



APRIL 1984

STYX

There is very little that Styx hasn't accomplished since joining the A&M roster some nine years ago. Of the seven albums the Chicago-based quintet has recorded for the label, four are triple platinum sellers, two are double platinum and one is gold. Styx has been one of the world's most popular and successful touring acts, creating live shows that have been both commercial and artistic triumphs. They have also been responsible for some of rock's most innovative video productions. With the release of *Caught In The Act*, their eighth A&M album, Styx has added yet another impressive notch in their belt. This two-record collection captures live some of their best and most well-known material and features one new studio track.

"We've been thinking about doing a live album for several years," says Dennis DeYoung, "but we kept putting it off as long as we were creating new material. After (1983's) *Kilroy Was Here*, which was a large undertaking, we thought a brief respite was in order. For one thing, Tommy, J.Y. (James Young) and I have begun working on solo albums. So we decided it was time for a live retrospective that would include our most popular songs with the public, along with some that were popular with the band."

The lead track on *Caught In The Act* (and the album's first single) is "Music Time," a new tune written by DeYoung. Recorded late last year at Chicago's Pumpkin Studios, "Music Time" and its accompanying video reveal Styx's lighter side.

"The song's lyrics are fun and up," DeYoung observes, "and the video fits them. It's silly, sort of like Styx meets the Three Stooges. We did it for fun, partly as a reaction to the seriousness of *Kilroy*. As serious-minded as we are about our music, there is also a lighter side to this band."

The live portion of *Caught In The Act* includes at least one song from all seven of Styx's A&M studio albums: *Equinox* ("Suite Madame Blue"); *Crystal Ball* (the title song); *The Grand Illusion* ("Miss America," "Fooling Yourself" and "Come Sail Away"); *Pieces Of Eight* ("Blue Collar Man"); *Cornerstone* ("Babe"); *Paradise Theatre* ("Too Much Time On My Hands," "Snowblind," "The Best Of Times" and "Rockin' The Paradise") and *Kilroy Was Here* ("Mr. Roboto" and "Don't Let It End").

"In structuring this record, we wanted every album to be represented by at least one song," says DeYoung, "but it wasn't our only consideration. Certain songs tend to fit better than others on a live album," he adds. "For instance, 'Snowblind' was a good live performance. But it's also an important Styx song, because of all the crazy accusations that were made about backwards-masking of lyrics on the *Paradise Theatre* album. So *Caught In The Act* isn't simply a collection of hit singles."

Last year's *Kilroy Was Here* tour, during which the live album was recorded, was Styx's most ambitious yet, incorporating spoken dialogue, multiple set shifts and numerous costume changes. For a complete representation of Styx, fans will want to check out the band's new *Caught In The Act* video, shot during two shows in New Orleans. The 87 minute video, like the *Caught In The Act* album, contains live versions of Styx's most memorable songs. Opening with a 10-minute dramatic film directed by Brian ("Breaking Glass") Gibson, the video features conceptual and live performances. In addition to many of the songs on the album, the video includes performances of "Heavy Metal Poisoning," "Cold War," "Renegade" and "Haven't We Been Here Before."

The *Caught In The Act* video is the first product to be issued by A&M's new independent home video label, A&M Video. "The video really captures what we were trying to do on that tour," DeYoung explains. "It isn't just five guys standing on a stage playing their songs. It's a true representation of a theatrical performance—and like the live album, it incorporates many of our most popular songs. Between the album and the video, we think this is some of the best work Styx has ever done."

Styx: Dennis DeYoung, Chuck Panozzo, John Panozzo, Tommy Shaw and James Young.

