Chicago: quadruple album?!

(Appeal at Carnegie Hall (Madison))

Now that everybody expects a record set with a poster on Chicago, naturally the only way they could do was-to make a four record set with four posters, a booklet and a good voter registration appeal. But obviously they don't have enough albums worth of new material they have recorded for six days of concerts at Carnegie Hall and released the set of... there is exactly one new song here, so it would be absolutely worthless at a regular four record price. But selling at $11.98 list ($7.95 in most stores), it becomes an excellent "greatest hits" album for the person who has little or nothing else by the group. Chicago's stage repertoire seems to consist of everything they've ever recorded; most of it right here. It sounds good, too. The strictly-arranged numbers (like the "Ballet for a Girl in Buchanen") are executed correctly, while the numbers which contains solos are excerpted out to give the individual more room. Most of the solos are interesting and everyone is given a chance. They do have their share of regrettable, but for a live record it still sounds OK. The sound quality is replaced with an up-on-stage feel that is very realistic. For added realism, the exciting final ovations from the audience are left in stereo. Everybody works hard (especially the drummer) and it all comes off well.

The biggest complaint is with the packaging. The dust jackets are cardboard and the box is not closed on all sides; this becomes a pain when the album is played frequently. But be assured that this record is really "Chicago's Greatest Hits - Live" and is cheap enough to be worth getting to have the best of this constantly high-quality band.

--Jay Pollack

1. I have never seen a four record set with four posters, a booklet and a good voter registration appeal, but this is what they could do with the material they have recorded for six days of concerts at Carnegie Hall.

2. The strictly-arranged numbers are the numbers with fixed arrangements, like "Ballet for a Girl in Buchanen".

3. The strictly-arranged numbers are executed correctly, while the numbers which contain solos are excerpted out.

4. The most of the solos are interesting, and everyone is given a chance. The sound quality is replaced with an up-on-stage feel that is very realistic.

5. The exciting final ovations from the audience are left in stereo. Everybody works hard (especially the drummer) and it all comes off well.

6. The biggest complaint is with the packaging. The dust jackets are cardboard and the box is not closed on all sides; this becomes a pain when the album is played frequently.

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