

RUSH

Alex Lifeson (guitar), Geddy Lee (bass, vocals), Neil Peart (drums).

A Canadian three-piece band, Rush's somewhat derivative music is supplemented by fantasy-oriented lyrics. While Led Zeppelin pay occasional homage to Tolkien (for example, "*'Twas in the darkest depths of Mordor I met a girl so fair, but Gollum and the Evil One crept up and slipped away with her*" — from 'Ramble On'), Rush really pull out the stops. On their second album, 'Fly By Night' a track called 'By-Tor And The Snow Dog' tells the story of an epic battle between good and evil, and their beautifully-titled third LP 'Caress Of Steel' has a whole side devoted to the many-faceted tale 'The Fountain Of Lamneth'.

Rush, who have been together since 1970, are by no stretch of the imagination breaking new ground with their music — who but a select few bands in this feature are, anyway? — but they have an attractive, somewhat naive sound and charm. Guitarist Alex Lifeson is thoroughly



competent and bassist, vocalist Geddy Lee is another Plant soundalike, although his phrasing is much his own.

As yet, I think I'm right in saying, no Rush album except 'Fly By Night' has been fully distributed in Britain, but the others are well worth scouring the import shops for. The band's new LP should be available in such outlets soon — called '2112', it's apparently some sort of rock opera set in the year, yes, you guessed it, 2112.

A British tour? Maybe this year, maybe not.

Recommended album: 'Caress Of Steel' (Mercury SRM-1-1046).