

albums

SPIRITUALIZED Lazer Guided Melodies (Dedicated)

A highly dubious name for a band, I'm sure you'll agree, and the album title's not much better, but this really is worth muzzling your irony for (although not before observing that for Jason Pierce, with his background in Spacemen 3, "Chemicalized" might have been a better choice). Neither drugs nor bogus mysticism (is there any other sort?) are necessary to enjoy these exquisitely detailed sonic surfaces, however. Subsonic bass, celestial electronics and ghostly reinventions of the sounds of European and American church music, jazz, blues and drone rock swell and subside, subtly but constantly changing shape. It all holds together because, albeit in a way Mark E Smith never imagined, Spiritualized dig repetition in the music.

What saves all this from being commodifiable as dinner party music is the same exaggerated, uncomfortable stillness that characterises late Spacemen 3 material and Sonic Boom's solo album. In rejecting the guitar, even the disembodied dream-noise guitar, as the inviolate centre of the song Pierce has produced one of the most marvellous things in the whole (sub-sub-)genre. **MATTHEW HYLAND**

THE SOUP DRAGONS Hotwired (Polygram)

Well the cover says it all really — a sculptured hand raised in peace, painted the colours of the American flag. Why didn't they just call the album "We want to make loads of cash in the



Spiritualized

US" and be done with it.

In their quest for mass appeal, the Soup Dragons transmogrified into some sort of indie dance love children on their last album. Dance was obviously the way to the bigger dollars, and their version of the Stones 'I'm Free' certainly picked up the pop junkie audience. 'Hotwired' is more of the same, sort of a totally unconvincing version of Primal Scream. Whereas it's still fashionable (just) to have a drop of 60s or 70s in the mix, 'Hotwired' sounds like they've dived in the deep end and started to drown. We're bombarded with Beatles-ish rhythm guitar, drawn out sub-Hendrix riffs — there's more fun to be had sourcing the rip offs than listening to the album really.

There are some redeeming features like, um, well 'Mindless' sort of sounds like the Mondays a bit, and I suppose 'Pleasure' is sort of a dance 'Born To Be Wild' and, well, ok so there aren't any really redeeming features. A sell-out is

a sell-out and though the music industry thrives on it and I know I'm being too idealistic, the Soup Dragons have sounded so much better. And what they're attempting has been done so much better as well. 'Hotwired' is a great pop album. **JOHN TAITE**

TRASCH Chemikaze (Wildside)

Somewhat controversial avant-electro trio Träsch generate a sense of enormity. With 'Chemikaze' they've surpassed the throes of 'Flourish' and re-constructed something proportionately bigger and considerably darker. A provocative, post-modern soundscape of lavish and serene textures that circulate amid their somewhat destructive, anarchic brand of synthesised contemporary industrial-dance.

From the chemically-induced demonic whispers of the superb 'Dead



The Soup Dragons

In A Month' or the pure-ambient wash of 'Detroit' through to the mind numbing jackhammer rhythms of the cyber-trash 'Messiah', 'Pluck Out The Eyes' or chronic 'Reason Rhythm' (whose stern Phil Oakey-ish croon begins to pall after a while), 'Chemikaze' is a veritable pool of focused, innovative sounds interwoven with a lyrical thread that chronicles "urban alienation in addictive times." Unfortunately, while they do straddle a gamut of musical streams and the production is by no means feeble, Träsch do seem a little dis-inclined to venture anywhere beyond the thump and crush mentality of songs like 'White Christmas', 'Bass Crush' and the aforementioned, which is a little disheartening when you consider just what these guys are capable of. The album is not without its little quirks and shafts of black humour and redundant features ('Sample Dump'), but still remains a phenomenal sophomore release in an



Träsch: Evan Roberts, Mike Young, Arthur Tauhore

ever-continuing Träsch saga (the latest chapter of which is the departure of drummer Mike Young) and significant enough to bury their title as the proverbial quiet achievers of the Wellington scene. Huge. **MORPHEUS IRE**

LIGHTENING SEEDS Sense (Virgin)

File under "People can only like what they get to hear" number 7084. I'm not too sure about the rest of the country, but the latest single from Ian Brodie's Lightning Seeds is getting plenty of airtime / hype on Auckland's commercial radio. "What a great little pop tune", cry the listeners as it zooms up the charts. Yet what ever happened to Brodie's finest moment, the single 'Pure' from 'Cloudcuckoo-land', one of 1990's cruelly ignored Brit pop masterpieces?

