

## BLIND FAITH

Self-titled Deluxe Edition

(Polydor)

Thirty-one years after rock's first "supergroup" imploded in a swirl of frustrated expectations and lost opportunities, Polydor has released the "deluxe edition" of Blind Faith's one and only album — a collection that is every bit as maddening as the group itself. The company remasters the six basic tracks on the original 1969 album, giving new life to the great "Can't Find My Way Home" and "Well, All Right," the masterful remake of the Buddy Holly classic.

Yet the remastering manages mostly to highlight the inadequacy of the rest of the songs, particularly the bloated 15-minute jam "Do What You Like."

The main selling point of the new edition is almost 1½ hours of songs that didn't make it into the final album. Some, such as the two covers of the blues standard "Sleeping in the Ground," are better than most of the stuff on the official album. Others, such as the five lengthy untitled jam sessions (none shorter than 12 minutes), are interesting only for their late-1960s dreaminess — music strictly for those who did inhale.

Unfortunately, most of the best rare tracks have appeared elsewhere on retrospectives of the band leaders, Eric Clapton and Steve Winwood. The new collection also inexplicably leaves off the two "bonus tracks" included on the original 1986 Blind Faith CD release.

Add to that a mind-numbingly complete set of new liner notes (including an endless and nearly minute-by-minute chronology of the short-lived band), and you have the recipe for a collection that will appeal only to the dwindling band of Blind Faith devotees. — Sean Scully

"Now Hear This"  
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