

Billboard's Recommended LPs

• Continued from page 104

cals from Barbara Ingram, Carla Benson and Evette Benton. Even a few disco slanted cuts. LP is one of the few workable combinations of contemporary and standard. **Best cuts:** "Smile, Smile, Smile," "Philadelphia," "My Mother's Eyes," "Easy Come, Easy Go."

RARE EARTH—Midnight Lady, Rare Earth R6550S1 (Motown). Rather unusual but generally effective mix of white rock, soul and disco. Group is still reasonably new (at least in current form) but are working well together. Veteran Jerry La Croix is handling lead vocals and sax, with other instruments including guitar, bass, drums, another sax, congas and keyboards. Produced by Norman Whitfield, who brings an occasional "Ball Of Confusion" touch to the set, gets La Croix to sing more soulfully than

ever before and lets the band play their mix of rock, soul, disco and Latin. Most cuts written by Whitfield, who has done a fine job here. **Best cuts:** "Do It Right," "Midnight Lady."

LYDIA PENSE & COLD BLOOD—ABC ABCD-917. Solid enough effort in the mode of belting San Francisco fem singers backed by horn bands. Producer Bob Monaco set up a transparent sound for the energy to come through. Those who enjoy this hardworking approach to funk will find much to satisfy here. **Best cuts:** "I Get Off On You," "Feel The Fire," "Let Me Be The One."

PABLO CRUISE—Lifeline, A&M SP 4575. Second LP for the group shows some leaning towards blue-eyed soul, some similarities to Van Morrison and David Clay. Thomas, ability to handle mild disco, good rockers and slower tempos. Excellent production from Val Garry and

four-man group on this set of goodtime rock. No overuse of strings or horns, simply a set of economical songs. Lead vocalists Bud Cockrell and David Jenkins are commercial without being derivative, singing alone or together. Basic rock with a few frills that enhance. **Best cuts:** "Crystal," "Don't Believe It," "Never See That Girl Enough," "Tearin' Down My Mind."

RUSH—2112, Mercury SRH1-1-1079. Hard, crashing heavy metal rock from trio that sounds like a lot of other groups but still stands out because of lead singer Geddy Lee's uncanny vocal resemblance to Robert Plant and the better than average musicianship. Lots of fun, but group, which has a large group of fans now, will need a bit more of a distinctive sound if they are to progress much more. Still, after huge successes of Kiss, Aerosmith and others, it is difficult to count any skilled heavy metal group out. **Best cuts:** "Soliloquy," "Lessons."

Plug yourself into Rush's incredible future.

Rush, the group with an incredible future, now has an incredible new album about the future entitled "2112." On side one there's a chilling rock opera envisioning the year 2112. Side two contains five new Rush originals. "2112" by Rush. An album people will be talking about for years to come.



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