

# GARAGE BAND IDOL

Let us listen to your original song, and we'll tell you if it sucks or not



MITCH RYDER

## Music on DVD

### Mitch Ryder

Live at Rockpalast  
1979 & 2004

Classic Rock

★★★★

Another double-shot of awesome from the German TV series Rockpalast: Two full shows by Detroit garage-rocker Ryder taped 25 years apart. The first features the apparently soused legend blasting through 90 minutes of '70s guitar-rock (and includes a chaotically ribald interview); the newer one is a bluesier two-hour club show that finds Ryder older but still on top of his game.

### KoRn

The Path of Totality Tour: Live  
at the Hollywood Palladium

Electro-Metal

★★★

Some fans loved KoRn's use of electronica and dubstep on 2011's Path of Totality. Others loathed it. This live DVD could be just as divisive. The high-tech 75-minute set kicks off with most of Totality — with cameos by the likes of Datsik and Skrillex (who plays guitar) — and closes with a slew of hits, faves and covers. Everyone wins. And loses. The path of least resistance it ain't.

**Alenco**  
Markham, Ont.  
[soundcloud.com/alenco](http://soundcloud.com/alenco)

The name sounds like an aluminum manufacturer. In fact, it's the musical handle of teenage singer-songwriter Matt Pham. Now, in my experience, the words "teenage singer-songwriter" usually mean "talentless self-indulgent tripe." I have to give Pham credit. His sound — a fusion of ambient folktronica, dreamy trip-hop and twitchy drum 'n' bass — is produced and presented with more subtlety and restraint than you expect from someone who can barely drive. Youth isn't always wasted on the young.

Want Darryl Sterdan to review your homemade, original song? E-mail us an online link where he can hear it. If he chooses yours, he'll tell readers if it sucks or not. Send the link to [darryl.sterdan@sunmedia.ca](mailto:darryl.sterdan@sunmedia.ca)

**DARRYL'S VERDICT**  
★★½  
"Nice work, kid."

**LISTEN FOR YOURSELF**  
[soundcloud.com/alenco](http://soundcloud.com/alenco)

### The Blasters

Fun on Saturday Night

Roots-Rock

★★★½



Stop the clock, baby. After eight long years, Phil Alvin and The Blasters

are finally back with a new album. The bad news: Guitarist and songwriter Dave Alvin isn't along for the ride. The good news: It's still a rockin' trip, with the band barreling (and Alvin wailing) through a slew of blues, rockabilly, R&B and country covers with all the abandon of a roadhouse band at last call. Blast it.

**Download:** *Fun on Saturday Night; Well Oh Well*

### Swans

The Seer

Post-Rock

★★★★



Less is not more for Michael Gira. More is more. And the Swans mastermind /

provocateur pushes that concept to the limit once again on his 12th disc. With 11 songs that last two hours, it's a sprawling monster that encompasses everything from doom metal and industrial noise to hypnotic chanting and field recordings. Challenging, punishing, transcendent and fascinatingly unique.

**Download:** *The Seer; The Apostate*

### Slaughterhouse

Welcome to: Our House

Rap

★★★★



Safety in numbers. That's the guiding principle behind the rap

"supergroup" of Crooked I, Joe Budden, Joell Ortiz and Royce da 5'9". With Eminem in the producer's chair — and on the mic now and then — the quartet's second disc benefits from the combined strengths of its crew, but suffers from a plethora of dull beats and the usual mix of misogyny and slasher-flick clichés. Yawn.

**Download:** *Coffin; Get Up*



### David Byrne & St. Vincent

Love This Giant

Art-Pop

★★★½

It's a match made in indie heaven. Former Talking Heads frontman Byrne brings his quirky sensibilities and soaring yelp. Singer-guitarist St. Vincent brings her offbeat dramatics and sweeping beauty. Toss in big bold brass lines, crisp drum programming and synth layers, and lashings of funk and Afrobeat from The Dap-Kings and Antibalas, and seriously, what is not to love?

**Download:** *Who; I Should Watch TV*



### Imagine Dragons

Night Visions

Synth-Rock

★★½

Why take a gamble when you can bet on a sure thing? These buzzed-about Las Vegas play it fairly safe on their debut disc, doubling down on their sleek, anthemic Killers-style synth-rock and upping the ante with dashes of Vampire Weekend Afro-pop, hip-hop and dubstep. But none of it matches the bouncy stomp of their breakout hit It's Time. Maybe they shoulda stayed in Vegas.

**Download:** *Radioactive; It's Time*



### Patterson Hood

Heat Lightning Rumbles  
in the Distance

Southern Rock

★★★★½

Some stories are personal. And according to Drive-By Truckers' frontman Hood, these grim sagas of drinking, death, depression and collateral damage began as a semi-autobiographical novel. Yikes. Not surprisingly, the southern singer-songwriter's third solo disc displays a more intimate vibe than his day job's muscular wallop (though most of DBT lends a hand). Transfixing stuff.

**Download:** *Better off Without; Betty Ford*



### Julio Iglesias

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Adult Contemporary

★★½

All the songs he's sung before. And sold before. Latin lover Iglesias becomes the latest artist to give himself an artistic do-over, recrooning 20 chart-toppers (in English, Spanish and/or French, depending on which version you buy) over slightly retweaked musical backdrops. Dedicated followers may notice the subtle sonic improvements; for casual fans, it's just another compilation.

**Download:** *To All the Girls I've Loved Before* (with Willie Nelson)

## Coming up

### NEXT WEEK

**Mirage Rock**  
Band of Horses

**Hillbilly Jedi**  
Big & Rich

**I Bet on Sky**  
Dinosaur Jr.

**Sound of the Life of the Mind**  
Ben Folds Five

**O.N.I.F.C.**  
Wiz Khalifa

**Kiss**  
Carly Rae Jepsen

**Battle Born**  
The Killers

**Tornado**  
Little Big Town

**Truth About Love**  
Pink

**3 Pears**  
Dwight Yoakam

All release dates subject to change