

# discs

## WHAT'S HOT, WHAT'S NOT

### OMD

*"History of Modern"*  
(*Bright Antenna*)

**Grade: A-**

Long thought dead or at least

creatively dormant, OMD (formerly Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark) is back. A key part of the English synth-pop wave of the '80s, key players Andy McCluskey and synthist Paul Humphreys have re-emerged with their first album in 14 years. Their music remains graceful and elegiac. Think Pet Shop Boys, Depeche Mode, New Order. "Modern" begins with the edgy, catchy "New Babies: New Toys" (the track to **download**) and closes with a hidden track, their reconfiguration of Aretha Franklin's "Save Me." Oft somber and stately, occasionally percolating, this is timeless music. What would have been a great album in the mid-'80s is that now. — JIM SULLIVAN

