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REVIEWS COMING UP NEXT MONTH

KEY FOR THE STARS

ARCHIVES:

2007

2006

2005

2004

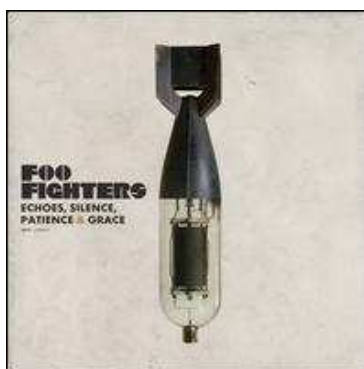
2003

2002

dvd

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FEATURED REVIEW:



[Foo Fighters](#) - *Echoes, Silence, Patience & Grace* (2007)

After their 10th anniversary album, *In Your Honor*, which presented an acoustic CD and a rock CD, the Foo Fighters integrate once again the 2 styles on the same CD. We could even say inside the same song because some have a similar structure. They begin all in softness, so much we have to open up the volume to make sure we don't miss anything, and then they break out completely to become particularly heavy with a loud guitar. There are some exceptions as the excellent acoustic song "Stranger Things Have Happened". I also like "Erase/Replace" and the good melodies of "Long Road To Ruin" and "Summer's End". Instrumental "Balad of the Beaconsfield Miners" doesn't have anything exceptionally good, if it's not the fact it presents a side we didn't know about the Foo Fighters. The rock tracks are generally too straight, well far from the energetic grunge of their debut. The only one reminding us somewhat that time is perhaps "Cheer Up, Boys (Your Make Up Is Running)". In fact, the main problem about this new album is that it doesn't bring anything really new. Everything seems to have been already heard and nothing remains in our mind for a very long time. I'm afraid that after this sixth album, the Foo Fighters will have to make serious adjustments in the future to be able to keep interest in their direction. For the moment, they are not likely to give any excitement to many people.



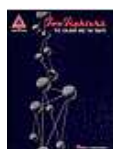
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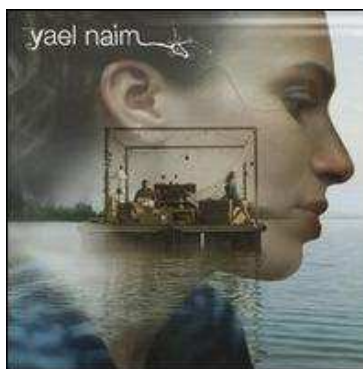


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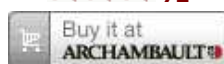


[Yael Naim](#) - *Yael Naim & David Donatien*

Yael Naim is an Israeli born in Paris, but which lived the major part of her youth in Tel Aviv. Initiated early to classical music, she discovered pop music at the age of 12 thanks to the [Beatles](#), then thereafter was impregnated of folk. She offers us now her second album, but the first one with a door open to the world. She works with the multi instrumentalist and arranger **David Donatien** which largely contributed to give a solid direction to the record. Yael plays contemporary folk music with elements of jazz and pop. We can easily compare her to **Tori Amos**, **Fiona Apple**, **Sarah McLachlan** and **Jorane**, a singer and cello player from Quebec. She alternates English and Hebrew lyrics, with a few French moments, particularly in the very good opening track, "Paris". You certainly know "New Soul" which was heard in the TV commercial of MacBook Air and which is absolutely excellent. Another track coming up later will make you react. It's the surprising cover of "Toxic" of **Britney Spears**, presented here with completely different arrangements, all in softness. As a whole, it's about a very good album, perfect for relaxation. Her warm voice will seduce you immediately and will keep you on a certain level of intoxication throughout the 52 minutes of the CD. A quite beautiful discovery!

