

In the October 24 issue of *Rolling Stone*, there is bittersweet news of Van Morrison's classic *Moondance* album, among his greatest 3 or 4 albums, hence a great album overall. He was engaged in contract disputes with Warner brothers at the time of *Astral Weeks*—his greatest—and *Moondance* (1970), and as soon as he could, he left them, but they own all the rights, including the remastering and remaking, inasmuch as Van is still so pissed at them that he will not have anything to do with them. He has resisted a box set for many years, but will be over-ridden tomorrow when a 2-disc "expanded version" with outtakes will be released, as well as a remixed single volume and larger 5-disc set. And his website says: "I did not endorse this...My management company at that time gave this music away 42 years ago, and now I feel as though it's being stolen from me again."

What's a Vanatic to do? He does not want to have anything to do with these projects, but those of us who love his work want the additional music and options. I, for one, will split the difference and have ordered the 2-disc event, but will not buy the 5-disc version. Have a listen yourself to these snippets from RS: <http://www1.rollingstone.com/hearitnow/player/vanm.html> .

Even under the poor royalty structure contract he signed then, he will get royalties from any of these works. But I love him too much to sit on the sidelines, even if I am endorsing the situation, of sorts. As I have noted before, many artists, including the then-unsuccessful solo artist Van, sign bad deals, and Warner had no way to know that they would be getting two such brilliant albums from him. I only wish that he had been involved in the remix. I think I am navigating the right path, and look forward to the whole new experience.

Michael