



COMMUNICATIONS

## MUSIC WEEK 10 JANUARY 2011

# CATALOGUE REVIEWS

### STEVE MILLER BAND

**Book Of Dreams (Edsel EDSS 1051)/Circle Of Love (EDSS 1052)**



From tentative beginnings, the Steve Miller Band

became hugely successful, with 1976's *Fly Like An Eagle* propelling them into rock's first division. The following year's *Book Of Dreams* was equally huge, generating major US hits in the form of *Jet Airliner*, *Swingtown* and *Jungle Love*. Its 1981 follow-up *Circle Of Love* is a slightly schizophrenic and less fulfilling album, on which Miller dashes off a couple of commercially viable and successful tracks in *Heart Like A Wheel* and the title track but then goes retro, with the more difficult and extremely lengthy *Macho City*, which occupies 16 minutes, most of them unnecessarily. Both of these albums boast remastered sound and new liner notes.

### PHIL MANZANERA/QUIET SUN

**Diamond Head (Expression EXPCD 1R)/Mainstream (EXPCD2R)**



His fame over-shadowed by

bandmates Bryan Ferry and Brian Eno, Phil Manzanera always pursued solo projects alongside his career as a member of *Roxy Music*. 1985 was a particularly busy year for him, with his *Diamond Head* sessions producing both his debut solo album of the same name and *Mainstream*, for which his previous band *Quiet Sun* temporarily reconvened. Both albums have now been given timely makeovers in the form of new collectors' editions. *Diamond Head* is given the digipak treatment and comes with an assortment of bonus tracks, while *Mainstream* is now attired in handsome longbook packaging and a full allotment of extra tracks.

### PETER SELLERS & SOPHIA LOREN

**Peter & Sophia (El ACMEM202CD)**



Appearing together in romantic comedy *The Million-*

airess, Peter Sellers and Sophia Loren struck up a close friendship, which extended to recording the *Peter And Sophia* album. A number five chart success in 1960, the George Martin-produced album contained the novelty hits *Goodness Gracious Me* and *Bangers & Mash*. Martin fleshed out the rest of the album with a couple of other duets, some Goon-like sketches from Sellers and Loren crooning undemanding but enjoyable fare like *Zoo Be Zoo Be Zoo*. This edition of the album adds more Sellers material produced by Martin and material from films by both Sellers and Loren and includes extensive liner notes.

### MIKE MANDEL

**Sky Music (Vanguard VCD 79409)**



Composer of *Suicide Is Painless* (Theme From *M\*A\*S\*H*)

and the keyboard player for disco hitmakers *The Players Association*, Mike Mandel is an accomplished musician in his own right. This 1978 solo outing is an outstanding example of the funky jazzrock fusion genre which was popular at the time. Despite the presence of a cheesily cheerful take on Billy Joel's *Just The Way You Are*, it is a superior blend of original and covers, with Mandel's own sinewy groove *Pyramids*, the insidious, understated and melodic *As Fine As You Are* and an extended disco-style take on *Steely Dan's Peg* – with a honking sax subbing for Donald Fagen's vocal – the highlights.

Alan Jones