

many African and other "world" elements to his fusion (evil term) of jazz and funk and everything else. Here, for I think the first time, he revisits some of the Weather Report classics in a live set with a big band and a couple former WR cronies. "Baida," "A Remark You Made" and many others, plus the legendary "In A Silent Way" he wrote for Miles, here rendered in high-energy, lush grooves. Two cds for the price of one, no less.

Michael Brecker, *Pilgrimage* (Heads Up): The late tenor sax leader, right up there with Rollins, Shorter, Sanders; here with a supergroup of Hancock, Metheny, DeJohnette and more, capping off a career and life with sublime interplay and soloing and rhythms from every corner of the planet and beyond.

All My Loving (MVD Visual dvd): Here in my Haight-Ashbury hometown we are inundated with Summer of Love 40-year nostalgia/marketing, and this BBC document, made in 1968 after a suggestion by John Lennon, given that time might be expected to be all peace and love but no, it's dark, political, probing, even with Cream/Hendrix/McCartney/Who etc. in full flight, Zappa and Pink Floyd and others, along with some shocking/gratuitous Vietnam War footage including a real live murder, render the image ambivalent. It's a piece of genius filmmaking, really, and director Tony Palmer deserved some sort of Oscar, or whatever such award they give in the U.K.

The Space Movie (Voiceprint): And then Palmer made this, in 1979 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the first moonwalk. Starts with JFK announcing the "war on space" or whatever it was/is, jumps back a bit to Sputnik, and then features all sorts of spacy (sorry) footage of Apollo and men on the moon. Appropriate music by Mike Oldfield, of "Tubular Bells" infamy. Fascinating flashback, really, even though we all know the whole moonwalk thing was a hoax.

John Peel, *Margrave of the Marshes* (Chicago Review Press): Peel, of the famous "Peel Sessions," was a "minor princeling of the hippies" as a pioneering U.K. radio dj, who introduced many not only to tons of rock legends but also to reggae and African music. He loved reggae and played new and old stuff throughout his career ('60s un-

til his death in 2004). This is his unfinished autobio, completed by his longtime wife. He recalls every radio dj's nightmare question: "What was the name of that reggae track you played, possibly in the autumn of 1971, that had the word Jah in it?" A good read from/about a good bloke.

Bob Dylan, 1966-1978: *After the Crash* (Chrome Dreams dvd): Part two of a docu-series, this one on Dylan's first two peak eras, from going electric to *Blood on the Tracks* and right up to temporary evangelism. Lots of geeky talking heads and unauthorized, so little Bob himself, but something true Dylan fans will enjoy and learn from.

Country Joe Band, *Turned Up and Turned On* (Secret Films dvd): Here's the great Joe and three out of four of the original Fish, who can't call themselves that now but have all stayed in the music world and play extremely well, revealing in this 2004 live show that their early songs were complex, grooving things. Summer of Love indeed, with political messages that unfortunately still ring true.

Johnny Cash, *The Man, His World, the Music* (Cherry Red dvd): A late 1960s tour documentary of the legendary Man in Black. Playing in prison, with Dylan, with his wife, this is the real thing for those who want to see what that more recent fine film was trying to convey.

Sharon Jones and the Dapt-Kings, *100 Days 100 Nights* (Daptone): A latter-day Aretha belts fine r&b in front of a fine retro-but-current band. A cult following develops among aficionados of soul music and dancers nationwide. Join in. Great music, even if nothing here quite so powerful as her slightly subversive version of "This Land Is Your Land" from their last release.

Eugene Blackwell, *We Can't Take Life for Granted* (Luv N' Haight): Oakland, CA guitarist toils in relative obscurity for decades ('60s-80s) while inspiring the likes of Sly Stone with his heavy, instrumental funk, now coveted by collectors and samplers and compiled here for all to groove. The title reveals him to be a wise man as well.

Fred Katz, *Folk Songs for Far-Out Folk* (Reboot): The best for last? Back in 1959, beatniks building their scene or maybe it was already fading, and budding anthropologist Katz conceived and conducted this "musical triptych of orchestrated jazz based on Hebraic African, and American folk songs." (Katz was into Kabbalah before Madonna was born). Some great musicians (Chico Hamilton, Jim Hall, Paul Horn, etc.) and arrangements that veer from Woody Herman to Terry Riley and back in a flash. Really really really cool. Katz getz the final word(s):

Tradition is a terrible tyrant.

