

PIPELINE REVIEWS

**BEN ROGERS' INSTRUMENTAL ASYLUM REVERB REHAB**

CD

Blazz Music BL-0706; Australia 2007; 51 min

*Mr P.C. / Wet Suit Dream / Torquay / Prickly Pear / Strawberry Fields Forever / Season Of Change / Bondi Stomp / Paisley Dayze / All The Things You Are / Goodbye Bluehaze / Elegy For Pluto / Ballad Of Private Mitchell / She's Not There / 55 Customline / Ginchy / First Light At the Aussietron / Conversations With A Frog*

Talented and tasteful Australian guitarist Ben Rogers leads a trio completed by bassist Nikki Scarlett and drummer Denis Close whose debut album, credited to just Instrumental Asylum, was favourably reviewed in Pipeline 70. This second collection follows a similar pattern of original material mixed with an eclectic selection of covers. It is most definitely a rock instrumental set but it has an added twist as Ben will occasionally take an unexpected turn, dropping in the odd rock reference and hinting at a slight jazz influence.

In fact *Mr P.C.* is a John Coltrane number and *All The Things You Are* is the Jerome Kern song that became a jazz standard via Artie Shaw. Elsewhere the Asylum turn to classic UK '60s material with The Beatles' *Strawberry Fields Forever* and The Zombies' *She's Not There*,

Australian '70s prog rock on Blackfeather's *Seasons Of Change*, and the RI gems *Torquay* (Fireballs), *Bondi Stomp* (Dave Bridge Trio) and *Ginchy* (Bert Weedon). Very fine versions they are too, definitely not copies but respectful, adventurous stylings - a toughened-up *Torquay* and expansive *Strawberry Fields* make particularly rewarding listening.

Of the originals, the medium-paced ballad *Wet Suit Dream* has become a favourite with its rolling toms and surfy intonations. Ben's use of sustain and speed around the frets both help cover for the lack of rhythm guitar throughout the album, and it's one which players are sure to appreciate.

Alan Taylor

(25 Hoddle Street, Elsternwick, Vic 3185, Australia  
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**THE RYDERS**

**IN THE SHADOWS**

CD

SGVCD0709; Sweden 2007; 44 min

*In The Shadows / Fairytale / Journey To The Stars / More Than I Can Say (v) / Secret Love / Santa Ana / Space Wagon / Quartermaster's Stores / Autumn Dreams / Georgy Girl / Yellow Jacket / Flowers / Vilja O Vilja / All That Heaven Will Allow (v) / Pandora / Reef Break*

It's been a few years since the last CD offering from The Ryders, but a quick glance at the track listing suggest that this one has been worth the wait. The usual quintet is augmented by keyboards on several tracks, but at heart The Ryders are a guitar band and Stefan Appelqvist's synths never intrude.

The set is book-ended by compositions by Martin Cilia of The Atlantics, with his superb Shadows-style instrumental opening proceedings and the surfy Reef Break closing the CD. Lenny Clerwall is a master of Shads pastiches and there are no less than four to enjoy here, the mid-paced *Fairytale* and *Flowers*, a haunting *Autumn Dreams* and the toe-tapper *Pandora*.

The Ryders can rock with the best, and the Ventures' *Journey To The Stars* has been a staple of their live act for a while now, joined here by *Yellow Jacket*. The old Doris Day fave *Secret Love*

is reworked as a bouncy instro with a Spotnicks feel. There's only a couple of genuine Shads tracks, the majestic *Santa Ana* contrasting with the punchy twang of Quartermaster's Stores.

As a guitarist, Roland "Bille" Billner is a well-known contributor to Shads-related internet sites, and his *Space Wagon* proves that he writes a fine instrumental as well. Of the other numbers, a lively *Georgy Girl* shows that this band can take relatively unpromising material and make it work, and the old Euro classic *Vilja* moves nicely along too. Only two vocal tracks, with strong singing from Per-Olof Backman, and plenty of Kurt Froberg's fine lead work. Yes, Kurt, Per-Olof, Goran, Ejje and Christer have done it again. This certainly ticks all the right boxes and can be recommended without reservation. *George Geddes*

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**RAY SAPKO**

**THE WAY BEYOND BLUE**

CD

Ray Sapko no #; USA 2006; 58 min

*Sky King / In The Heat Of Battle / Cirrus / Reiko's Waltz / 85 Miles Gone / Gathering Of The Gods / Beyond Blue / The Shorter Path / Malcolm's March / Malcolm's Departure*

Ray Sapko's history includes the lead guitar role in Tantrum, a heavy rock group from the '80s who featured a three-pronged female vocal attack. They released three albums before folding and this is Ray's first solo release since then. He plays all instruments except drums, bringing in outside help on six tracks, and the focus is on his searing lead guitar work.

