

Arts & Entertainment

Music you'll still play in 10 years

By Stew Magnuson
Senior Reporter

Lately, every time I step into a record store to spend a piece of my paycheck on some vinyl I face a terrible dilemma. What do I buy? The latest hip, trendy band from England or California, or something older, something that has stood the test of time?

Backtracks

More and more the answer seems to be something older, a collection or classic album that has aged gracefully but sounds just as good as it did 20 years ago. I'm quickly beginning to realize that these albums are a better investment. I ask myself, will I still be listening to the Jesus and Mary Chain or Husker Du 10 years from now? Will I still be able to get the same rush out of these albums when I'm 35 as I did at 23, or will they get filed away in my collection, rarely, if ever, pulled out and played, as my Devo and B-52's LPs are now?

Not only have they stood the test of time, but chances are many of these collections can be bought in the cutout bins for \$4.99 or \$5.99. Here's just a partial list of some of the bargains. You can't go wrong buying these collections.

● "Big Joe Turner: Rhythm and Blues Years," Atlantic Records. Big Joe Turner weighed 400 pounds and had a booming voice to match. His recording career spanned four decades. He went from big band to jazz, then was instrumental in bridging the gap from the blues to rhythm and blues rock 'n' roll.

He died early last year, and Atlantic wasted no time in getting out this collection of his lesser-known, but still brilliant, sides.

Don't let the terrible cover art of Big Joe in the clouds with a microphone turn you off to this collection. The cheesy cover is the only bad thing about this record. It's a double set of 32 distinctive Turner numbers characterized by his powerful voice, a little boogie-woogie piano and an occasional blaring sax solo. Guest musicians in-

clude King Curtis on sax, Ray Charles on piano and the great Elmore James providing guitar on "T.V. Mama." Anyone who has ever worked up a sweat dancing to Johnny Reno and the Sax Maniacs will love this compilation. Atlantic is promising a greatest-hits collection later.

● Lonnie Mack, "The Wham of That Memphis Man!" Alligator Records. Somewhere between Chuck Berry and every guitarist that followed him is Lonnie Mack's "The Wham of That Memphis Man," just rereleased by Alligator. This isn't a greatest-hits or "best of" collection, just a brilliant album recorded in 1963, back when albums hadn't become an art form unto themselves.

The importance of "The Wham" to guitar players is well-known. Stevie Ray Vaughn says, "If you play guitar, buy this record, and even if you don't play guitar, buy this record!" but it's time that non-guitar players like myself are heard. If this were a new album, its historical significance unknown to me, my first reaction would be: "Why is a man with such a rich, gorgeous voice playing so many instrumentals?"

The answer: His first hit was an instrumental of Chuck Berry's "Memphis," so the radio jocks just wanted more of the same, ignoring the soul screams Mack let out on the classic "Why?" and the blues-gospel moans in "Further On Down The Road" and "Baby What's Wrong?" This album just gets better every time I play it. After you play this LP, start listening for Mack's influence in every English guitarist's style for the next 10 years after it was recorded.

● "The Best of Otis Redding," Atlantic Records and "Aretha's Gold," Atlantic Records.

Aretha is still the standard which every blues rhythm and blues female singer is held up to. Her string of late-'60s hits may never be topped by anyone anywhere, including herself. "I Never Loved Man (The Way I Love You)," "Respect," "Dr. Feelgood," "Chain of Fools" and "See Saw" would be fantastic songs sung by anyone, but Aretha's powerful voice and soulful shouts make them classics. I could

listen to this collection a hundred times and never get tired of it.

Aretha Franklin may be the queen of the blues and lady soul, but Otis Redding had lots of fine competition, like Al Green, Wilson Pickett and Marvin Gaye.

"(Sittin' On) The Dock Of The Bay" is a masterpiece, one of the great songs of all times. Everytime I'm near the ocean, the song runs through my head over and over. For some reason, some Otis Redding collections out there don't include this song. But we shouldn't judge the man's whole brief career on one song. Let's not forget "Mr. Pitiful," the original, lesser-known "Respect" and "I Can't Turn You Loose."

Otis himself also wrote these classics, so he was no hyped-up talent.