Two years on and 'Pure' is still the best thing Brodie has ever done. He's still milking his brand of perfect pop — but this time round it's starting to wear incredibly thin. To be honest, 'Sense' is an album that's pleasing for euthanasia, an album full of light fluffiness, an album that's like eating a whole box of chocolates at once. And by the end you want to grab those responsible and shake them around a bit.

There's no problem with the production. The instruments are played competently, and the lyrics capture the essence of what pop is all about (ie

nothing in particular). But the fact is the essential substance that this genre of music requires for any credibility is definitely missing. And the breathtaking excitement that great melodies and exuberant hooklines can provide is also missing. And inevitably the reason for me to listen to this ever again is missing. It's sweet soft pop and it's mindblowingly hollow — but then again, it will sell, given the hype. **JOHN TAITE**

VARIOUS ARTISTS The Rhythm, Volume 4 (Warners)

Some reviewers dismiss compilation albums as fodder for people who don't love music enough to buy individual albums. But of course they don't have to buy the albums they get to review and keep, do they? If you're on a budget then this release is just for you. The cover promises "20 Killer Dance Tracks" and after listening I don't think we'll see anyone complaining to 'Fair Go'.

A wide range of mixes from the Top 40 of the Dance/Rap charts, including Prince, Oaktown 357, BAD 2, Naughty By Nature and others. This compilation differs from most similar school holiday releases in that every track is right up to the minute, or last week at least. And that is very important in the fashion that is Dance Music. Myles is to be congratulated for putting together a killer compilation (now if only he could include a local act!). **NICK D'ANGELO**

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WILDSIDE

- 30 Sweetwaters issue programme, John Martyn, Elvis Costello, Renee Geyer, No Nukes, Squeeze, NZ bend profiles, Split Enz, Toy Love, Halo Sailor, Citizen Band, Th'Dudes, Street Talk.
- 32 Police & Split Enz interviews.
- 34 Tom Petty & Street Talk interviews, Mi-Sex, Virgin supplement, Whizz Kids & Pop Mactanix bandfills.
- 38 Howard Devo, Tim Finn interviews.
- 39 XTC, Lip Service, Motels.
- 40 Martha Davis, David Byrne, Dave McArthur, Doors, Bruce Springsteen, Hammond Gamble.
- 44 Police, Associates, Adam Ant, Reels, Stevie Wonder.
- 49 Angels, Beat, Lemmy Motorhead, Desmond Dekker, Heavy Metal Guide.
- 54 Dave McArthur & Pink Flamingos, Go-Gos interview, Sunnyboys, INXS.
- 57 Clean, Pretenders, South Island bands, Joan Armatrading, Marital as Anything, Chas Jankel.
- 58 Blains, Teardrops, Hall & Oates, Bill Wyman, Kaitike/Radiance interviews.
- 61 Graham Brazier & Harry Lyon, Fall, Jim Carroll, Doggy & The Dickheads, Hip Singles, Dropbeats.
- 63 Simple Minds' Jim Kerr interviewed, Split Enz Pt 2, Renee Geyer, Nocturnal Projections, Willie Dayson Blues Band, Hunters & Collectors.
- 65 Yazoo (Alison Moyet interview), Joe Cocker, Zoo (ex-Pop Mechanica), Gurlz, Ja Ja Zep.
- 69 Joni Mitchell, Dance Exponents, Who, Neighbours, Dire Straits, Talk Talk, Milltown Stowaways, Blond Comedy.
- 74 Malcolm McLaren, Heaven 17, Joan Armatrading, Sharon O'Neill, Children's Hour.
- 75 Tim Finn, John Cale, Jonathan Richman, Hammond Gamble, Dick Driver.
- 80 Police, Paul Young, Motown features, John Peel, Bryan Adams.
- 82 Billy Idol, Pamela Stephenson, Four Tops, Temptations, Verloines.
- 83 Elvis Costello, Thompson Twins, Netherworld

