Red Hot Reissues of AIDS Benefit Albums From the 1990s

Five albums from the series will be released digitally. Remixes of Neneh Cherry's 1990 take on "I've Got You Under My Skin" are out now.

October 2, 2020 By Trent Straube

It has been three decades since the album Red Hot + Blue was released to raise funds for HIV/AIDS. A compilation of Cole Porter covers by megastars such as Debbie Harry, U2 and Annie Lennox, the album sold over 1 million copies, spanned nearly 20 follow-up compilations and raised millions to fight the epidemic. To mark the 30th anniversary, the Red Hot Organization is digitally reissuing Red Hot + Blue on December 1, World AIDS Day. Several other titles will be released afterward.

“Red Hot + Blue” is one of five albums to be reissued from the Red Hot AIDS music benefit series that launched in 1990.Courtesy of Red Hot Organization

Six remixes from Neneh Cherry’s take on Cole Porter’s “I’ve Got You Under My Skin,” including a retooled version of the original video by Jean-Baptiste Mondino, are out now (watch the video above; find links to the remixes via Ingrooves).

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“Sharing love, being hopeful, being passionate is the things that’s really gonna get us through. Those are the emotions that sort of stimulate positive attitude, and probably more important than anything else.” - @nenehcherryofficial preaching the FACT during the AIDS pandemic in the 90s. “I’ve Got You Under My Skin” remixes will be available on streaming platforms on Sep 25th for the first time in 30 years. Please stay tuned for more announcements from us. #UnderMySkin #AIDSBenefit #HIVAwareness

A post shared by Red Hot Organization (@redhotorg) on Sep 17, 2020 at 11:36am PDT

“For those of us living in New York 30 years ago, HIV/AIDS was as devastating as COVID-19 is today,” John Carlin, Red Hot’s president and cofounder, told Rolling Stone. “But what made Red Hot + Blue so impactful and different was that it celebrated life and the power of music and art to lift people up during dark times.

“Red Hot pioneered using pop culture for social change—good propaganda—to fight for LGBTQ rights and to promote safer sex,” he continued. “Thirty years ago, it was condoms, today it’s masks. And we raised millions of dollars through album sales and gave it away in ways that no one else was doing at the time—such as almost $1 million to ACT UP, which was the only significant outside donation they received and helped them and the affiliated group, TAG (Treatment Action Group), bring the drugs to market that have let people with HIV live normal lives ever since.”

Four other albums being reissued include

- Red Hot + Bothered (an indie rock anthology), from 1995

Courtesy of Red Hot Organization

- Offbeat—A Red Hot Sound Trip (a music compilation companion piece to the multimedia release The Beat Experience about Beat Culture), from 1996

Courtesy of Red Hot Organization

- Silencio = Muerto: Red Hot + Latin (which focuses on HIV in Latin communities in the United States and South America), from 1997

Courtesy of Red Hot Organization

- Red Hot + Indigo (a tribute to Duke Ellington), from 2001

Courtesy of Red Hot Organization

The Red Hot Organization will release more gems from its vault between now and World AIDS Day, December 1. For more information about the reissues and the nonprofit, visit RedHot.org.

Red Hot + Blue Track List

“I’ve Got You Under My Skin”—Neneh Cherry

“In the Still of the Night”—The Neville Brothers

“You Do Something to Me”—Sinéad O’Connor

“Begin the Beguine”—Salif Keita

“Love for Sale”—Fine Young Cannibals

“Well Did You Evah!”—Debbie Harry & Iggy Pop

“Miss Otis Regrets/Just One of Those Things”—The Pogues & Kirsty MacColl

“Don’t Fence Me In”—David Byrne

“It’s All Right With Me”—Tom Waits

“Ev’ry Time We Say Goodbye”—Annie Lennox

“Night and Day”—U2

“I Love Paris”—Les Negresses Vertes

“So in Love”— k.d. lang

“Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?”—Thompson Twins

“Too Darn Hot”—Erasure

“I Get a Kick Out of You”—Jungle Brothers

“Down in the Depths”—Lisa Stansfield

“From This Moment On”—Jimmy Somerville

“After You, Who?”—Jody Watley

“Do I Love You?”—Aztec Camera

Editor’s note: This article was updated to include the new release date: December 1, which marks World AIDS Day.

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