

THE 'FAST' IS OVER - BRING ON THE BANQUET!

Mark Copolov's review of Burton Cummings and
Randy Bachman's 'Jukebox' CD and 'First Time Around' DVD

At long last, we can now we can indulge in a feast of BURTON CUMMINGS and RANDY BACHMAN material with a new studio CD 'Jukebox' and new concert DVD 'First Time Around'.

'JUKEBOX' - the CD

The 'Jukebox' CD contains 17 studio songs which are covers of some of Burton and Randy's all-time favourite songs. Burton proves yet again that he's one of the world's best singers and song interpreters, by taking on some vocal giants such as Sam Cooke ('Good Times'), Cliff Richard ('Don't Talk To Him') and Georgie Fame ('Yeah, Yeah'). I believe that on 'Yeah Yeah' Burton outsings the great Georgie Fame, who is so talented, that The Beatles used to search out where Georgie and his Blue Flames were performing, in the great clubs in London in the mid-60's.

Randy shows that he can still rock with his impressive guitar playing and gritty vocals on songs 'Like A Rolling Stone', 'The Letter' and 'Little Queenie'. His completely different take on The Beatle's 'I'm Happy Just To Dance With You' is a brave one indeed.

The CD starts off with Randy's booming guitar riff on The Equals' 1968 hit 'Baby Come Back' and ends with a slightly jazzy version of their Guess Who's seminal 1970 hit 'American Woman', which created history by being the first Canadian million-seller in America.

'FIRST TIME AROUND' - the DVD

Then there's the new DVD (21 songs with backstage and rehearsal footage), which is the recording of a wonderful 2006 indoor concert of Burton and Randy, with Burton's long time backing band The Carpet Frogs. This concert proves that Burton and Randy are still on top of their game. Sam Boyd has done a magnificent job producing the concert and backstage vision, which includes some good humour.

'These Eyes', 'Laughing', 'No Time' and 'Undun' (the enormous length of the note Burton sings at the end of this song has to be heard to be believed!) remind us again that Burton and Randy's song writing in The Guess Who was as good as anyone was creating in the 70's.

The new song 'Ain't No More' highlights that Burton can still write a terrific and concise pop song. 'My Own Way To Rock' (the title track from

my favourite Burton solo album from 1977) shows what great material Burton wrote even as a solo artist, and also highlights that Burton is undoubtedly one of the most accomplished pianists in the history of rock and roll. His lead vocals on each song are extraordinary. He uses his voice like an instrument. Unexpectedly, in this concert, Burton shows that he can also competently play flute ('Undun') and drums ('Stone Free'). Is there any limit to this man's talent?

Randy really gets the joint jumpin' with 'Takin' Care Of Business' and 'Hey You'. His 'live' guitar playing is superb.

CONCLUSION

I highly recommend to any Burton Cummings, Randy Bachman, *Guess Who* or just plain good music fan, that you buy both the CD and DVD, as they compliment each other perfectly and will bring you much enjoyment. One reason that they're great value for money is because there is only one song that appears on both the CD and DVD and that's 'American Woman', so that's not too hard to tolerate!

I have but one request of Burton and Randy - MORE PLEASE!!

DVD Trivia bit (from an old Beatle nut - me!):

The songs that Burton plays in his 'Beatles On K-Tel' segment, in the Bonus Features\Backstage Sneaks segment are, in order :

- Money (That's what I want) - from The Beatles album 'With The Beatles'
- You like me too much - from The Beatles album 'Help'
- Not a second time - from The Beatles album 'With The Beatles'
- You really got a hold on me - from The Beatles album 'With The Beatles'

Also note that in the DVD that we can see that Burton is wearing no less than three different Beatle t-shirts. Good taste Burton!

Review written by Mark Copolov, September 2007, Melbourne, Australia