- Dancing Toys, Mockers, Paul Marley.
- 84 Style Council (Paul Weller interview), Echo & The Bunnymen, Midnight Oil, Kiwi Animal, Sneaky Feelings, Depeche Mode.
- 88 Herbs, Talking Heads, Aztec Camera, Narcs, Car Crash Set, Axeman, SPK.
- 90 Lou Reed, Go-Betweens, Paul Hewson, Topp Twins.
- 92 Hunters & Collectors, Lloyd Cole, Pelicans, Peter Garrett (Midnight Oil).
- 93 Dance Exponents, Huey Lewis, Robert Palmer (Power Station), Peking Man, This Kind of Punishment.
- 95 Chills, Killing Joke, Dazz Band, Expendables, Jason & the Scorchers, Last Man Down.
- 96 Netherworld Dancing Toys, China Crisis, Robert Plant, Double Happiness, Nils Lofgren.
- 97 Bryan Ferry, Dynamic Hepnotics, Men At Work, Bats, Shriekback.
- 98 Mockers, Mental As Anything, Reggae, John Boorman, Bird Nest Roys.
- 99 Narcs, Bongles, REM, Jerry Harrison, Christchurch 100 NZ Music 1977-85, RIU's Believe It Or Not, Tina Turner, Damed.
- 101 Verloines, Damed, Sam Hunt, WASP.
- 102 Thompson Twins, Tom Petty, Violent Femmes, Chills.
- 103 Feargal Sharkey, INXS, Fetus Productions.
- 104 Atlantic Soul, Bob Dylan, Stevie Ray, Go-Betweens, BIFM LP, Johnnys, Roy Harper.
- 105 Hunters & Collectors, Nico, Tim Finn, Fresh D-Vice, Kiwis in Oz.
- 106 DD Smash, National Anthem, Terry Gilliam, Music Quola, Everything That Flies, Chrome Safari.
- 107 Peking Man, Cramps, Anubis, Martin Plaza, Psychic Healers, Ruby Turner.
- 108 Pogues, Bats, Flaming Groovies, Wilko Johnson, Tex Patol.
- 109 Young One's Vix, Cramps, Residents, Herbs, Fetus Film, Saints.
- 110 Palace Moari Club, Husker Du, Patii Labelle, Art of Noise, Last Man Down, Alpaca Bros.

- 112 Genesis, Def Jam, OMD, Jean-Paul Satre.
- 113 Hello Sailor, Sneaky Feelings, Dream Syndicate, Frankie.
- 114 Beaches Boys, Sly & Robbie, Wayne Gillespie, Queen City Rocker.
- 115 ZZ Top, Billy Bragg, Look Blue Go Purple.
- 116 Shriekback, Jay Clarkson, Paul Kelly, Al Hunter.
- 117 Chills, David & David, Aotearoa.
- 118 Chrissie Hynde, Kiwi Music, Elephant, Cat's Away.
- 119 Ardijah, Crowded House, 1977-87 retrospective.
- 120 Herbs, Housemartins, Robert Cray, Triffids.
- 121 D'wight Yoakam, Simply Red, Knightshade, A Certain Ratio.
- 122 Suzanne Vega, Los Lobos, Billy Idol, Tex Patol.
- 123 Sharon Laing, Bats, Echo & The Bunnymen, Warratahs.
- 124 Midnight Oil, Marianne Faithfull, Cult, Hunters & Collectors, Painters & Dockers.
- 125 James Brown, Los Lobos, Roy Orbison.
- 127 Warratahs, Graham Brazier, Koko Taylor, Heon Picnic.
- 128 Bryan Ferry, Gaye Bykers, Rhythm Cage, Dave Dobbyn.
- 129 Robbie Robertson, Wynlon Marsalis, Feargal Sharkey, Toll Dwarfs.
- 130 Iron Maiden, Judy Mowatt, Aztec Camera, Triffids, Holidaymakers.
- 131 Headless Chickens, Sisters Of Mercy, Bailter Space, Proclaimers, Six Volls.
- 132 Ziggy Marley, Afrko Bambacotta, Verloines, Joni Mitchell, Sinead O'Conner.
- 133 Paul Kelly, Jerry Harrison, Nick Cave, Georgia Satellites, Johnny Devlin.
- 134 Crowded House, Jesus & Mary Chain, Toy Love retro, Halohouse Flowers.
- 135 Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Scritti Politti, NZ Bands 1979-82, Guns n' Roses.
- 136 Tex Pistol, Straitjacket Fits, Run DMC, Derek B, Funny Business, Robert Cray, NZ Comics.
- 137 Toni Childs, UB40, Joe Satriani, Snapper,