The main thrust of the album is heavy guitar

rock with a melodic core and it's tastefully delivered with feeling. Ray can play, that's for sure, but he's not one to throw in unnecessary notes - he's not a widdling show-off and the album has its lighter moments such as on *Cirrus* and *85 Miles Gone* which is an acoustic guitar feature.

Alan Taylor

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**HANK MARVIN AND THE SHADOWS  
aka THE SHADOWS**

**PLAY THE 60s  
PLAY THE 60s**

CD  
CD

Crimson Productions CRIMCD-479; UK 2007; 59 min

*Apache / Albatross / Nights In White Satin / He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother / Dance On! / Hey Jude / Man Of Mystery / Foot Tapper / You Don't Have To Say You Love Me / You Keep Me Hangin' On / Something's Gotten Hold Of My Heart / FBI / Kon-Tiki / Sealed With A Kiss / Strawberry Fields Forever / The Frightened City / Wonderful Land / A Whiter Shade Of Pale*

Naughty naughty, Crimson have credited this CD to "Hank Marvin and The Shadows" when all of the tracks are by The Shadows. These Roll Over Records recordings from the 1980-1990 period mix eight of the group's hit re-recordings with ten strong but slow ballads. The selection works quite

well, Joe Public won't be disappointed, but Shads collectors will find nothing to read in the booklet which manages to spread the track credits over eight pages. A couple of months later the error was corrected, the artwork having been amended slightly to omit Hank's name.

Alan Taylor

**THE SILHOUETTES**

**RAUTALANKARENESSANSSI**

CD

Beat & Twang Records EBEAT-52007; Finland 2007; 49 min

*Tornado / Africa / Caravan / Muistatko Monrepos'n / Lake Bodom: June 5, 1960 / Kesailan Twist / High / Elama Juoksuhaudoissa / Finnish Knockturne / Wild Rose / Conspiracy Of Silence / Kaunis On Luoksesi Kaipuu / Triangle*

Finnish guitar group The Silhouettes were active as a live band between 1999 an 2001 but reunited two years later for occasional recording and radio work. The tracks for this album were laid down over a three year period to fit in with the members' other commitments. As you might expect from a Finnish guitar album, the emphasis is on melody with a dominant lead guitar - which in this case is smoothly delivered with lashings of echo. They also use other effects on some tracks to help build a lush sound that remains '60s in style but is more adventurous than many rock instrumentalists.

The majority of the tracks are in conventional rautalanka style such as *Kesailan Twist*, *Wild Rose*, *Kaunis On Luoksesi Kaipuu* and the traditional *Elama Juoksuhaudoissa* plus the racy *Tornado*, smooth flowing *Muistatko Monrepos'n*

and galloping *Lake Bodom*. *Finnish Knockturne* is a fine slow ballad while *Caravan* is rejuvenated by imaginative use of guitar sounds.

Three rather more unusual tracks punctuate the album. *High* is a slow, spacious ballad with an Hawaiian feel and there are two six-minute extravaganzas. *Africa* rather surprisingly appears as the second track as it meanders along for over four minutes before opening up at the end. *Triangle*, however, is well positioned at the end as it is essentially a feature for shimmering guitars accompanied only by bass which the band describe as semi-psychedelic. But don't let that put you off, there's nothing wild or wacky about it - it's one to lay back and drift away to.

Alan Taylor

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REFLECTIONS

Cliff Richard & The Shadows Club Germany [www.cliff-richard-and-the-shadows-club.de](http://www.cliff-richard-and-the-shadows-club.de)

The club publishes a German language magazine every two months and runs the annual Verden event

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