

## SHELF SPACE

CDs

### "HISTORY OF MODERN," **ORCHESTRAL MANOEUVRES IN THE DARK:**

With its ironic title and minimalist cover art, it would be easy to mis-



take this for a retrospective of the arty '80s British band. First surprise: It's new.

Second surprise: It's memorable and moving, '80s synth pop tweaked with '00s studio technique. While "If You Want It" recalls the hit "If You Leave," the overall tone is melancholy, as the history of modern points to a present without much future. At the end, the Aretha-sampling "Save Me" sounds like a prayer.

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Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark

## Orchestral Manoeuvres In the Dark

**A-** *History of Modern*  
Bright Antenna/ILG  
For the first OMD studio album in a very long 14 years, mainstays Andy McCluskey

MUSICALLY SPEAKING



**MARIO TARRADELL**  
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and Paul Humphreys  
combined the synthesized

experimentation of the early days with the pop song craftsmanship of the mid '80s. The results are ethereal and danceable, melodic and entrancing. Winners abound, but let's mention "If You Want It," "New Holy Ground," the two-part title track and "Save Me," a glorious slice of European disco-soul that mashes up OMD's "Messages" from 1980 and Aretha Franklin's "Save Me" from 1967.