

Christ You Know It Ain't Easy

by Charles Peter Eschweiler

The Years Ten best Albums

The past year (1969 in case you missed it) hasn't given us any great wave of music. At first that may seem like a strong statement, but think about it, have there been so many breakthroughs? Most of the breakthroughs that have been were half conceived by '68, and may have even been released in '68 had it not been for the musicians contracts, time on the road etc. (The Whos Tommy could have easily been released in late '68 had it not been for the groups previous commitments).

The main trend of '69 has been a back to the roots thing, which has consisted of groups doing bad hillbilly music (Poco, two numbers on the Volunteer album, The Byrds latest albums and parts of Nashville Skyline come to mind) saying they really do have something in common with hordes of rednecks, would like to see how long any of the new hillbilly rock bands would last if they were dropped into the middle of Bullwhip county Mississipp. I don't know, maybe none of them say Easy Rider.

The second part of that trend is a back to the fifties thing, that at least is understandable, and somewhat valid because it has brought back some great people. The fifties revival has seen a rediscovery of some decent talent, Lonnie Mack, Gene Vincent, Wilbur Harrison, Fats Domino, Chuck Berry, The old Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis, Little Richard, and quite a few others. Unfortunately a lot of people are being misled into thinking everything from the fifties was great, that's bull, because seventy five percent of fifties rock stunk.

The minor revolutionary trend seems to have pretty much died out (Perhaps Volunteers, by the Airplane is the last monument to it, its certainly the best) I based my listings of the years ten best albums on originality, professionalism, production, and innovation, also nothing is listed that I didn't enjoy. You must remember that this listing reflects only my personal opinions, and if you think something was left out, or wonder why something was listed you can send me what you think should be the ten best albums of the year. If I get enough listings from other people I'll tabulate them

Sound of Music...

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and publish the results as soon as possible.

My listing of the ten best albums of 1969:

- ABBEY ROAD—THE BEATLES
- THE BAND
- BLESS ITS POINTED LITTLE HEAD—JEFFERSON AIRPLANE
- CROSBY STILLS AND NASH LET IT BLEED—ROLLING STONES
- MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE—MOTHER EARTH
- NASHVILLE SKYLINE—BOB THE DOORS

TOMMY—THE WHO
THE TURNING POINT—JOHN MAYALL

This is about the fourth version of this column the reason for it is that I had tried to list the ten best singles in the first one. I ended up with thirty four and was still counting, then I figured up ten, but they weren't very popular, so I decided to do it on the basis of popularity and ended up with a lot of bubble gum and pop rock. I am going to list ten singles now, they are REAL SINGLES. That means that they either do not appear on

any album yet, or that the single came first, then the album. I consider singles entities unto themselves, which is purist thinking, and will prejudice my choice, the reason things like Whole Lot of Love, Touch Me, and Everyday People aren't included is because they are all basically album tracks, which are put on singles (Even in the case of Everyday People and Touch me, they were out before either Stand, or Soft Parade, but when they were released both Sly and the Doors knew where and how they would fit into their respective projected albums). So,

the ten best singles:

- BALLAD OF JOHN AND YOKO—THE BEATLES
 - COLD TURKEY—THE PLASTIC ONO BAND
 - EVERYBODY'S TALKING—FRIENDSHIP TRAIN—GLADYS KNIGHT AND THE PIPS
 - FORTUNATE SON—CREDENCE CLEARWATER REVIVAL
 - GET BACK—THE BEATLES
 - HONKEY TONK WOMEN—THE ROLLING STONES
 - ONE—THREE DOG NIGHT
 - SHES COME UNDUN—THE GUESS WHO
- And that's it.

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