


# MUSIC



## Sting's debut solo LP: Jazzy

Sting's first solo album, "The Dream of the Blue Turtles" is as unusual as its name. Produced during the rumored break-up of The Police, it seems that Sting is turning away from his recent musical success and moving toward other styles of music.

I think the biggest surprise on the album is that Sting chose not to play bass, except for one song, "Moon Over Bourbon Street," rather, he chose to play guitar. Fans who have seen his video of "Message in a Bottle" know that Sting is a fine guitar player. His guitar style has undoubtedly been influenced by Police guitarist Andy Summers who is known throughout the music industry for his simple guitar lines. An example of this can be heard on Sting's "Fortress Around Your Heart" in which the song begins with a simple yet very effective guitar line. As the other instruments enter, this line becomes the bass of the verse. Sting switches to a funky guitar beat during the chorus, providing a tasteful

counterpoint to the rhythm of the song.

Sting, a former school teacher, composed all the songs on "Dream of the Blue Turtles." Although a couple of the tunes are reminiscent of The Police, others are entirely unique. "Childrens Crusade" for example, becomes almost symphonic with its arrangement of horns, but midway through it becomes a contemporary jazz jam highlighting the playing of saxophonist Bradford Marsalis. Also in this vein is the title track, "Dream of the Blue Turtles" which is a song that can only be called Jazz. Those who are surprised at this emphasis Sting puts on Jazz throughout the album should know that Sting was a Jazz musician before joining The Police.

I encountered yet another surprise when hearing some of the lyrics on "Dream of the Blue Turtles." They are simple, straightforward and often blatantly political. In "Russians" Sting claims that "there

is no historical precedent/ to put the words in the mouth of the president/ there's no such thing as a winnable war/ it's a lie we don't believe anymore." Our only hope according to Sting is "if the Russians love their children too." The nuclear age is addressed in "We Work the Black Seam." It says: one day in a nuclear age/ they may understand our rage/ they build machines that they can't control/ and bury the waste in a great big hole...but deadly for twelve thousand years is carbon fourteen.

Despite the "heavy" messages and a reliance on "higher" musical forms, Sting has released an album that is simply fun to listen to. Check it out.

- Jon Dunnavent

### Did you know?

Any student who works for the university - in the work study program, graduate assistant program or on wage payroll is exempt from paying the \$25 parking permit fee.

Any student who was unaware of this exemption and has already purchased a parking sticker can apply for a refund at police services in CRAGS Building, according to Supervisor of Safety and Police services Charles Aleksy.

Refunds will take anywhere from six to eight weeks according to Aleksy, and persons applying for exemption should bring some form of verification of their employment at the university

## Reconstruction REM at their best

If one phrase could describe the band R.E.M. it would have to be "electronic folk punk Georgia style." Their third album, "Fables Of The Reconstruction" is unmistakably R.E.M.

The Athens based band consists of lead vocalist Michael Stipe, guitarist Peter Buck, bassist Mike Mills and drummer Bill Berry. On R.E.M.'s first two albums "Murmer" and "Reckoning," Don Dixon (producer for Let's Active) and Mitch Easter (member of Let's Active) handled the production chores adequately as Rolling Stone magazine voted "Murmer" the number one best new album - 1983 and the band number one best group - 1983. Record magazine gave its praises as well: "Murmer" number one top debut album - 1983 and number three best album - 1983.

"Murmer" got some mild commercial success but virtually no airplay beyond college radio. Their 1984 release "Reckoning" sold better than "Murmer" and two cuts, "South Central Rain" and "Pretty Persuasion" got some airplay.

This time out Joe Boyd covered the production in London and "Reconstruction" comes across sounding very polished, making excellent use of string and keyboard effects.

There are eleven tracks on "Reconstruction" none of which are searing hard rock tunes. R.E.M.'s musical style is a sort of new wave with a country influence. The first two cuts on the album set a mellow tone, but the third, "Driver" is an upbeat danceable cow-punk song. If you had a tamborine it would be difficult not to join in.

"Life And How To Live It" is a very upbeat tune with a bass

line reminiscent of "Pretty Persuasion." The ending though is a bit to abrupt for my liking.

Starting off the flipside is the current single "Can't Get There From Here." Although it is a good lively song with excellent guitar work, one listen tells you it's the obvious commercial bid on the album. The next tune is a catchy, light melody called "Green Grow The Rushes." I wouldn't be surprised to hear John Denver do a version. The B side's third cut "Kohoutex" has a guitar sound similar to the sixties group The Byrds.

The fourth song is the only disappointing track on the album. Instrumentally the vocal work turns me off after the first chorus. At 2:41 its the shortest song on the LP. Just as well, its not your typical R.E.M. quality.

The last two songs on "Reconstruction" are pretty laid back. The last tune "Wendell Gee" is my candidate for best song on the album. Subtle keyboard, easy banjo pickin' and soft violin come together really well in this relaxing country rock ballad. Pictures of Americana come to mind just as in the group America's "Ventura Highway."

Fables Of The Reconstruction is a great album, blending country and new wave influences into a finely polished rock package. Put on the headphones, kick back in an easy chair and enjoy. If you're tired of the common place, check out the R.E.M. releases, you won't be disappointed.

Serious R.E.M. fans should also check out the B side of the single "You Can't Get There From Here" which contains the previously unreleased "Bandwagon."

Steve Roberts

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Fox's  
Market

## Top ten best sellers

.....Nonfiction.....

1. Yeager: An Autobiography. General Chuck Yeager and Leo Janos. Bantam, \$17.95
2. Iacocca: An Autobiography. Lee Iacocca with William Novak. Bantam, \$19.95
3. Smart Women, Foolish Choices: Finding the Right Men and Avoiding the Wrong Ones. Dr. Connell Cowan and Dr. Melvyn Kinder. Clarkson N. Potter, \$14.95
4. A Passion for Excellence: The Leadership Difference. Thomas J. Peters and Nancy K. Austin. Random House, \$19.95
5. The Mick. Mickey Mantle with Herb Gluck. Doubleday, \$15.95
6. Dr. Berger's Immune Power Diet. Stuart M. Berger, M.D. NAL Books, \$14.95
7. Women Who Love too much. Robin Norwood. Jeremy P. Tarcher (St. Martin's dist.), \$14.95
8. Fit for Life. Harvey and Marilyn Diamond. Warner Books, \$16.50
9. The Frugal Gourmet. Jeff Smith. Morrow, \$14.95. Allen. Simon & Schuster, \$16.95
10. Martina. Martina Navratilova with George Vecsey. Knopf, \$16.95