving interest in political activism among rock stars. It's easy for someone to protest hunger but it takes guts to come out against your country's policies and your fellow artists. "Sun City" should make the record buying public more aware of the evils of apartheid. □

— KARL PALLMEYER