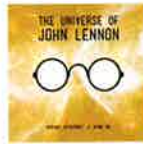


PROPERGANDA

Michel Occhipinti & Shine On

The Universe Of John Lennon

TRUE NORTH TND566



THE GUITARIST AND HIS FELLOW

Canadians – a light, tight fusion band with trumpet and a selection of singers – draw attention through sensitive playing and interesting arrangements to

some of the joys in the Lennon canon that we might have forgotten. *I Am The Walrus* shouldn't work as a sinuous groover but it sounds just fine, *Instant Karma!* has a taut Indie swing, while even *Working Class Hero* turns out plausible, partly because it's sung by Elizabeth Shepherd and so further distanced from the male-voiced original, partly because Occhipinti gives it jungle percussion and a Fender Rhodes stoked chug. *Girl* also gets a fresh rhythmic twist. The real stand-outs are the most beguiling melodies: *I'm Only Sleeping*, which trips along quickly with a jazz waltz rhythm on the verse, and *Across The Universe* with its dreamy guitar mix of sustain, chorus and harmonics. The final masterstroke is leaving out that dull, overplayed drone called *Imagine*. **PB**