

AZTEC TWO-STEP

IN THE SIXTIES, there were Simon & Garfunkel—those two minstrels who managed to incorporate the sweetest sounds of both rock and folk and make it both the music you grooved to as well as the music your brothers and sisters wanted to listen to when they were with their best fella or gal. Well, it looks like the seventies has its own version of Simon & Garfunkel—in the guise of two young men who call themselves Aztec Two-Step.

Who are Aztec Two-Step? Well, their names are Rex Fowler and Neal Shulman. Rex was born in Kansas City, Mo., but moved with his family to Maine at an early enough age to lay claim to the title of "Maine's only rock and roll star." At 17, Rex started to play guitar and write songs. He even had his own rock group, "The Second Phlore." By the time Rex migrated to Boston to try to break into the music biz, he had been to college, dropped out, dropped back in and had written about 80 songs.

Neal is a New Yorker—by birth and by choice. Born and raised there, he is the child of folk music lovers who taught him all the traditional songs, which became a part of his night club act when he went that route. Neal began playing the guitar and singing when he was only 12 years old. But this talented tunesmith waited until he was fifteen before he wrote his first song! Neal had a brief encounter with college also, odd jobs in book and record stores, as well as a trip to Europe. On his return, he went to Boston to study music and play guitar. That's not the only thing he did there—he met Rex Fowler, *too*.

Once the move to New York had been made, the two of them spent six months playing clubs in the legendary Greenwich Village, where many greats of music have been discovered—superstars like Bob Dylan, Don McLean and even Simon & Garfunkel themselves. However when this delicious duo had nowhere else to play, they took themselves to New York's Central Park to jam for the weekend strollers. And, believe it or not, that's where they were discovered. A passerby was so impressed by them that he brought them to Elektra Records for an audition. The people there were stunned when they heard them for how often do you find talent like that singing in Central Park just for kicks? Of course, Elektra snapped them up. And this album, simply entitled Aztec Two-Step is their debut disc.

But no amount of words can adequately describe the quality of their music. You have to hear it to believe it 'cause it's a real joy to listen to. Their guitar playing, their singing, even their personalities have that mysterious



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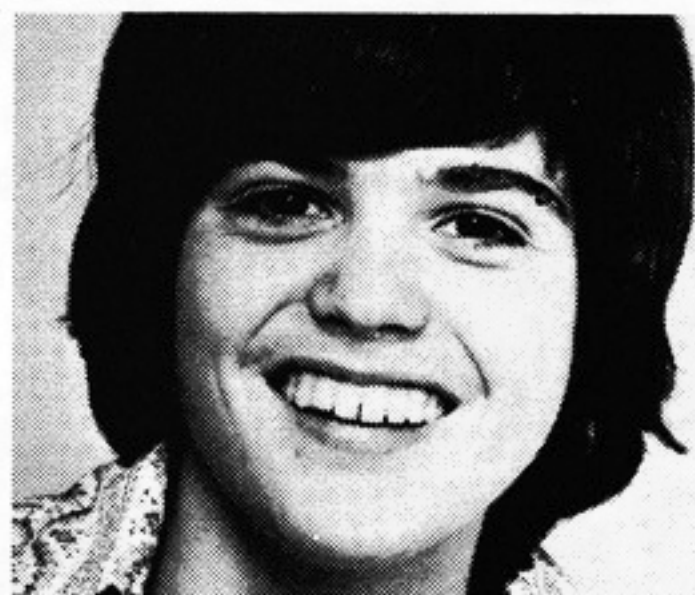
magic—like the Simon & Garfunkel of old—of blending so well with each other that it's almost impossible to tell where one begins and other lets off. Each contributes his share of songs—Neal, the younger of this terrific two-some, has two on the album, while Rex wrote the other nine. And each share an uncommon trait—especially nowadays—they're really good! You can pick any song out of this sensational album and be guaranteed of listening to something super-special. Their lyrics range from funny to philosophical.

Aztec Two-Step found their unusual name in a poem. It's a funky name, but it's a name that has come to mean—in just one album—beautiful music. So dig on it—it'll be a trip. And don't forget the title of the album—"Aztec Two-Step." It's on Elektra Records. Once you hear it, you'll want to play it over and over again.

DISCS TO DIG ON

If you haven't already bought Donny Osmond's "Portrait of Donny" on MGM—run, don't walk to your nearest record dealer. It's a must for all you millions of Donny fans. This is a really fab record. Not only does it include Donny's hit singles like "Hey Girl" and "Puppy Love"—it has nine more Donny songs to groove with, as well as three darling 8" x 10" Donny pix.

Then there's David's latest, "Cherish." And we're sure that all you David lovers will really *cherish* this disc. It's David at his best—chock full of goodies for all. It includes some new songs, as well as many of your old faves, sung just for you by adorable David. You'll love it; we did!



DONNY OSMOND

OUTASIGHT ALBUM

We suspect you'll be hearing a lot of this new singing sensation, John Prine. Here's a 24 year old who's being compared to Dylan and rightly so. John writes his own music and has that same lonesome hound-dog way of delivering a song that marked Dylan's early work. His album, "John Prine" is a collection of tunes so penetrating that it's almost painful to listen to, but listen you will. You won't be able to help yourself. Because John seems to have been able to reach that secret place inside all of us, that part of us which we always believe to be hidden, and to reveal it to us, with all its truths, its pathos, its loves and its fears.

John was discovered by Kris Kristofferson and Paul Anka. To show how impressive his talents are, Paul Anka is now his manager—that's how enthusiastic he is and how much faith he has in John. And response from other artists has been mind-bending. John's songs have been recorded by people like Dylan, Joan Baez, Kristofferson and Carly Simon, just to name a few.

It's almost impossible to discuss his songs. You have to hear them yourself. But keep in mind that although you may cry one minute at what he's singing about, the next minute, you might very well be smiling.

But you have to hear him to believe it. The record is on the Atlantic label. Why not give it a whirl? He most likely will be the Bob Dylan of the seventies. And if you never quite fully understood what turned your older brothers and sisters on to Dylan, perhaps this album will give you the answer. As Bob spoke for the sixties, so will John speak for the seventies.



JOHN PRINE

TOP POP LP's

Don't even think of missing Climax featuring Sonny Geraci. So far sexy Sonny and the group has had one of the biggest hits of 1972, "Precious & Few" which is included on the album, as well as a more recent hit, "Life and Breath." The president of Rocky Road Record—that's Sonny's label—predicts that Sonny and Climax will be one of the most important musical groups in the world by the end of 1972. And we agree. After all, how can they miss? With their sound and sexy Sonny's voice, it looks like they've got it made. And in case we forgot to mention it—the album is called "Climax." Can ya beat that?

If you're in the mood for deep-down soulful sounds—well Laura Lee's your gal. The album's "Two Sides of Laura Lee," a Hot Wax record. Some soul singers really have it—some don't! Laura not only has it, she gives it right to you.

Another top LP this month is "Stories." And to make certain it's a small world, the group is *called* Stories. The album is on the Kama Sutra label and their hit single "Coming Home" is from this LP.

And now for a few quickies—DON'T MISS The New Seekers' newest, "Circles" on Elektra Records; it's right up there; Uriah Heep's "Demons and Wizards" on Mercury—if you like heavy rock, this is for you; Bobby Goldsboro "California Wine" on the UA label—for a change of pace; Pink Floyd, "Obscured By Clouds" on Harvest Records. It'll make you feel like you're floating on clouds.



SONNY GERACI

LAURA LEE