● "Buddy Holly: A Rock and Roll Collection," MCA Records.

Since MCA bought all of Holly's works, they've been endlessly repackaging the same songs, liking them for every dollar.

"Buddy Holly: A Rock and Roll Collection" is as good as any compilation, except that it has a couple of sides of fiery covers of some of Holly's contemporaries, including "Baby, I Don't Care" by Elvis and "I'm Ready" by Little Richard. Holly's music is timeless, and a collection of his classic hits is a must for any serious fan of rock 'n' roll.

These few LPs are just the proverbial drop in the ocean as far as classic music goes. Great "best of" and "greatest hits" collections exist for Chuck Berry, all the Motown artists, Fats Domino, Marvin Gaye, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins. I can't find a good Little Richard or Bo Diddley collection. But Bo's first two LPs recently were rereleased by MCA and can be found almost anywhere.

A final note on the classics. People, please stop playing your "Big Chill" soundtrack over and over again at parties. Please don't refer to anything recorded before 1969 as "Big Chill music." The music was around long before the movie and will outlast its popularity by many years.

Separately, I love all the songs on that collection. Played together, they're starting to give me headaches.

Play depicts rejection, plight of homeless; to benefit Lincolmites

By Geoff McMurtry
Staff Reporter

"The Lower Depths," a thought-provoking play about homeless people struggling to maintain their dignity, will be presented six times in the next two weekends: this Friday through Sunday, and April 9 through 11. Each performance starts at 8 p.m. and will be in the Haymarket Square at 808 P St.

"The Lower Depths" was written by Maxim Gorki after tramping his way through is native Russia and meeting and living with people displaced by their own society. This is one of several stories and plays Gorki wrote about the homeless, the poor, and the down-and-out. Because of this, he became a symbol of protest against society's hypocrisy in ignoring its own people.

The concern for the homeless is not limited to his time, however. Lincoln's Homeless/Theater Project is staging "The Lower Depths" as a benefit for Lincoln's homeless.

"The Lower Depths" features actors Adam Branting, John Carlini, Ron Hagar, Kevin Harvey, Angie

Holdsworth, Terrence Luce, Doug Lippstreu, Kate Pritchard, Alan Sands, Richard Schmeling, Shari Schwartz, Amy Sheridan, William Sherman, William Stone III, James Walla and Birdine Zariski. The director is Marc Adam Gabriel.

The actors are local residents, but not all are unknowns. Sands is a member of the Screen Actors Guild and has appeared in episodes of "Love Boat" and "The Gong Show," as Mork's friend from Ork, and in the films "Texas Detour," "The Fifth Floor," and "The Trial of Billy Jack." He also appeared in "Amerika."

Admission is free, but donations are encouraged. All proceeds go to The Gathering Place Soup Kitchen, the Lincoln City Mission and the Salvation Army Rehabilitation Program. Any other organization wishing to use some of the proceeds or make other suggestions should contact Homeless/Theater Project, 2435 Garfield St., Lincoln, Neb. 68502. There will also be a discussion after the Friday- and Saturday-night performances about the situation of the homeless and ways to relieve it.



Paladins — band without armor

San Diego's Paladins will bring their way-gone roots rock to the Zoo Bar tonight and Saturday at 9 p.m. The cover is \$3.

'Angry Harvest' is rescheduled

Because of blizzard conditions last Saturday and Sunday, the screenings of "Angry Harvest" were canceled. Agnieszka Holland's film, rescheduled for this Saturday and Sunday, evokes wartime Poland with unerring vividness.

Andrew Sarris wrote in The Village Voice, "The performances are so good in this film and the characters so real that by contrast, 'Sophie's Choice' looks like an acting audition."

"Angry Harvest" will be shown at 1 and 3 p.m. on Saturday and at 3 and 5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$3.75 (\$3 for senior citizens, children and members of the friends of the Sheldon Film Theater).

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5:45 7:45-8:45	BURGLAR (R)
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3	JABBERWOCKY (PG)
4	DOCKY HONOR PICTURE (R)
STATE	
5:00 7:00-8:00	ANIMATION CELEBRATION (PG)