

ROCK & POP

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Laibach marching music is at its minimal and most effective, a rousing, almost classical diatribe. DH

PERFORMANCE 8 SOUND 8

YNGWIE J. MALMSTEEN'S RISING FORCE ODYSSEY

Back from the brink of death after a serious road accident last year, Yngwie J. Malmsteen, Swedish guitar virtuoso extraordinaire, has teamed up with Joe Lynn Turner (ex-lead vocalist of Rainbow) to produce one of the most innovative and exciting hard rock albums of the year.

It's a marriage made in heaven, with Malmsteen's intricate, and at times, almost classical solo-ing on acoustic and electric guitars, weaving complex patterns through JLT's no-nonsense rock 'n' roll lyrics. Of the dozen cuts, three are instrumentals, with *Bite The Bullet* and *Krakatau* highlighting Malmsteen's mastery of the fretboard, with solos that are fresh and experimental, but never verging on the self-indulgent.

Odyssey's real strength is in its depth, each and every track is a unique rock 'n' roll experience; incorporating several time changes, subtle melodies and irresistible hook-lines. *Faster Than The Speed*

Of Light is their 'Highway Star', and refers to Yngwie's car crash last year, being uncompromisingly fast and furious. *Heaven Tonight*, the single, and *Hold On* throb with carefully harnessed energy; while *The Dreaming* and *Crystal Ball* are deeper and mysterious, but no less essential.

Impeccably produced by Jeff Glixman (of Kansas and Georgia Satellites fame), the sound is crisp and clear, having both an emphatic bass and sweet treble. A magnificent achievement against all the odds, miss this at your peril! IK

PERFORMANCE 10 SOUND 10

CHRIS MCGREGOR/BROTHERHOOD OF BREATH COUNTRY COOKING

Ex-patriot South African, McGregor first came to prominence with The Bluenotes, a bop band who eventually developed into the Brotherhood — a big band — in a time when that style of jazz wasn't the word. Now, after various incarnations and quite some time, a new Brotherhood has been put together and *Country Cooking* shows off their new found sound — with more than a hint of African musical styles thrown in for good measure. With teamsters drawn from all

areas of contemporary jazz and beyond, this new Brotherhood has one of the most appealing sounds imaginable. A real treat. DH

PERFORMANCE 8 SOUND 8

MAE MCKENNA NIGHTFALLERS

Mae McKenna first breeched the vinyl waves back in '77 with a couple of albums for Transatlantic. Unfortunately, with the advent of punk, her folk strains went unheeded and the 17 year old disappeared into a bout of session work even though she'd reaped some radio attention. Over ten years on and her new LP, 'Nightfallers', is a triumphant return with her vocals given new scope through a luscious production. Mae McKenna's simple, melodic songs are given great depth and her ultimately comfortable vocal delivery lulls the listener into a state of total relaxation when accompanied by a chilled bottle of 1986 Hunter Valley Chardonnay. Blissful. DH

PERFORMANCE 8 SOUND 8



INTELLIGENT WORDPLAY FROM MICRODISNEY (PHOTO ANDY CATLIN)

MICRODISNEY 39 MINUTES

A ten track set from Microdisney which establishes this close-knit, wisely worded combo as one of the mainstays of new contemporary rock. In places, '39 Minutes' has its sweet sounds and luxuriant moments, but even those interludes are sparked with



WHICH COMPACT DISC?