CRABBY APPLETON
Crabbey Appleton
Main in The Moon (MTMCD331)
It doesn’t get more ‘cult’ than this, a group fronted by Millennium’s Michael Fennelly, and an exemplar of a US rock genre that embraced everything Britbeat as well as (US) Left Coast. This 1970 set opens with a kick-ass, power-chord, juggernaut-drumming masterpiece called ‘Go Back’ that will resonate with anyone who loves the sort of music which filled the original Nuggets compilation. But one track alone is not enough and it’s atypical. From there on, CA embraced psychedelia, some baroque, lots of cheesy Farfisa-ish organ wheezing – a treat for those who love power pop and (garage band) punk. Also out is the fine sequel, Rotten To The Core (MTMCD332). KK

Sound Quality: 85%

FLEETWOOD MAC
Fleetwood Mac
Rempte 081227940768 (three CDs + DVD + (P)
Following the multi-CD anniversary set of The Eagles’ Hotel California, another audiophile fave from 1975-6 appears in deluxe form. This gave us ‘Monday Morning’, ‘Rhiannon’, ‘Over My Head’ and eight others you couldn’t avoid at shows, presented in a 12x12in slipcase containing three CDs with a remastered version of the original album, single mixes, previously unreleased demos, live performances from 1975 and 1976 and – crucially – a DVD with 5.1 surround and 96kHz/24-bit stereo mixes of the original album and four singles. Oh, and the LP remastered on 180g vinyl. Throw in a splendid booklet, and you have their milestone in its ultimate form. KK

Sound Quality: 90%

THE MONKEES
More Of The Monkees
Rhino Records RZ 560125 (three CDs + 7in single)
Rhino’s fourth deluxe Monkees box, this 50th Anniversary (51st, to be accurate) remastering of the second LP again shocks doubters thanks to all the bonus material. The album is on CD1 in mono and stereo, with eight bonus tracks, while CDs 2 and 3 provide 59 alternates, outtakes, live tracks and much more – 91 in all! Add to this a 7in single with two more rare items and it’s a feast. This is the album that delivered ‘Mary, Mary’, ‘(I’m Not Your) Steppin’ Stone’ and the astounding ‘Daydream Believer’. Best session players, best songwriters – and still they were derided despite some of the most remarkable pop music ever produced. A guilty pleasure no longer. KK

Sound Quality: 85%

TONY SHERIDAN
Tony Sheridan and Opus 3 Artists
Opus 3 CD24003 (stereo SACD)
If the name rings no bells, then you aren’t a hardcore Beatles fan: Sheridan was the singer backed by The Fab Four on their first-ever recordings. This matters because Sheridan co-wrote a song with the young McCartney, ‘Tell Me If You Can’, and it kicks off this superb SACD. This is (I think) only the second time it’s been recorded, the first time was in 2004 by Zounds. That’s enough for some of us to want this showcase for Opus 3 artists, but it is also a tribute to Sheridan, who died in 2013. That lovely, warm, open Opus 3 sound, with plenty of air and space, fine musicianship, frames Sheridan’s compositions which are, it turns out, mighty fine. Who knew? A hard-rocker turned singer-songwriter troubadour. A joy. KK

Sound Quality: 95%