

# Man and Badfinger: The Adelphi, London

Philip Norman, *The Times*, 27 October 1974

There is a demon which afflicts the most simple-hearted Rock musician when he discovers himself elevated upon a stage. Man are a Welsh band in whose recorded work the best American influences conjoin with discipline and some character. Why, then, at their Adelphi concert, did they seem bent on acquiring a manner as hackneyed as the dreariest of their species? From the lengthy but unintelligible microphone soliloquies to the lead guitarist's amusing wide-brimmed hat, the coma was complete, and it drew the customary disinterested ovation. I feel it to be a sign of doom when musicians cease facing the audience and face each other. It is even worse when they all turn and face the drummer.

The agreeable part of the concert was in finding Badfinger as the support band. Badfinger originated on the Apple label, in the ugliness and waste which surrounded the Beatles' collapse; shortly afterwards they were recorded by George Harrison. These trials they have surmounted to become an affable and unassuming quartet whose music, though simple, coincides often with the heartbeat. Badfinger can make a red guitar sing. Man can only make it nag.