

having the whole story. Can you imagine how big a Heart biography would be if you were able to track down every former member? A discography (and an index) would have been nice, too.

The Wilsons are frank about the ups and downs of life in a top rock band. Heart wasn't known for its offstage excesses, but the Wilsons admit substance use and abuse was nonetheless part of their story – and enough of a problem that Ann is now clean and sober. Nancy also reveals that despite its longevity, her relationship with director Cameron Crowe wasn't as rosy as it seemed on the outside (the two divorced in 2010).

What comes through the most is the sisters' dedication to doing things their way. The band's comeback in the 1980s was bittersweet for the two; though going along with their record company's advice led to a string of hits, the Wilsons ultimately decided to follow their own musical inclinations instead of angling for chart placings. And that didn't hurt the band. Heart is one of the few bands to have a Top 10 album in four different decades (1970s, 1980s, 1990s, and 2010), and it has been inducted into the Rock And Roll Hall Of Fame.

– Gillian G. Gaar



BIG BROTHER AND THE HOLDING COMPANY
CHEAP THRILLS
Columbia (vinyl)

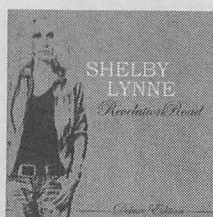
★★★★★

The best part about this 180-gram vinyl edition of "Cheap Thrills" is it's glorious mono, sourced from the original mono master.

Though "Pearl" is Joplin's most successful album, due at least in part to being the first album released after her death, many fans have an equal fondness for her work on "Cheap Thrills," which, while giving Joplin her breakthrough, marked the beginning of the end for Big Brother & The Holding Company. It's an iconic artifact of the period (originally released in 1968), from the Robert Crumb artwork on the cover to the introduction of band by the announcer: "Four gentlemen and one great, great, broad."

This is a great album to have in a mono mix. The vocals are more prominent, and the music is overall more forceful, particularly the guitar, which makes "Combination of the Two," really come to life. The album is known for two of Joplin's best-ever performances ("Piece of My Heart" and "Ball and Chain"), but the clarity is such that you'll get a new appreciation for how well Joplin lets the final note of "Summertime" trail away and feel like you're right there in the bar with her on "Turtle Blues." It all helps make "Cheap Thrills" the kind of album that begs you to turn up the volume. Anyone who's already a fan of this classic work won't be disappointed with the mono mix of the album.

– Gillian G. Gaar



SHELBY LYNNE
REVELATION ROAD DELUXE EDITION
Everso (2 CDs)

★★★★★

If Shelby Lynne had no demons, music fans would not have

Shelby Lynne. The singer-songwriter bleeds for all who listen; Lynne's art is like an open wound. Her deeply personal music is so revealing, so compelling, yet imbued with such mystery and subtlety, that one is drawn into her web with the kind of wonder and awe typically reserved for the greats.

This deluxe edition of her brilliant "Revelation Road" (aptly named, for she finally writes and sings about the subjects in her life that heretofore she refused to publicly discuss), comes complete with the 11-track original album, plus five acoustic bonus tracks. There's a mini-documentary on the making of the album, where the viewer is a fly on the wall as she creates her masterpiece. And there are two concerts – her first live releases. What "DVD Live In London" lacks in the clarity and sound sophistication of the CD "Live At McCabe's," it more than makes up for with five more songs and the visual of an obviously grateful yet tortured artist pouring it on.

– Mike Greenblatt



HARRY NILSSON AND RINGO STARR
THE POINT
MVD Visual (DVD)

★★★★★

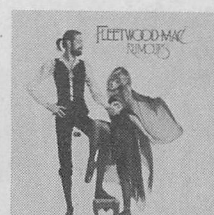
"The Point" is Harry Nilsson's fable about a little boy who's different – but learns that being different doesn't really make much

difference in the end.

The animated film, which first aired on TV in 1971, told the story of Oblio, a boy who lives in the "Land of Point," who's eventually banished for not having a pointed head. But while exiled in the Pointless Forest, he learns that everything does have a point of one kind or another – a bit of a labored pun perhaps, but the underlying message is one of tolerance. Nilsson wrote all the songs for the film (and the accompanying album), the best known of which is probably "Me and My Arrow," due to its use in a Plymouth car commercial.

Even at 74 minutes, the film feels a bit long, taking too much time to get to the, um, point. Though released in the early '70s, a psychedelic influence still lingers from the previous decade in the dream sequences. It's no surprise to learn that the idea for the story came to Nilsson while he was on an acid trip. This "Definitive Collector's Edition" is narrated by Ringo Starr, and it features four short featurettes.

– Gillian G. Gaar



FLEETWOOD MAC
RUMOURS
Warner Bros. (3-CD deluxe edition)

★★★★★

Three romantic relationships (two within the quintet) were

simultaneously ending, so Big Mac had plenty to write and sing about on 1977's "Rumours" – deservedly one of the world's most popular albums ever at 40 million-plus units sold to date. And night after night, they musically told each other where to get off with lines like "I'm just second hand news," "Go your own way," "Damn your love. Damn your lies," and worse.

The British blues revival had fused with California folk-rock for the band's previous LP, 1975's "Fleetwood Mac," as Lindsay Buckingham and Stevie Nicks of little-known Buckingham Nicks joined Christine McVie, John McVie and Mick Fleetwood. The result was three lead vocalists and authors so different that textures shifted from song to song, but without sacrificing cohesion. The ethereal aura of Nicks's soprano was balanced by the bedrock solace of Christine's alto.

On this more-or-less 35th anniversary expanded edition, a CD of 16 demos starts with Buckingham's quiet solo "Second Hand News" in contrast with the song's charging harmonies that burst open the '77 LP. And we're treated to his filigree acoustic guitar notes for "Never Going Back Again" as a charming solo instrumental.

Christine McVie tells the band how to construct "Oh Daddy's" arrangement. A song that didn't make the album, Nicks' "Doesn't Anything Last" could stand next to contemporary 20-somethings' neo-trad hillbilly harmonizing or even a vintage Everly Brothers single. The bonus tracks don't repeat those on "Rumours'" 2004 two-CD expanded version (whose booklet's photos and text were stronger, though the 2013 set's bonus cuts are generally more interesting). Compiled from four 1977 concerts, a third disc's 11 songs include three from "Fleetwood Mac," such as an extended "World Turning" that lets the band flex its blues muscles. Christine McVie's comforting "Songbird" ends the show perfectly, just as it sublimely closed Side 1 of the "Rumours" LP – a nice touch that was lost when the two-sided LP became a one-sided CD. Mac fans with bucks may opt for the deluxe (\$99.98) 2013 reissue, which also offers the original album on 140-gram vinyl, the 2004 reissue's bonus disc, and "Rosebud," a 30-minute DVD from 1977 that's strong on songs and brief talk and clean of glitz, clichés and hype.

"Rumours" was a record born of emotional turmoil – the inspiration for plenty of visual art and music over the years. Are there moments when the one you love most fills your heart with hurt or anger? If you want something more rocking than Hank Williams, turn to "Rumours."

– Bruce Sylvester