

obvious stadium contenders like Deacon Blue and Del Amitri.

However, the canny Glaswegian's apparently radio-friendly soft rock claws you in after repeated plays and infuses 'Satellites' with that singularly addictive warmth that also cocooned the two previous Dish platters, 'Swimmer' and '88's 'Creeping Up On Jesus'.

The single, 'Miss America' leads the way, with Warne Livesey's immaculate production and Lindsay's yearning vocals well to the fore. Thanks to an uncluttered arrangement, slickness doesn't seep in but tracks like 'State Of The Union' do get bogged down with additional saxes and gratuitous feedback that only serve to blur the limits of the melody.

'Satellites' other major drawback is its final coupling - 'Bonafide' and 'Learn To Love' are unconvincing, strut-along rock and an overwrought attempt at big ballad territory respectively, though the remaining sextet of songs are a substantial compensation.

'Give Me Some Time' is a retreat to Lindsay's country preoccupation, although with Brian McFie's bluesy, Robert Cray guitar musing it's ultimately both soulful and sedate,

while '25 Years' satisfies rockin' tendencies with additional slide guitar and a hint of the Hothouse Flowers. Perhaps the most immediate song, meanwhile, is 'Big Town': a tale of beckoning bright lights and cinematic images wrapped in a swingin' chorus.

Accordingly, 'Satellites' assists The Big Dish in re-entering their true pop flight path after a few navigational difficulties. This time the sky need not be their limit.

Tim Peacock

THE BIG DISH

'Satellites'

(East West) *1/2**

A PRIME purveyor of sophisticated songwriting methods. Big Dish leader Steve Lindsay is always liable to suffer from the same slings and arrows directed at Scotland's more