Don McLean – on record

by Wanda Adams

Don McLean must have been one of those guys in high school who never did anything but study. This fact is certainly evident in his latest album, titled, appropriately enough, Don McLean.

Don McLean includes a representative cross-section of what this talent (although sometimes temperamentally) young man is capable of. The record is not overproduced by any means; in fact, it offers McLean and his guitar alone in several instances. One such cut is "Falling Through Time," a poignant piece with which he logits. A second kind of love song that he does is a liltinng number, "Birthday Song" in which McLean proclaims, "I don't believe in magic, but I do believe in you." "Birthday Song" has a kind of calypso rhythm to it and suffers only slightly from too-heavy string work.

But my favorite -- in terms of both arrangement and content and overall performance -- "love-style" song that McLean offers this time around is called "I'll Be Seeing You." The song is a lilting number, "Birthday Song" in which McLean proclaims, "I don't believe in magic, but I do believe in you." "Birthday Song" has a kind of calypso rhythm to it and suffers only slightly from too-heavy string work.

One other song worth mentioning is "Graceland". McLean effectively composed a caricature of an old-style road show, and put his voice, his guitar, and his imagination. "Graceland" is a cross-section of what this talented guy is capable of. It's not overproduced by any means, it just has a sense of what it is capable of.

On the whole, Don McLean is a solid musical offering. And, while he'll never win a Grammy for it, he's a very enjoyable evening.

Don McLean – in concert

by Dan Natchez

There was no supporting act to stretch out the concert; there was no intermission. There was no backup band to overpower the singer. There was a comfortable crowd at Boston College's Roberts Center two weeks ago, but there was no atmosphere of which the band could be proud. The first song was "Walkin' In the Rain."

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