

REVIEWS

DAVID BOWIE

STATIONTOSTATIONDAVIDBOWIE

*Station to Station*

[EMI]

REISSUE

"I've rocked my roll," David Bowie declared in April 1975. "It's a boring dead end. There will be no more rock 'n' roll records or tours from me." Observers at the time regarded this as one of the mercurial artist's periodic "retirements," from which he always quickly emerged, but in another light he was being entirely truthful. The album he began later that year, *Station to Station*, isn't rock 'n' roll, precisely. Working in Los Angeles with producer Harry Maslin and a studio band that included guitarist Carlos Alomar and E Street Band keyboardist Roy Bittan, Bowie hammered out a sound that still sounds like the shape of things to come. The funky "Golden Years" stakes out familiar ground, but tracks like the throbbing 10-minute title cut found Bowie pushing boldly into uncharted territory. *Station to Station* was recorded at the nadir of the artist's 1970s drug addiction (he claims to remember almost nothing about the sessions), and songs like "Word on a Wing" reflect his sense of confusion and yearning. The topper is a version of "Wild Is the Wind" (written in the 1950s by Dimitri Tiomkin and Ned Washington) that is as nakedly emotional as anything Bowie ever recorded. This new reissue features the original album, nicely remastered, plus a full concert recorded in March 1976; an expanded edition also includes the 1985 CD remaster, a five-track rarities disc, a DVD featuring a fairly reserved surround-sound mix, and *Station to Station* and the live set on vinyl. —Chris Neal

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things to come.'

