

Melody Maker

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BADFINGER: “Ass”

G.B.

With this album, Badfinger make their farewell to Apple and depart for a new label, Warner Brothers (a move symbolized by the carrot luring the ass on the record’s cover – unless the hand holding the carrot is George Harrison’s in which case the album’s title becomes alarming self-critical).

The group has never been able to develop a style or personality of its own outside of a rather vapid imitation of Harrison. Their final fling at Apple shows small sings of self-assertion, but patchily, on the last five tracks on side two. The first side is directionless and material is poor. “Apple Of My Eye” is the band’s leave-taking (“Time has come to part”) from the Savile St. Corps, “Get Away” rocks reasonably well, “Icicles” has a Harrison guitar sound (circa “All Things Must Pass”) but the major part of each track is emotionless and spineless. Flipped over “When I Say” has a better feel for sound textures, moving from an acoustic guitar opening it retains a light pretty mood. High harmonies are nice. “Cowboy,” not surprisingly a countryish song, and “I Can Love You”, a stronger approach than usual, just about stand up as worthy tracks. The best comes last, however. “Timeless”, a Pete Ham song, opens with Harrison-like mysticism. It grows into a high, wide and really quite handsome production job. Promising note to end on. Two producers – Chris Thomas and Todd Rundgren – worked with Badfinger. Neither has drawn anything outrageously exciting form the band. Have Badfinger been just another Apple casualty? Only time and Warner Brothers will tell.