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BADFINGER: "Straight Up"

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It seems ironic that WINGS LP and BADFINGER's third, STRAIGHT UP, should be released the same week. It's almost like listening to a before and after "Sgt. Pepper" Beatle album. Of course, the comparisons have always been made between Badfinger and early Beatles, but beyond the obvious lies an ulterior motive – keeping THAT feeling, mood and dream alive in a time when The Beatles have rejected the music that made them.

A sense of deliberate rigidity lies within every song in STRAIGHT UP; all of them employ the same harmonies, dynamics and phrasing (not to mention guitar solos - that The Beatles did years ago. However, for all concerned about conceptual originality, they will have to take a back seat... the music is very good. And anyone who can continue to make a way out of life of an era gone, especially such a productive one, is okay by me.

If only McCartney and Lennon had written some of THESE songs.

Badfinger do have a knack for writing excellent, though very similar material. Their compositions could be singles for other artists, Harry Nilsson's new single, "Without You," is a Badfinger composition from their NO DICE album.

"Day After Day" is a single, of course, and a very good one at that. "Perfection" and "Sometimes" could be singles, but they really fit with all of the other songs in that respect. Let's face it, that is where Badfinger is at, singles, and where they should be.

Their importance lies in their unpretentiousness and commercial potency, That is their message and conclusion.