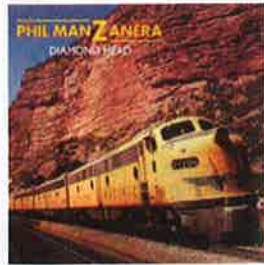




COMMUNICATIONS

RECORD COLLECTOR MARCH 2011



Phil Manzanera

Diamond Head

★★★★

Expression EXPCD 1 R

Quiet Sun

Mainstream

★★★

Expression, cat no tbc

Pet project overload on a break from Roxy

After making four albums with Roxy Music in little more than two-and-a-half years, not to mention touring to promote them, Manzanera was probably due a bit of a holiday in 1974. Instead, he returned to the studio to work on two records simultaneously, referencing both his growing stature as guitarist and his humble teenage beginnings.

Diamond Head is an all-star party, with Robert Wyatt, John

Wetton and various Roxy chums on the guest list; a supergroup in all but name blending avant-garde with more recognisable rock motifs. Wyatt sings the hypnotic Spanish-language opener *Frontera* (which he would later adapt as *Team Spirit* for one of his own albums), while Brian Eno leaves his mark on the acoustic jollity of *Big Day* and the chanting wordiness of *Miss Shapiro*.

Wyatt lived close to Manzanera's school in Dulwich, and inspired Phil the fan to form his first group, *Quiet Sun*, who broke up without making a record when Roxy came calling. They're reunited on *Mainstream*, a collection of jazzy prog that owes much to *Soft Machine* and *The Nice*. It's perhaps a little too busy and wilfully noodling for some ears, but how can you not love an album that includes a song entitled *Mummy Was An Asteroid*, *Daddy Was A Small Non-Stick Kitchen Utensil*? *Terry Staunton*