

Back to the 60s



THE BEST OF RICHIE HAVENS

Richie Havens

Review: MARILYN

BERNARD

STRANGE how one associates this legend with rescuing the organisers of Woodstock in '69.

Havens was fifth on this bill but had to go one stage first as no other performers or equipment had arrived, due to roads being blocked by fans. He was on stage for three hours.

Richie's fast strumming action produces a distinctive style which sets him apart from the rest.

Of the 17 tracks on this CD, I have a fair amount of personal favourites including *Dolphins*, a clear acoustic cross rhythms live recording version.

Then there are the oldies - *Here Comes the Sun* (the old Beatles song) with Joseph Price doing a great job on

the congas and *The Klan*, typical Havens sound. *Handsome Johnny* is a must to tap your foot to and go forward on the long hard road to *Follow*, an enjoyable ballad with beautiful words. The Medley: *RunShakerLife/Do You Feel Good* is a chant with many harmonising voices and this is where Havens really gets to test his range.

What About Me, written by Dino Valenti of Quicksilver Messenger Service is also a winner, with good clear vocals, guitar and some pleasant lead from Paul Williams.

In another oldie, The Beatles' *Rocky Raccoon*, Havens runs his words in such a way you wonder whether he'll fit in with the next bar - always a favourite even the Havens way - and then of course there's *Freedom* a must from the legend.

Most of us know this one, close your eyes, picture yourself amongst 400 000 and it 's the 60's again - say no more.