



Choice Cuts by Eric Harabadian

Chris Difford, *Cashmere if You Can* (SMMC Media Ltd., SMMC1):

Here's the latest product from former Squeeze co-leader Chris Difford. '80s British rockers Squeeze wrote brilliantly clever and wry little ditties, with a tad bit of bite. It's nice to see that singer-songwriter Difford has lost none of his literary edge over the years. This disc is kind of conceptual in that the U.K. vocalist reflects on his life as a musician, beginning in the '70s, choices he made along the way and ruminates on his friends, family and present day status. "1975" kicks off the disc with a bouncy T.Rex meets early David Bowie vibe. Here Difford recalls his formative pub days atop crunchy tuneful guitars. "Like I Did" follows with a lighthearted yet wise parental observation where one's seemingly misspent youth is relived through the children. "Sidney Street" is a sweet and tender recollection of the sacrifices Difford's father made as a soldier during WWII and beyond. "Wrecked" is another slice of life focusing on the folly of dreaming one's life away in a drug-filled haze set to an appropriately languid and surreal beat. "Happy Once Again" concludes the album where the leader comes to terms with his life and reconvenes with a long lost friend—himself. The song has a John Lennon/Randy Newman-esque irony that caps the record's "memory lane" theme on a pleasant note. Who said poetry in modern pop and rock is dead? ; For mature and voracious music lovers everywhere!