[Tôt ou tard](#) / [Warner](#)

★★★★½



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OTHER CD REVIEWS:



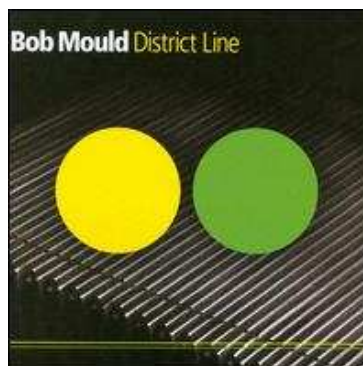
Kylie Minogue - X (2007)

Even if she has a 20-year career, the best albums of Kylie Minogue were issued in the years 2000, whereas she reached a level of maturity enabling her to offer the music she likes, quite simply. Thus she could have some of her greatest hits in career in America, having been primarily confined to her native Australia and Europe until then where her euro dance style was more appreciated. With *X*, she explores about any music era, going back to disco music of the Seventies ("In My Arms"), candy pop of the Eighties, European techno of the Nineties ("Like A Drug", "Speakerphone") and R&B of the years 2000 ("Heart Beat Rock"). The excellent opening track and first single, "2 Hearts", reminds us of **Roxy Music** and [David Bowie](#). "Like A Drug" is one of my favorites of the CD and will surely be also a favorite for DJs in clubs. "Speakerphone" is also very effective, whereas "Sensitized" is a more personal song which is a sure hit. In spite of these very good tracks, *X* misses constancy, on the contrary to her last recordings. The sudden changes from one title to another are very destabilizing. We can still compare her to [Madonna](#) per moments (it's even a little awkward on "No More Rain"), but this one is accustomed to offering albums forming a whole, on the contrary to *X* which is a collage of pop songs trying to reach almost everybody. It will hang undoubtedly the ear of many people with a song or another, but the problem will be the same for all: to succeed in appreciating the album from the beginning to the end. The good songs are really of great quality, but the futility surrounding them unfortunately breaks everything. This is an album to be heard by pieces...

Parlophone / EMI



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Bob Mould - *District Line*

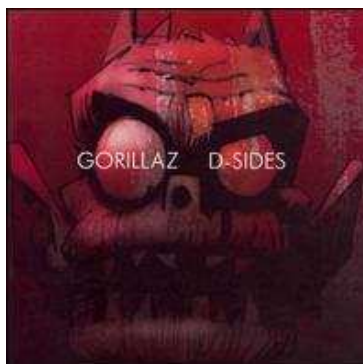
Bob Mould is a veteran on the alternative music scene with almost 30 years of career, with **Hüsker Dü**, **Sugar** and solo. After the excellent [Body Of Song](#), critically acclaimed in 2005, Mould is now back, for the first time on the Anti label. *District Line* is truly the logical continuation to [Body Of Song](#) which represented a return to his rock roots by leaving aside the electronic experiments. With this new album, he takes once again the elements of rock of the last record, while incorporating some

rather discrete electronic elements. On the other hand, he's letting himself go completely in disco music on "Shelter Me", influenced by his post-Sugar years. The album brings excellent guitar riffs in accompaniment to the always effective pop melodies, most of the time calm and reassuring. In fact, one has the feeling that he succeeds here in making a fusion between the riffs of Hüsker Dü and the melodies of Sugar, with new explorations of various elements which interest him in music. Once assembled in 10 parts, the end product represents one of the most cohesive he offered us for years. Mould reached an out of common maturity which enables him to compose and play the music he prefers without any pressure. *District Line* thus constitutes a ripe fruit which we only have to gather and to taste slowly.

[Anti- / Epitaph](#)



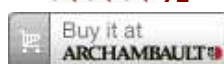
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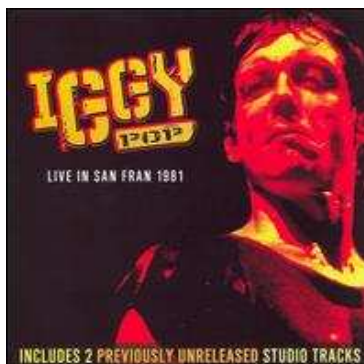
[Gorillaz - D-Sides \(2007\)](#)

The virtual group Gorillaz produced sufficient material during the recording of the [Demon Days](#) album to offer us an album of B-sides of nothing less than 13 tracks. These tracks include the original demo version of "Don't Get Lost In Heaven", but everything else could have been included on a true album without any embarrassment. There are less effective pieces which would have been used only as filling, but the unit is solid anyway for an album of rejected songs. The album offers a mixture of hip hop, trip hop, new wave, dub and rock which can create excellent modern background music. Even if it misses cohesion, this is a record offering good moments. A 2nd CD is included and it contains remixes of some tracks of the [Demon Days](#) album. There are 3 remixes for "Dare", 3 for "Kids With Guns", in addition to "Feel Good Inc.", "El Manana" and "Dirty Harry". With almost 2 hours of music on the whole, the fans of Gorillaz and **Damon Albarn** will certainly have much for their money with *D-Sides*.

