

# The Music File

by Alan Gasmer

While you've been away this summer, a lot has been taking place on the music scene, nationally and locally.

On the album front, there have been many new releases by established superstars and some very good waxings by some unknown artists.

**Crosby, Stills and Nash** have reunited and released their first studio album in seven years. Entitled simply, **CSN** (Atlantic) it employs their previously unmistakable trademarks: the stories and love songs of Graham Nash, angry and bitter statements of Stephen Stills and political, sarcastic remarks by David Crosby, all enveloped in their crisp, high-wailing harmonies. This terrific combination makes CSN one of the best L.P.'s of the summer and of the entire year.

Like Crosby, Stills and Nash, **James Taylor** has also reunited in a sense as well. He has gone back to the roots of his first Warner Bros. album, and has finally come out with his most enjoyable L.P. in recent memory. Again, also plainly called, **J.T.**, (Columbia) Taylor has broadened his musical tastes even to include a disco-flavored tune (yes, disco), a couple of rockers, ballads, blues and of course, his classic style of folk-rock which turned on a new generation of music fans seven years ago.

**Yes's** new album entitled, **Going For the One**, I'm sorry to say, doesn't go anywhere at all.

Being an avid Yes fan myself, and even with Rick Wakeman returning to the fold, every studio L.P. Yes has released since "Close to the Edge" has been a big disappointment to me. Of course each album has had their moments, but none can ever equal their brilliant earlier achievements of the "Yes Album," and "Fragile." "Going for the One" is no exception.

However, the breathtaking moments I am talking about, are only evident in the title-cut song "Going for the One," and the melodically beautiful "Wondrous Stories" both demonstrating the competent musicianship, abstract lyrics and spacey sound that Yes now chooses to employ.

But, I'm sorry to say, **Going For the One** just doesn't quite make it.

One of the surprise releases of the summer (at least for me) has been Roger Daltry's latest solo effort, **One of the Boys**. (MCA) For some strange reason, I could never really picture Daltry singing anybody else's songs except the Who's. On this album, my entire opinion of Roger Daltry as a solo artist has changed.

The L.P. succeeds remarkably well primarily due to the good songs he's finally chosen to sing that do fit his vocal style. Exceptionally strong is his rendition of Andy Pratt's classic-tune "Avenging Annie," and other songs such as "Leon" and the single, "Say It Ain't So Joe." Joining him instrumentally are: Eric Clapton, Alvin Lee, and Rod Argent among other friends.

If you're a Who fan and especially appreciative of Roger Daltry's vocal style, get into this album. You won't be disappointed.

### UNKNOWN RELEASES

Along with some of the "known" artist releases of the summer, come a few strong efforts by relatively unknown talents.

**Greg Kihn Again** and **The Rubinoos** (Beserkely) are my two choices that fit into the category of "most listened to" albums during the hot summer months.

Kihn's album combines a smooth and powerful, yet refined sound playing and singing your basic good-natured rock and roll. Most of the songs deal with the traumas of teenage relationships and problems that occur. He even does a competent version of the classic Springsteen tune "For You," that could rival Manfred Mann's off-beat interpretations anyway. On the basis of this album alone, I am going to predict that Greg Kihn is going to be big — someday.

Describing the Rubinoos is like describing any number of late fifties, early sixties rock and roll bands. The Rubinoos do such good "imitations" of their own material, that you could swear they've all been hits before.

With the absence of any new Beach Boy summer music, it's nice to see that a seventies band hasn't lost the craft of imitating one of the classic eras in rock and roll music.

Elton John's new musical discovery, **Blue**, has come out with a highly commercial, and slick first American effort. Combining your basic, A.M., M.O.R. sound, or dentist office music, with lush production, any number of songs, pulled from this album, **Another Night Time Flight** (Rocket) shows Blue's typecast is set.

Along these same lines, although a little more musically competent, is Australia's Little River Band. **Dimantina Cocktail** (Harvest) is the group's second American release, and like the first, contains traces of the Bee Gees, Beach Boys, Beatles and Crosby, Stills and Nash. Like Blue, The Little River Band is headed straight for the A.M. dial and will have a hit single pretty soon with "Help is on it's Way."

### CONCERTS

Concert-wise this summer, the Spectrum, Robin Hood Dell West, and Tower have been busy places. Almost every big-name artist, excluding the Eagles, Zeppelin, and Aerosmith, all of whom cancelled, have made appearances in Philadelphia this past summer.

Emerson, Lake and Palmer showed up without their orchestra and provided a greatest hit show. CSN displayed why they've been imitated in so many different groups. Pink Floyd put on one of the finest audio-visual experiences I have ever seen. Boz Scaggs was decent and Stevy Miller really "flew like an eagle." Other acts include Ted Nugent, the late Elvis Presley, and of course the monstrous "fun in the sun" concert at JFK stadium with Framp-ton, Geils, Lynyrd Skynyrd and Dicky Betts.

At the Dell West and Tower Theatre, there's been James Taylor, Linda Ronstadt, Heart, Sanford-Townsend, Jimmy Buffet, Kiki Dee and Jackson Browne — all contributed to make 1977 a very satisfying summer for concerts.

### COMING ATTRACTIONS

The MUSICFILE has obtained a list of what is going to be happening around here in coming months: Look for **FLEETWOOD MAC** (again), **AEROSMITH**, **STEELY DAN**, **CHICAGO**, and **JAZZ FESTIVAL** to be in town. Albums-wise, **BOSTON**, **THE WHO**, **KANSAS**, **SPRINGSTEEN**, **HALL AND OATES**, **AL STEWART**, **WINGS**, among the few to be released during the Christmas season.

Read the Lion's Eye to keep up to date on all that's happening and that will happen in the music world.



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