

boasting fine musicianship and the same undeniable spirit Cotton has displayed for close to 60 years now.



**The Blow Monkeys: *Feels Like A New Morning*** (Cherry Red) Don't know if it's simply '80s nostalgia or the fact that I'm completely comfortable with cruising around town while listening to the new OMD album, but the notion of a new album by the Blow Monkeys—the Brit band who made some noise back then with “Digging Your Scene” and a few other similarly charming tracks—sounds pretty interesting right now. This new collection, a recent studio affair with a second disc of “acoustic Blow Monkeys” performed by Robert Howard—alias the band's Dr. Robert—is better than you might think, and almost enough to make one pull out the old Blancmange albums and start watching old John Hughes movies. In retrospect, maybe not a bad idea.

**98 Degrees: 2.0** (Entertainment One) Though I have some vague idea of who Nick Lachey is due to my involuntary involvement with the “celebrity journalism” business, I find it fascinating that I have absolutely *no memory* of 98 Degrees and thus find news of this new reunion—and the fact that they have apparently sold over 10 million records—a better reason than *ever* to continue offering fresh perspectives on the music business! As they say in Michigan's Upper Peninsula: *Yepper!*



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