


Street SCENE

(F)(0)3D

STREET BEATS

Genuine Houserockin'
Music V — various artists
Blind Pig
— various artists

 Samplers serve labels and listeners equally. The label hopes to sell you on the quality of their talent pool, and in the process of doing so offers these jam-packed ditties every once in a while to keep you abreast of the latest goings-on around the office.

Alligator's an old hand at the sampler game. In addition to five "Genuine Houserockin'" sets, there is a double 20th anniversary collection, a live disc and four volumes of "Living Chicago Blues." Still, as much as it may resemble overkill, each collection from the most successful blues label in the country is a major treat.

The disc at hand offers the usual suspects: Koko Taylor, Elvin Bishop, Katie Webster, Little Charlie & The Nightcats, Lonnie Brooks and Kenny Neal. Among the label vets, though, are some pretty tasty treats, chief among which is the Charlie Musselwhite cut, "Hear Me Talkin'" from the "In My Time" disc — the tip of the iceberg of a set that's going to slay hard-core fans.

Give points to Tinsley Ellis, too, who, in spite of generally boring me to tears, comes up with some killer tracks here and there — and "Highwayman" ranks as one of his best. Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown's instrumental, "Stop Time," qualifies as one of those worth-the-price-of-admission-alone pieces, too. It's another Alligator sampler. It smokes out of the gate.


What's new?
Blind Pig is new at this sampler thing. They've only been in business for about 16 or 17 years, and this marks their second collection. Like the first of a couple years back, it's a monster. Debbie Davies and Joanna Connor offer diverse tastes of awe-wielding women who stand in no man's shadow. Jimmy Thackery, Roy Rogers and Chris Cain offer guitar work that stands in the shadow of no woman.

Harmonica virtuosity is tendered by Carey Bell and Big Walter, not to mention Norton Buffalo; Mitch Woods turns in the best tune he's ever recorded in the form of that "Solid Gold Cadillac." And there's a dab of the legendary, with the Johnny Shines and Snooky Pfyfer duo on "Cool Driver," and gospel from hard soul singer Otis Clay and the great Gospel Hummingbirds.

The wonderful Eddy Clearwater is here, as are Little Mike & the Tornados, Roosevelt Sykes, John Mooney, Deanna Bogart and Magic Slim. Hey, it's 19 cuts, well over an hour and less than 10 bucks. Can't beat it.

— Mark E. Gallo

The Other Two & You
— The Other Two

 Fans of the band New Order will be pleased by the first release from The Other Two, "The Other Two & You," on Quest Records. The Other Two are the two lesser known members of New Order, Gillian Gilbert and Stephen Morris (he plays keyboards, and he plays drums).

Gilbert and Morris have taken their experience in New Order and built upon it to create something both familiar and new. Some of their ideas are wonderfully experimental, while some do not seem fully developed.


Their excitement of setting out on a new musical adventure can be seen in the first half of the album. Beginning with "Fasty Fish" and "The Greatest Thing," The Other Two capture the pop sound which made New Order so popular — the only noticeable difference being Gillian's more ethereal, feminine vocals.

From there, they journey into undiscovered territory, getting further away from their dance-pop roots. As they progress into the second half of the record, the songs begin to sound like they had too much time in the studio to play with their computers.

Only a few of the songs surpass their previous work in New Order, but no journey is complete without a few wrong turns. "The Other Two & You" shows that Gilbert and Morris are capable of growing out of their dance-pop background to create something distinctly their own.

— Eric Darling

"X Marks the Spot"
— various artists

 South Africans changed the face of modern history through the actions of a simple mark on a piece of paper when all citizens were allowed to vote after decades of racial bias. Equally, "X Marks the Spot" (Caroline, 1994) itself does not force change in the evolving country, but the 15-song compilation captures the emotions and the turmoil which was trapped in the nation.

The focus of the release is to raise funds for voter education and citizenship training for the

See STREET SOUNDS, 5D

Moyet thrives on imagination

■ Allison Moyet leads a simple life and finds it quite strange to be in the limelight. But the limelight is what the English singer has gotten with her solo career and with the pop-synth duet, Yaz.

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER



It would seem that singer Allison Moyet would have a number of memorable experiences from her successful career as a soloist and with the pop-synth duet, Yaz. She insists, however, that there aren't any shows that really stick out in her mind. Her most joyful moments have nothing to do with music. She gets the biggest kick out of watching soap operas at home in England.

"I have the ability to watch inordinate amounts of bad TV — just as

STREET BEATS

long as it lasts an hour and a half," a jovial Moyet said.

Her three soap operas keep her busy Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. She's had to free up her schedule recently to embark on a tour in support of her latest album "Essex," produced by the Lightning Seeds' Ian Broudie. (Moyet comes to St. Andrew's Hall in Detroit on Sunday, June 12.)

Missing her soaps is hard, but she feels uncomfortable with touring for other reasons.

"I live a very, very simple life; I find it quite strange when I'm in the limelight," Moyet said.

Consequently, her tours usually last 2-3 weeks to allow her time to rest her hoarse voice. Besides that, she feels long tours short-change her and her fans.

