

# REVIEWS

## 45's 45's 45's

**DONNY OSMOND:** 'The Twelfth Of Never' (MGM) - It may be our imagination but Donny's solo discs just seem to get better 'n' better 'n' better... This, his latest single, has Donny dipping back into the past - just as he did for 'Too Young' - to offer a reworking of the old Johnny Mathis hit, 'The Twelfth Of Never'. And though to some this might seem a rather hackneyed piece of material the most popular Osmond gives to us a fine performance - he almost makes it sound brand new! We're not even going to prophesy whether this will be a hit - if any 45 was a chart-buster before it was released, then this is the one...!

**WILSON PICKETT:** 'Mr. Magic Man' (RCA) - Nice warm welcome back, please, for one of the original "soul masters". Back, too, with a very good record for his new label. Not so long-bursting and sweat-making as some of his previous work, but soulful - that's for sure. Rhythmic arrangement's by Wilson, Dave Crawford, Brad Shapiro; strings are handled expertly by Dave Van Depitte. Deserves to be a hit, but we're not sure...

**BILL WITHERS:** 'Kissing My Love' (A&M) - Another great vocal artist, and one who writes fine, fine songs. Like this one which suits BIL's creamy brown



JOHNNY NASH

voice to perfection. Excellent accompaniment, with crisp drumming at the beginning, a touch of wab-wab guitar, a touch of vocal double-tracking - and BIL whistling happily and effectively on the fade-out. Great stuff...!

**HUBERT LEE:** 'There's Something On Your Mind' (Down Town) - Handsome, 25-year-old Jamaican Hubert has a distinctive and most pleasant sounding voice. Yes, it's reggae time again, folks, and

Hubert's version of Big Jay McNeely's former hit tune is going to make him look friends in this country.

**JOHNNY NASH:** 'There Are More Questions Than Answers' / 'Guava Jelly' (CBS) - Johnny's second company can't seem to make their minds up as to which of these tracks should be the 'A' side. We can see what they mean 'cos both tracks are beautifully performed - and both are commercial-sounding enough to get into the charts. Commercially, though, we'll plump for 'Guava' with its almost hypnotic reggae-type beat and construction. But, again, 'Questions Than Answers', an intelligent song written by Johnny himself - he also arranged/produced both sides - could make it on its own. What the hell - why don'tcha buy the record and argue amongst yourselves as to what's best...?

**THUNDERMUG:** 'Africa' (London) - Here's a new name for you posters to take note of. Thundermug is a band we're gonna be hearing from a lot more in the future. Especially when they make great revving records like this little boogie, Rascals-led vocal, tons of beauty, driving instrumental work. This'll getcha dancin' all round the frost soon (or the disco). Try it - we think you'll be sold...

## LP's LP's LP's

**ANDY & DAVID WILLIAMS:** 'Meet Andy & David Williams' (MCA) - Andy & David seem likely to grab for themselves a share of the weeny popper market lionised by David Cassidy, the Osmonds and the Jacksons. And this finally produced LP will do a lot to help them in their quest for big-time success. For one thing this is a terrifically well-recorded album, it has really groovy arrangements by Artie Butler and Al Capps; and it has Uncle Andy Williams' nephews proving they can handle a wide cross-section of material (including great songs like 'Make It Easy On Yourself', 'Gotta' Out Of My Head' and 'I Don't Know Why') with great poise and assurance. True, there are occasions when it's apparent that as lead vocalists, both brothers have a lot to learn. But when they sing harmony or in unison, they show they're going to give the Osmonds & Co. a run for their money.

**LYNSEY DE PAUL:** 'Surprise' (MAM) - What an absolutely delightful album this is! We were so pleased when Lynsey hit it big with her single recording of 'Sugar Me' (which included her, incidentally). We suspected the night has even more talent up her lovely sleeve. This LP proves we were right! Lynsey wrote (or co-wrote - either with



ANDY & DAVID WILLIAMS

Barry Green, Lit Sacks or Malcolm Roberts) all the excellent material contained within "Surprise", which she performs beautifully in that small but most tuneful voice, accompanied by her own discreet piano plus a string of top-line instrumentalists like Terry Cox (Puntangle), Johnny Gustafson, Barry De Souza, Johnny Van Derek and Chen Ray. It's too diversified for full comment but try tracks like 'Ivory Tower', 'Cross-

word Puzzle', 'Rockin' and the wistful 'The Way It Goes' (just Lynsey's voice and piano) and you'll understand just how impressive this record really is.

**THE PARTIDGE FAMILY:** 'The Partridge Family Notebook' (Bell) - Talking of delightful albums, here's a real of charmer! Marvellously produced (as are all the Partridge Family LP's), this one is destined for huge, huge sales - especially with David Cassidy's recent electrifying visit in mind. Naturally, David takes the solo spotlight - on tracks like 'Friend & A Lover', 'Together We're Better', 'Looking Through The Eyes Of Love', 'We Gotta Get Out Of This Place', 'Something's Wrong' and 'As Long As You're There'. And he's in tip-top form, Shirley Jones and four session singers back him splendidly, so, too, does the accompanying orchestra, jointly arranged by producer Wes Farrell Mike Melvoin and John Bahler. Gi-reat!

**GLADYS KNIGHT & THE PIPS:** 'Help Me Make It Through The Night' (Tamla-Motown) - A marvelous collection of some of this top group's finest recordings, including the chart-entry title song, 'The Look Of Love', 'Goin' Out Of My Head', 'Letter Full Of Tears' and 'Ain't No Sun Since You've Been Gone', Super record - absolutely indispensable...!