Memory, man.

It's better to live in the moment.

I am eating this sandwich.

Know what I mean?



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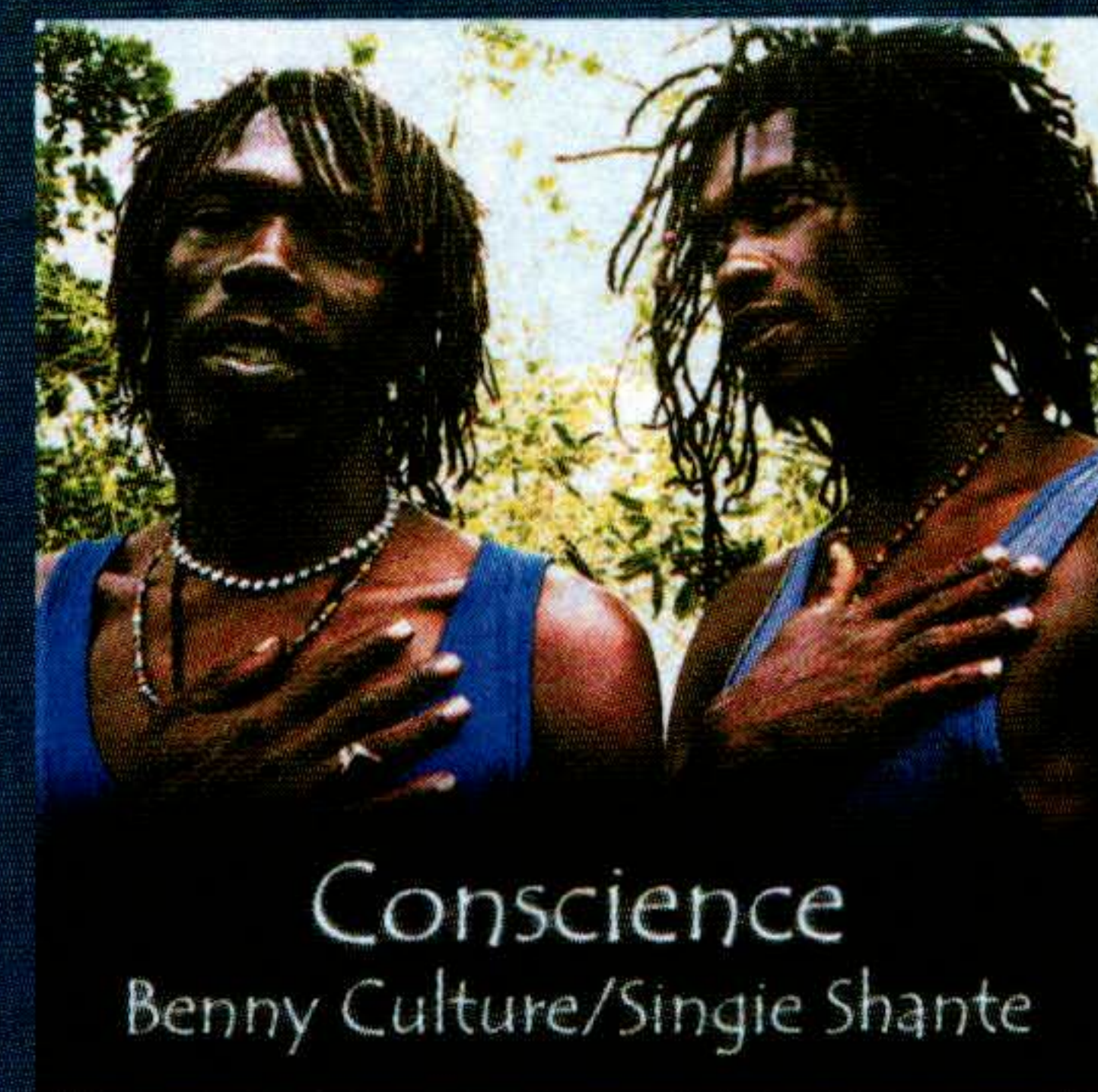
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