



'Round the Dial: Boogie on, reggae legend

Wednesday 06 December @ 16:06:55

'ROUND THE DIAL



by [TOM HALLETT](#)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "You can't ignore what some bands have done ... I know our record will be in a bin next to Lionel Richie- but so are John Coltrane's, KRS-1's, Boogie Down

Productions', and Public Enemy's." – Zack de la Rocha



SONG OF THE WEEK: "Holy Moses" – The Drams

Heya, folks—now that winter is officially settling in (don't worry—Hell will soon freeze over and we'll all be roasting marshmallows over the up-in-smoke careers of "K-Fed" and Bill O' Reilly), there's no better time to shelter yourself with some tasty new tunes and some tried-and-true old faves. Hence, another column strictly dedicated to gettin' out the music ...



Desmond Dekker
... In Memoriam 1941–2006
2006
Secret Records Limited

The title of this loving homage to the career of the recently passed King Of Ska pretty much says it all here. This excellent collection includes some of the Kingston, Jamaica roots hero's earliest efforts ("007 (Shanty Town)") right on through to some of his seminal later work.

Though the aforementioned "007" was (at the time) a shocking, piercing volley of musical rebellion that was heard not only in the war-torn streets he sang of, but across the world, Dekker always preferred to be dubbed a "reporter" rather than an activist concerning the subjects he covered.

While it's true that the rude boy movement, '70s reggae and the more militant musical movements of some of the more popular variations on the style (Bob Marley's love/freedom/Jah style, etc.) were all inspired by Dekker's work, his songs, production style and personal beliefs set him apart from all who would follow.

The truth is, Dekker's story is a gigantic piece of the history of ska/reggae/rude boy music and should be required reading (and listening) for the curious and anyone who may be operating under the assumption that the form is set in one style, system of beliefs or historical context.

If this collection proves anything, it's that Dekker really was like a musical world reporter—his songs range from first-person experiences and observations to joyful celebrations to dire warnings, and all leave the listener with a nearly unquenchable desire to hear more, learn more, absorb more. Highly recommended. Check it out yourself at secretrecordslimited.com.