

**VARIOUS ARTISTS**

THE BEST OF  
BOB DYLAN'S THEME TIME  
RADIO HOUR VOL. 2

★★★★

CHROME DREAMS

**Fifty-plus weird old songs from Dylan's radio show, praising hair, guns, whiskey and dogs**

► Ever the jokerman, Bob Dylan gets to live out his corniest vaudeville-comedian fantasies in the superb *Theme Time Radio Hour* series he hosts on XM. Every episode, he plays obscure old blues, country, rock and soul devoted to a single topic (smoking or shoes or Tennessee) and cracks jokes that would have gotten him bounced off *The Flip Wilson Show* ("A giraffe can go a long time without water. But he wants to see a menu right away"). This compilation is the

second in a series collecting songs Dylan has played on the show, although unfortunately it doesn't have any of his DJ patter ("That one just about made me drop my mustard squirter!") or philosophical musings ("Moe was arguably the smartest of the Three Stooges, but I'm more of a Shemp man myself"). The songs are top-notch old-timey dementia, featuring legends (Johnny Cash and Little Richard) as well as obscure greats (Roy Brown, Ronnie Self and Ella Mae Morse). These are the singers who taught Dylan a thing or two about how to sound loose and crazed.

ROB SHEFFIELD

**DOWNLOAD** Ella Mae Morse, "Forty Cups of Coffee"; Amos Milburn, "Bad, Bad Whiskey"; Ronnie Self, "Ain't I'm a Dog?"