

ings are fairly sparse), so composer may welcome the investigate a work rarely seen from completists, this is purchase. [Note: Puccini's only available.] Aud: C, P.

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in the world," and while that label might be a bit specious in Charles' case (there's a lot more blues, R&B, and gospel than rock in the Genius' playing), there's no doubt that having these three guys onstage at once made for a mighty night of music. All were in their fifties at the time, and still in top form (only Charles, who hated hot weather, seems less than thrilled to be there). While their individual sets, including Fats' "Walking to New Orleans" and "Blueberry Hill" and Lewis' "Great Balls of Fire" and "Whole Lotta Shakin' Going On," are not extraordinary, the band that backs them (with players such as drummer Jim Keltner, Rolling Stones guitarist Ron Wood, and keyboardist-musical director Paul Shaffer) is on fire, and the raucous audience is partying—if you'll excuse the anachronism—like it's 1999. The best is saved for last, when Fats, Jerry Lee, and Ray tear the roof off the sucker with some boogie woogie, country ("Jambalaya"), and blues—only three tunes in the 17-song concert, but this hip and joyous ivory-shredding climax is worth the price of admission alone. Presented in Dolby Digital stereo, DVD extras include rehearsal footage and some new and revealing commentary by Shaffer. Recommended. Aud: P. (S. Graham)

Frankie Laine: That Old Lucky Sun ★★★

(1976) 43 min. DVD: \$12.95. Music Video Distributors (avail. from most distributors).



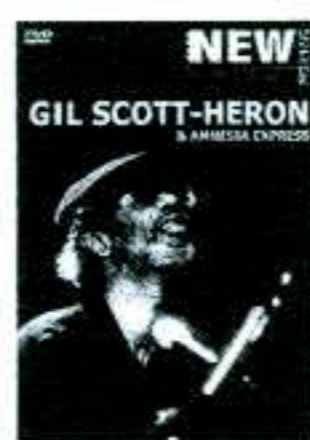
Recorded in England in 1976, this triumphant concert performance by popular vocalist Frankie Laine—who died in February 2007—showcases the unique gifts that made him an appealing performer to multiple generations and a wide variety of listeners. On this 12-song set, Laine comes out swinging with "Lover Come Back to Me," demonstrates on "Love Story" how he can sound both like a country artist and Broadway star, brings back memories of his days as a TV-theme-music slinger with "Rawhide," and grows wistful and plaintive on "That Lucky Old Sun." Elsewhere, Laine is funny and self-effacing, poking fun at his penchant for missing opportunities for hit songs, then gets jaunty on "Dream a Little Dream of Me," gritty on "Your Cheating Heart," and soulful on "You're the Best Thing That Ever Happened to Me." Although "That's My Desire" is an obvious omission, most will appreciate this solid turn—presented in Dolby Digital 5.1—by a legend. Recommended. Aud: P. (T. Keogh)

Gil Scott-Heron & Amnesia Express: New Morning—The Paris Concert ★★★

(2001) 120 min. DVD: \$19.95. Music Video Distributors (avail. from most distributors).

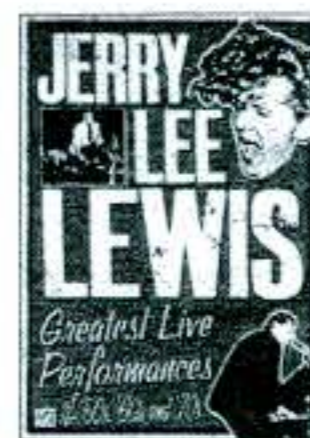
Doing college radio back in the 1970s, a lot of us thought Gil Scott-Heron—who busted

his way onto play lists with his anti-apartheid screed "Johannesburg"—was too cool. Apparently, he still was for this engaging 11-song 2001 Paris concert, which provides a real flavor for what Scott-Heron does best: be cool, but not aloof; angry, but not inaccessible; world-weary, but not jaded. Most of his playing on an old Fender Rhodes consists of noodling back and forth between harmonic chords, while his crack four-piece band fills in the spaces, but his singing remains both rich and expressive. For this Dolby Digital 5.1-presented concert, Scott-Heron performs some of his best-known tunes—you still can hear the rage in "Johannesburg" and the tenderness in "Your Daddy Loves You"—in a show that builds expertly from the first couple of mellow tracks to the spirited closer "The Bottle," with scorching solos from all the band members as Scott-Heron watches, laughing and applauding along with the throng of young Parisians grooving on every note. Recommended. Aud: P. (M. Moore)



Jerry Lee Lewis: Greatest Live Performances of the '50s, '60s and '70s ★★★

(2007) 71 min. DVD: \$19.99. Time Life (avail. from most distributors).



With his unruly hairdos, wildman antics, and lamé jackets, Jerry Lee Lewis rose to prominence at a time when rock 'n' roll fans—restless kids, mostly—didn't quite know what to make of the new sound (it's a gas watching the primitive-looking black-and-white clips of those long-ago teens gathered around Lewis' piano on *Pop Shop* or *The Dick Clark Show* trying to move to the music). Narrated, somewhat gratingly, by Van Haze, *Jerry Lee Lewis: Greatest Live Performances* features 19 songs, ranging from his first televised appearance on July 28, 1957 on *The Steve Allen Show* (where he performed "Whole Lotta Shakin' Going On") to various appearances during the 1970s on *Pop Goes the Country* (including a rendition of "Me and Bobby McGee"). As Lewis became more and more popular, his band and bookings both got bigger, but very little about The Killer himself ever changed: the man was not so much a great singer or musician as an outlandish and exciting performer who brought a lot of youngsters into the rock 'n' roll fold. This collection documents Lewis' rise and subsequent fadeout with surprisingly good sound (given the age of the clips and the original recording technology) on hits such as "Great Balls of Fire," "Breathless," and "You Win Again." Sure to be appreciated by hardcore Jerry Lee fans, this is recommended. Aud: P. (M. Moore)