

## Vinyl House (1969-1981)

### PUT THE NEEDLE ON THE RECORD FOR YOURSELF

Millions of people worldwide know the music of this exhibition like the backs of their hands. We hold the music's melodies, lyrics, rhythms, harmonies, lead breaks and bass lines in our brains, where it provides an overwhelmingly precise and sensual soundtrack to our precious memories and personality-setting experiences (often sexy, indeed).

And although it is considered unwise to live in the past and presently unfashionable to focus on the 70's, it doesn't hurt to have a good listen to the most popular art form of modern times reproduced faithfully, as only vinyl can. (see *Thoughts on Vinyl* article)

I love music and dancing so in my mind, the word "collection" conjures up a picture, not of paintings or porcelain, but of LPs and singles - long playing and seductively turning at 33 revolutions per minute or 7" and dancing me round at 45 rpm. I'm not alone in this.

Whether on vinyl or CD, people "love" and "hate" intensely where artists, songs, recordings, producers, record companies and even pressings are concerned. Many of you are expert in the field and armed with miraculous lyric recall, encyclopedic knowledge, life threatening passions and often savage opinions. So, at this point, I would like to offer our sincere apologies if the *Vinyl House* collection is missing your favourite genre, artist, record, live recording or your preferred, and obviously superior, pressing. Some artists, and the Funk and Punk genres in particular, are under-represented – many records are conspicuous by their absence, after having been snapped up for mixing and sampling by today's DJs. Even more revealing, lets face it, is the fact that apart from the USA, UK and Australia the remainder of the world's music of the period is not represented at all.

We have categorized LPs under the loose genre titles of Rock, Pop, Funk, Punk, Soul, Disco, Electronic, New Wave and M.O.R./ Soundtracks/ Stageshows; the singles are arranged chronologically. An albums' content may move across several genres so our genre titles are more practical than definitive. A look at some of the 'official' sub-genres is entertaining enough to list here - Prog Rock, Art Rock, Soft Rock, Hard Rock (oops, I mean Rock), Country Rock, Folk Rock, Pub Rock, Boogie Rock, Alternative Pop/Rock, Blues-Rock, Aussie Rock, Kraut Rock, Chicago Soul, Philly Soul, Northern Soul, Blue Eyed Soul, Pop-Soul, Motown, Urban, Power Pop, Synth Pop, Psycho - applied to all of the above and Quiet Storm.

An astounding number of the artists in the collection are dead and *not* from old age. Many are now music producers; some are simple 'celebrities'; quite a few are still performing live, touring extensively, recording and selling their music. Elton is making himself useful; Millie Jackson runs her own record company; Liza is recovered; Billy Joel, I hear, is confined to quarters and Rod, after strutting those skinny legs through almost all genres has finally settled in the Middle of the Road.

If you have never actually played a record or the music of this period is unfamiliar to you, please, don't be shy - play the records. The collection represents the work of tens of thousands of artists whose riffs, beats and lyrics are instrumental in music made today and reveals aspects of the politics, style, fun and fantasy of the older people you see quietly going about their business around you.

*Everything comes and goes  
Marked by lovers and styles of clothes  
Things that you held high  
And told yourself were true  
Lost or changing as the days come down to you*

*Down To You* by Joni Mitchell, *Court and Spark*, Asylum Records 1974

A sombre observation from Joni...but don't let her get you down...because there's also more and more music to love as the days come down to you.

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