WILLIE NELSON

Stardust/ Blue Skies/ My heroes have always been cowboys/ Help me make it through the night/ On the road again/ Tenderly/ Summertime/ Unchained melody/ Funny how time slips away/ Red headed stranger/ Blue eyes crying in the rain/ Georgia on my mind/ All of me/ That Lucky old sun/ Whiskey river/ Always/ Moonlight in Vermont/ On the sunny side of the street/ For the good times/ Amazing Grace. (Columbia 10025).

'Blue Skies' is a compilation album which includes some of Willie's best recordings for Columbia, since signing with the label in 1975.

Par for the course nowadays is usually ten tracks, so how can you fault a twenty track album?; and when playing time is well over sixty minutes, then CBS must be congratulated in putting together a set that is excellent value for money.

Anyone who can perform songs in a relaxed and flowing manner has the mark of a true professional in my opinion, and Willie Nelson could record an album of extracts from the Yellow Pages and still make it listenable.

Willie is an innovator, as the 1978 'Stardust' album of standards proved, and despite the fact that it didn't meet with approval from all corners of the country field, it has remained high in the country album charts for the last three years, confirming Willie's faith in the project. Seven tracks from that album are featured on this compilation.

The album also includes 'Blue eyes cryin' in the rain', which established Willie nationally in the States in 1975, and brings the story up to date with his country No1 single of last winter 'On the road again', (from his movie, 'Honeysuckle Rose', which has at last received a British release).

For anyone seeking an introduction to Willie Nelson this album is an absolute must.

Written by, JO PAUL.