- Cassandra's Ears, Bobby McFerrin, Steve Earle.
- 138 REM, Headless Chickens in Sydney, BB King, Sonic Youth, Iggy Pop.
- 139 Sneaky Feelings, REM, Acid House special, Go-Betweens, John Dix, NZ film.
- 140 Billy Bragg, Robert Palmer, Upper Hutt Passe, Def Leppard (Phil Collen interview), Phil Judd, Randy Newman, 60s style.
- 141 Was Not Was, Lou Reed, The Clean, Metallica, Warners, Julian Cope, Richard Thompson, Buckwheat Zydeco, Americal.
- 142 Mica Paris, Dusty Springfield, Yella (Dieter Meier interview), Front Lawn, NZ Xpressway music, Ozzy Osbourne, Ice-T, Cowboy Junkies, Terry Gilliam.
- 143 Simple Minds (Jim Kerr interview), Tama Janowitz, Crowded House, Metallica, Tackhead, Living Colour, Chicago Smoke Shop, Ten City, New Orleans.
- 144 The Cult, Bailter Space, Tim Machine, The The, Young Ones' Ben Elton, Anthrax, Womack & Womack, Neville Bros, Warratahs, Triffids.
- 146 R.E.M., Peter Gabriel, Batman, Paul Ubana Jones, Paul Kelly, Chris Isaak, Sandie Shaw, Netherworld Dancing Toys, Guadalupe Diary.
- 147 Cyndi Lauper, Bob Mould, Bats, Ramones, Dinosaur Jr., Pogues, Greg Johnson, Sam Hunt, Mojo Nixon.
- 148 Tone Loc, Aerosmith, Sex Lies & Vid, PWEI, Nick Barker, Knightshade, Lucinda Williams.
- 149 U2, Straitjacket Fits, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Jesus and Mary Chain, Upper Hutt Pass, Afrocentricity, Tom Petty, Gloria Estefan.
- 150 Motley Crue, Hunters and Collectors, Heroin, Johnny Diesel, Kip Winger, 1989 Review.
- 151 UB40, Buzzcocks, Whitesnake, 3-Ds, Dunedin Bands.
- 152 Stone Roses, Rough Trade, Michael Monroe, Joe Satriani, Bamboo.

- 153 Deborah Harry, Fall, Underneath What, Beats Int, Quincy Jones, Adeva, Kate Ceberano.
- 154 Skid Row, Molley Crue, Metal special, Verloines, JPSE, House of Love, Wet Wet Wet, Ziggy Marley, Sugarbubs.
- 155 Chills, Soundgarden, S.P.U.D., Dan Reed, KRS-1, Boo Yoo Tribe, Wedding Present.
- 156 Soul II Soul, Faith No More, 3Ds, Smokeshop, Steve Vai, Headless Chickens, Sundays, Darren Watson, Rick Bryant & Bill Lake.
- 157 Anthrax, Sonic Youth, Steve Earle, Dave Stewart, Straw People, Hamilton, Clean, Dave Stewart, Black Crowes, Little Caesar, Angels.
- 158 Living Colour, Cramps, Chrissie Hynde, Sceptics' David D'Ath, Fatal Jelly Space, Neil Young, Red Hot Chili Peppers.
- 159 Straitjacket Fits, Norman Cook, John Lee Hooker, Weddings Parties Anything, Jane Siberry, Terminals, Vixen.
- 160 Jimmy Barnes, Was Not Was, Mudhoney, Robert Cray, Neneh Cherry, Auckland Live, Aerosmith, Let's Planet, Violent Femmes, They Might Be Giants.
- 161 Warratahs, Replacements, Soho, Soup Dragons, Robert Palmer, Albert King, Ak Wamen Drummers, Simon Le Bon.
- 162 Megadeth, Happy Mondays, Digital Underground, Moana & Moahunters, Axel Grinders, Screamin' Jay Hawkins, 1990 Review.
- 163 PWEI, Icehouse, Midge Marsden, Able Tasmans, After 7, Michelle Shocked, Deep Purple.
- 164 Push Push, Bob Marley, Butthole Surfers, Queen Ida, Dribbling Darts, Julie Cruise, Tattoos, Peter Wells, Dan Burrows.
- 165 John Hiatt, Dinosaur Jnr, Thin Lizzy, Strangie

- Loves, Queen, Throwing Muses, Otis Mace & David Eggleton, Archie Roach, Bob Geldof.
- 166 N.R.A., Jesus Jones, Chris Isaak, Lemmy Krovitz, Dance Exponents, Chainsaw Moschist, Johnny Marr, Dread Zeppelin.
- 167 Jane's Addiction, La's, Chris Knox, Emulsiifer, Freak Power, Matarhead, Ratcat, Godstar, Jan Hellinagel, Lee Harvey, Ll Cool J, Redhead Kingpin, Dream Warriors.
- 168 De La Soul, REM, Rancid, Crowded House, Shihad, Bob Mould, Ride, GW McLennan, Death Ray Cafe.
- 169 Metallica, 6 Volls, Greg Johnson, Violent Femmes, Lemonheads, Definition of Sound, Aswad, Ngairo.

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