
The Steve Miller Band on Capitol Records.

Radio stations have at least two tricks up their sleeves for playing a greater variety of music each hour. The first is electronic and barely noticeable; the speed of the song is increased with a slight distortion on the volume. The second is far simpler for the station — the song is cut to ribbons, much like favorite television programs in syndication. A local's "Only Time Will Tell," Chicago's "I Can't Say I'm Sorry," Steve Miller's "Abracadabra," and Alan Parsons' "Eye In The Sky" have all lost a few stools on most Boston stations.

"Eye In The Sky" opens the new Alan Parsons Project LP of the same name. There is a two minute instrumental lead-in to the song, which hits number 4 on Bill- board's single chart this week. "Eye" has a lush arrangement of the society in form set to a calm background with a force steady beat. The track makes itself heard without losing its way through one's mind.

The entire album, covering a broad range of musical styles, has a mixture of stellar instrumentals and uplifting harmonies. The best qualities of Kansas, Styx & Garfunkel, and Foreigner have been combined to produce one of the best albums of this fall. Real voices combined with real instrumentals (no synthesizers) have built an album worthy of a former Warner Brothers on Dark Side Of The Moon and Yes. Parsons' first album appeared in 1976 after two years of production. "Eye In The Sky" is the Project's sixth LP.

The wrapping sticker claims: "The extraordinary new rock visions of The Alan Parsons Project... Do not let this sticker fool you. These are not theblings of some half-sane freak who shouts over the music. Rather, the album contains the orchestral and lyrical brilliance not frequently found in today's popular music." "Abracadabra," from The Steve Miller Band's latest, is another frequently snipped song; here we lose a few minutes from the end, an instrumental segment which adds appreciably to a lengthy song with only two real sections intertwined. Unfortunately, this segment is one of the best parts of the track, which provides a strong beat to the identically titled album. Unfortunately, the best is lost quickly in the disc. There are exceptions: "Young Girl's Heart" has an unusual catchy melody with the vocals providing a somewhat interesting counterpoint. Many of the tracks, though, have a hillbilly/gospel sound unexpected from a group which brought on "Fly Like An Eagle, "Rock 'N Me" and "Jet Airplane."

A new sound of some sort was expected thanks to new bandmembers Kenny Lewis and John Massaro, who both step as guitarists, vocalists, and writers. While in the past, Steve Miller did most of the writing, Lewis, Massaro, and Drummer Gary Mat- lisher had more input on this album than bandmembers have on previous releases. Fortunately, the full version of "Abraca- dbra" is available on an extended play single. After twelve years, The Steve Miller Band is planning its first live album for the summer of 1983.

Both Capitol and Arista have courteouslyly provided lyrics for the albums.

Stuart Gideon

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