Sittin' in, Messina round

Sittin' in is Kenny Loggins with Jim Messina (Columbia)

Along with Richie Furay, it was Jim Messina who threw the key riffs in the Springfield to eventually form Poco. While Furay was more intent on creating a country-rock flavored rock 'n' roll band, Messina had his sights on a slicker, bigger-sounding record. Neither band was aware of the other's intentions when they met through an ad in Poco's "Anyway, Bye, Bye" and a few others.

While the two groups pursued different paths, Messina split, to play with Kenny Loggins. Messina claims fame to farm wasn't any. The result is an album that has distilled the best from Poco, and added a touch of its own.

Rusty Young's excellent pedal steel work is as good as it gets, in a bit of the excitement of Poco's earlier work. And some of the catchiness of the melodies. But also preserved are the disquieting acoustico-harmonies, replaced with the much stronger ones by Loggins and Messina. The general feeling is much fuller, more polished than Poco's, as well as ventures into styles foreign to Poco's group. "Danny's Song" is a fine ballad, "Valentine" is a sea charity that evolves in the rough frantic vein of power pop.

"Sittin' in" is clearly Kenny Loggins' album, but Messina adds an indispensable helping hand. Messina's acoustic playing, and charging, twangy lead guitar; the two work very well together and with the backing group. While Rusty Young's pedal steel is in the end an excellent rocking little record with Messina receiving more praise than he has in his newly formed partnership with Kenny Loggins.

Emerson's Exhibition

EMERSON, LAKE, and PALMER (Columbia)

Recorded in March 1971 at the New England Conservatory of Music, Emerson, Lake, and Palmer proceeded to create a remarkable live album. The record is an attempt to follow Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition (not as well known as it should be) with a vivid demonstration of Keith Emerson's keyboard virtuosity.

The album follows Mussorgsky's lead in a few spots, the most recognizable being the "Promenade" theme that is repeated throughout the piece. Other being the "Promenade" theme that is repeated throughout the piece. Other

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