

MICKEY NEWBURY

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS

Medley: The Sailor: Song of Sorrow: Let's say goodbye one more time/
That was the way it was then/ Country Boy Saturday night/ Truly
Blue/ Just as long as that someone is you/ Over the mountain/ Catcher
in the rye/ I still love you (after all these years).
(Mercury SRM-1-4024 Import).

After all these years, it's just like they say, fact is stranger
than fiction, because Mickey Newbury is now back with Mercury for
whom he recorded one album titled, 'Looks like rain' way back in
1969.

I picked up a copy of that much sought after original release,
for 50p. in a bargain bin a couple of years back and since then
I've been suckered and succoured by anything that Newbury has recorded.

The recipe on this new album is the same as before, sad, aching
and mournful ballads sung in Mickey's own inimitable style. Tracks
are linked by interludes of melodies played by strings, (but no rain
this time): Mickey ^{also} employs that echoed whistle on choruses, and the
whole album gives that comfortable feeling you get, say, for example,
when you put on your favourite jacket.

Mickey is still up to the same old tricks after all these years.
Throughout his career he has repeatedly cross referenced his song
and album titles. This new album is no exception, as 'The Sailor'
was the title of his last album for ABC/Hickory in 1979 (which sadly
didn't get a British release). 'The Sailor' forms part of a trilogy
of songs that open the album, the middle section of which, 'Song of
Sorrow' is a Newbury classic. (I suppose the title tells you that
anyway)

'That was the way it was then', could only be a song title
that Newbury would think up; they always have that certain something
that stamps them with his mark. In the song he reminisces on a
rebellious youth.

If there is a track on the album that is a potential hit, it
must be 'Truly Blue' where he's created a memorable up tempo melody
and linked it with lyrics about a lost love. 'Truly Blue' is also
mentioned in the lyrics of 'Catcher in the rye'.

Over the years Newbury has been critically applauded for his
own recordings but he has never really hit the big times. I consider
this to be one of the best albums he has ever recorded, I only hope
it doesn't get overlooked like his previous works.

Written by,
JO PAUL.