

Teenage Crimewave - A Secret Policeman's Ball (MVDaudio, 3 stars)

This June 4 CD contains 10 songs recorded by producer Andy Gregg and four friends (Nikki Oliff, Greg Harp, Mike Leffler and Jesse Seek) who won Hot Topic's 2012 Band Grant top prize. ASPB presents propulsive punk-rock drums, chiming guitars, buzzing synthesizers and unfortunately, a tendency toward ragged vocal howling at times. The production is nicely layered.

My favorite songs are the driving "I'm Not a Scientist" and "A Flock of Beagles," both of which achieve punk-rock velocity with only the first interrupted by hollering. The vocalist achieves a Chrissie Hynde-like tone on the second number, as well. I also enjoyed the ska-beating "They Already Banged," which left out the Cookie Monster stuff entirely. This recording has promise, and Hot Topic fans may enjoy it.

- Ricky Flake

Read more here: <http://www.sunherald.com/2013/06/20/4749112/2004-doobies-a-hidden-ball-new.html#storylink=cpy>