



MARCH, 1980

ALI THOMSON

There's a restless spirit about Ali Thomson—a young man in perpetual motion.

Hardly surprising when you consider that, at 21, he's already had a career in the music industry, played in a rock and roll band, lived in California, written songs with rock luminaries, and written, performed and produced his own debut album for A&M Records, aptly titled *Take A Little Rhythm*. The album well represents Ali's spirit—constant movement.

Perhaps the drive stems from birth and childhood in Glasgow, a great place to nurture ambition. Like so many young guys from the Glasgow area, Ali was singing by the age of five and fronting bands by his early teens. But unlike so many others, he escaped by mid-teens and made his way to London to join a peculiarly Scottish outfit called Mountain Records where he progressed from office boy to publicist in short order. He was exposed to the likes of the Sensational Alex Harvey Band and started to write songs of some meaning with Hugh McKenna from Alex's band; one of which, "The Hollywood Role" has survived to his own album.

Ali himself is very proficient on acoustic guitar, bass guitar, keyboards and percussion (he played all these on the album) and, if pressed, a little drums.

A band with McKenna, like a million others, didn't work out for a thousand reasons, so Ali took himself off to California for nearly a year where he absorbed the West Coast influences. Eventually, by good fortune, he ended up in the hands of one of England's top music publishers, Bob Grace of Rondor Music. Bob heard and believed in Ali's songs. Bob had him sit down with a number of Rondor's major writers in order to broaden Ali's outlook and even had the young writer jump a plane back to Los Angeles to sit down and write with mega-platinum star Gary Wright (remember "Dream Weaver"?). When he returned to England Bob suggested that his demonstration song tapes were worthy of pursuing an artist's recording contract. A&M Records agreed instantly—and since Ali's always wanted to be a performer rather than just a songwriter—all was right with the world.

The result is heard on *Take A Little Rhythm*.



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