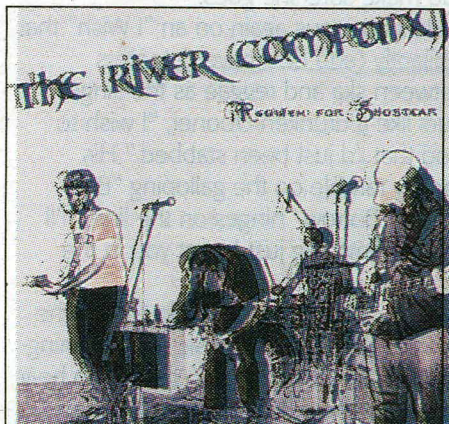


sound check

The River Company's new CD worthwhile



"Requiem for Ghostcar,"
The River Company
(Ocean Springs Music, ★★★ ½)

On Dec. 30, 2006, we attended The Un"Beatle"bles show at the Mary O'Keefe Cultural Center in Ocean Springs. Despite crummy weather, the show was wonderful, vibes were warm and a heaping helping of talent was evident onstage. The River Company is an original music project featuring the Beatle tribute players (Travis Schar: lead vocals, guitar, piano; Alex Schar: lead vocals, bass guitar, piano; Jamie Favors: guitar, vocals).

Since most new songs fall short in catchiness when compared to the Beatles, the seven songs here (five acoustic, two electric live ones) are no exception. However, there are elements of witty wordplay and catchy hooks that make this CD worth purchasing: the happy rhythms (and backward guitar intro) of "Here to Stay," the jazz-flavored "To Be The Moon" and the energetic drumming and guitar work on the two live songs.

Snag this one locally or online at www.oceanspringsmusic.com.

"Under Review 1996-2000:
The Middle Years,"
Green Day
(Sexy Intellectual/MVD, ★★★★★)

Green Day burst onto the scene in the mid-'90s with catchy punk/pop tunes that ran against the grain; and, as the grunge scene splintered, were poised to become the world's biggest rock band with the release of their major-label debut, "Dookie." However, their refusal to chronically repeat themselves led to a series of recordings that are often ignored: the hard, fast punk of



"Insomniac," the genre-hopping "Nimrod" and the perplexing "Warning."

When they released two compilations around the turn of the millennium ("International Superhits" and "Shenani-gans"), many fans thought Billie Joe and the boys were packing it in. They re-emerged in 2004 with the groundbreaking "American Idiot." Who knows what the future holds?

This DVD considers that question, along with thoughtful commentary on those middle years from a variety of experts. Interspersed with live clips, interviews and more, this is a worthy addition to the "Under Review" catalog.

"OK Computer:
A Classic Album Under Review,"
Radiohead
(Sexy Intellectual/MVD, ★★★★★)

They're on my favorites list like Green Day, but no one can deny the impact made by Radiohead. Their second album, "The Bends," was hugely successful, and they toured behind it to massive box-office. Afterward, they decided to take things in a different direction, which led to the groundbreaking "OK Computer." Like other "Classic Albums Series" titles, this DVD includes track-by-track analysis

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from a series of experts, as well as other fascinating bits.

"DVD Collector's Box,"
Guns N' Roses
(Chrome Dreams/MVD, ★★★)

This double-DVD box contains lots of features, including long-forgotten interviews with some G n' R members; and will fuel the myth of a band whose recorded output never matched their "Appetite for (Self) Destruction."

Disc one chronicles the band's career from inception to the dissolution of the original lineup. Disc two focuses on now reclusive singer Axl Rose, who gained control of G n' R's name and recording contract. Each recording is analyzed and discussed, including the mythical "Chinese Democracy," which may never be released. Neither DVD contains music played by Guns N' Roses, but fans will enjoy the presentations if not frustrated by that.

These DVDs can be snagged online at www.mvvisual.com if local stores don't have them.