"I don't really do massively extensive tours," she said. "The set I do is quite demanding. I have done a (long) tour but toward the end I don't find it enjoyable."

The grueling tours were with Yaz, the short-lived but tremendously popular duo she formed with Depeche Mode founder Vince Clarke. Their first single "Only You" sold more than a million copies worldwide, while the two



Pop chanteuse: Allison Moyet performs at St. Andrew's Hall in Detroit Sunday, June 12.

succeeding albums "Upstairs at Eric's" and "You & Me Both" expanded the group's following into both modern rock and dance scenes. In 1983, two years after the duo formed, Moyet and Clarke split.

"We were fed up," Moyet said. "Our relationship had broken down to such a degree that we were working on opposite shifts in the studio."

Moyet went on to pursue a solo career while Clarke started Erasure. Although reports imply that she and Clarke still have a strained relationship, she sings two Yaz songs at her shows — "Situation" and "Only You." Also, her latest album "Es-

sex" includes an acoustic version of "Ode to Boy," a song she wrote with Clarke more than 10 years ago.

"It's about Vince," said Moyet who was nominated for a Grammy in 1991. "I'd been playing in bands since I was 15 and he was the first person I'd met who wasn't all talk. He was a strange creature. It wasn't a sexual thing, but I was infatuated with him for about 10 minutes."

Vocally, Moyet has hung on to her trademark brassy, emotive manner since the breakup of Yaz. Lyrically, she feels she has matured.

"They were good lyrics in lots of ways. They just didn't have a great depth of meaning," said Moyet who

began writing songs in her early teens.

She still abides by the same basic theories, however — one that she has in common with her soap operas.

"I write from imagination as opposed to real life."

Allison Moyet performs along with special guests The Mothers of God Intention at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit, on Sunday, June 12. Doors open at 8 p.m. for the 18 and older show. For more information, call (313) 961-MELT or (810) 645-6666.

Eleven: Capturing punk rock's energy



Tuning it up: Eleven — Alain Johannes (left), Natasha Shneider and Jack Irons — performs at Pine Knob Music Theatre Sunday, June 12.

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

Long gone are the days when Eleven played to sparse crowds in pubs with little-known rock bands.

"Sometimes it's felt like we've ended up in a weird universe where there's no audience," lead singer Alain Johannes joked.

Although they're opening for Soundgarden on one of the summer's hottest bills, Eleven will be able to hold their own. Eight months after the rock band's self-titled album was released by Hollywood Records, they've scored a hit with the heavy-handed single "Reach Out."

Live, they'll be pretty stiff competition for Soundgarden and Tad as well. Since the band was formed in 1990, the band has strived to capture "the energy that punk rock brought to music," Johannes said.

"You could lose yourself in it," he said. "It's not too much violent, just aggressive. You could celebrate exist-

ence without harming anyone else. "We're very passionate when we play. We're really into it."

Besides that, Eleven isn't another anonymous rock trio. It's the result of a longtime collaboration that began to develop when Johannes met drummer Jack Irons and formed Anthym, a band that included the late Red Hot Chili Pepper guitarist Hillel Slovak. Anthym segued into What Is This which included Johannes, Irons and current Chili Pepper bassist Flea. Irons then went on to play with the Chili Peppers during the "Uplift Mofu Party Plan" era, while Johannes met bassist Natasha Shneider and formed Walk the Moon.

In 1990, they reunited to form Eleven and a year later released "Awake in a Dream" on Morgan Creek records. The album was critically acclaimed, but was only a mild hit on the charts. Hitting clubs incessantly around the United States with the

See ELEVEN, 6D

IN CONCERT

BACKLASH
With Speedball at Band Plg. 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor, (rock)
(313) 996-8555

Wednesday, June 1

THE MOUNTAIN FROGLER
Big Fish, 700 Town Center Drive, Dearborn, (blues)
(313) 336-6350

Thursday, June 2

JEFFERSON STARSHIP
With Mountain and Richie Havens at Pine Knob Music Theatre, 1-75 and Sashabaw Road, Clarkston, (rock)
(810) 377-6200

THE OTHER TWO
St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit.

(alternative rock)
(313) 961-4617

BOB MARSHALL
Sully's, 4756 Greenfield Road, Dearborn, (blues)
(313) 846-1820

PATTI LABELLE
With Maze featuring Frankie Beverly at Chene Park Music Theatre, Chene and Jefferson, Detroit, (rhythm and blues)
(313) 333-0068

Friday, June 3

THE REDDOW BRASS
Doc Frick's, 7835 W. Maple, West Bloomfield, (blues)
(810) 624-7200

BYE BYE
The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main St., Ann Arbor.

(acoustic)
(313) 761-1451

GRANT LEE BUFFALO
With King Cousins at Band Plg. 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor, (alternative rock)
(313) 996-8555

THE STRAIGHT-UP BAND
Barney's, 806 Biddle Ave., Wyandotte, (country)
(313) 285-5615

WOLVES ON THE ROSE
Sully's, 4756 Greenfield Road, Dearborn, (blues)
(313) 846-1820

PATTI LABELLE
With Maze featuring Frankie Beverly at Chene Park Music Theatre, Chene and Jefferson, Detroit.

See IN CONCERT, 5D