

Various Artists

Bob Dylan Uncovered
Paradiddle Records

If you're a serious music fan – as many who work at this particular publication are – you have an album or two that you consider a classic even if the rest of the world doesn't even know about it. Perhaps it was an indie band or a bargain bin cutout or simply a demo made by a friend. You don't even care if anyone else knows anything about it; you just know you love the music so much that if you were about to be stranded on a desert island, you'd be saddened if you couldn't take it along.

So it is with great pleasure that we introduce you to *Bob Dylan Uncovered*, a new independent disc from the Huntington-based Paradiddle Records, a small label founded by Bill Herman and Tom Crawford for the best reason we can think of: They love Long Island music just for the music. That's readily apparent when listening to this new release, which is as close to sheer perfection as any locally produced record we've ever heard. There's not a bad song, note, or moment on it – it looks and sounds as if it were released by a major label – and if this isn't designated by virtually everyone as the best locally produced CD this year, we just might give up and open a fish store.

Produced by Herman, Crawford, and Bill Sperl and recorded at Islandia's Arti Studios, *Uncovered* takes the hard route by retooling some of Bob Dylan's more obscure songs, all done by artists who seem to revere the master songwriter as much as the producers obviously do. Right at the moment

we thought Long Island would be forever lost to insipid tribute bands, whiny emo groups, and aging classic rock cover acts comes this true work of originality and actual musicality. Miracles, thankfully, do happen.

Highlights include the opener "If You Gotta Go, Go Now" by Cadillac Moon, a veteran act that certainly sounds soulful these days with the addition of vocalist Leslie Zimei; an amazing turn by an even more veteran act, The Little Wilson Band, which offers the best version of "It Takes A Lot To Laugh, It Takes A Train To Cry" ever recorded; an entirely new, bluesy way of looking at "Tangled Up In Blue" by The Walkers; and a gorgeous version of "Masters Of War" by the equally gorgeous Denise Donahue.

Since there isn't a bad track on the record, it's only fair to note that Russ Seeger, Drew Olson, Caroline Doctorow,

Marc Andrew, The Lone Sharks, The Don Olsen Gang, Iridesense, Codiak, and Johnny Cuomo are excellent, one and all. This is more than a money grab or publicity stunt by local hacks; this is an amazing achievement by the cream of local music professionals that certainly does Dylan proud in the legend's 65th birthday year. Congratulations, one and all; you've made a classic record that will be played and talked about for years to come.

For more on this record or to learn how to obtain a copy of *Bob Dylan Uncovered*, log on to paradiddlerecords.com.

– Syl Nathan

