

The Doobie Brothers

The Captain & Me

★★★★

Speakers Corner/Warner BS-2694

The album with the hits still has that wax factor



They might not have been brothers, nor were they really called Doobie, but this 1973

release was the band's finest slice of country-rock. When it was released, the band were still in their pre-Michael McDonald, pre-light funk/jazz mode. As such, *The Captain & Me* is dominated by the worthy blend of Patrick Simmons and Tom Johnston's songwriting talent. The pair's later solo careers were failures but, working as a team in the Doobies, they shone with tracks such as Long Train Runnin', China Grove and Evil Woman. With a mixture of harmonic frailties and hard rock sensibilities, this album would continue the band's upward curve, towards the pinnacle of 1978's *Minute By Minute*.