[Parlophone / EMI](#)



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Iggy Pop - *Live In San Fran 1981* (2007)

Here is a concert recorded in 1981 in San Francisco towards the end of the tour in support to the album [Party](#). We can hear the classics "TV Eye" and "1969" of the **Stooges**, as well as "Some Weird Sin" and "Lust For Life" of the 1977 classic album [Lust For Life](#), without forgetting "Dum Dum Boys" of the excellent album [The Idiot](#). On the other hand, several less important fans of Iggy Pop will have problems to recognize other songs, whereas he preferred to go on the more obscure side of his career and, obviously, to make the promotion of his most recent album. The 5 tracks from this album will probably leave you indifferent, except perhaps "Houston Is Hot Tonight" which is passably effective. In bonus to the 12 live tracks, we can hear 2 never released studio tracks produced by **Ric Ocasek** in 1983: "Fire Engine" and "Warrior Tribe". These recordings are unfortunately a good representation of Iggy Pop in those years, whereas he was searching himself musically. It's thus about an album in concert which is exclusively for the most faithful fans of the legend of punk. There are good moments, but nothing so that the album becomes memorable. This concert had appeared in video in 1986.

MVD

★★½



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Spice Girls - *Greatest Hits* (2007)

A comeback by the 5 girls for a new tour was the perfect timing for a collection of their greatest hits. However, the Spice Girls recorded only 2 successful albums in 1996 and 1997, plus a failure after the departure of **Geri Halliwell** in 2000. The British group, which wanted to be the counterpart of the "boys bands" which invaded the pop planet of the Nineties, was more recognized for its feminist side than for the quality of its compositions. The groovy "Wannabe", "Say You'll Be There", "Spice Up Your Life" and "Stop" remain as futile a decade later, but their melodies are still effective. On the other hand, their annoying ballads are not less annoying. This collection of 15 tracks includes necessarily less known and easily forgettable songs, but it makes anyway a good summary of their

career and will bring good memories to their young fans of the time (female for most of them). We can hear in bonus 2 new tracks: the sleepy "Headlines (Friendship Never Ends)" and "Voodoo". Two other versions of the album are available: a [version with DVD](#) containing all their videos and a [limited edition of 3 CDs and 1 DVD](#) in a unique box set.

[Virgin / EMI](#)



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[The Great Kat - Beethoven On Speed \(1990\)](#) (2007 re-edition)

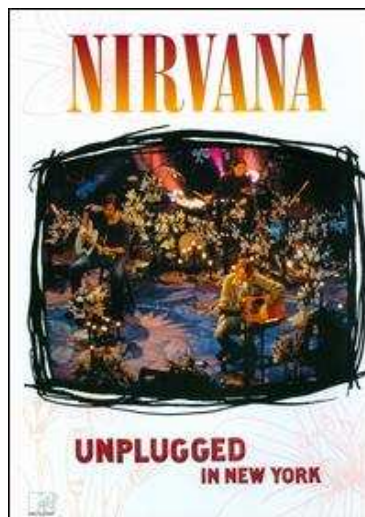
On her 2nd album, *Beethoven On Speed*, **Katherine Thomas** went a little further in her desire to transform classical music into metal. Separated into 2 opuses, this album presents various extracts of Beethoven's works in a speed metal version typical to The Great Kat. Her aggressive music remains cacophonous, but one finds a few more interesting elements here compared to her first record, [Worship Me Or Die!](#) Her virtuosity cannot be questioned and it's guaranteed you'll be able to evacuate all the pressure you have. On the other hand, it's not automatic that you will appreciate under the only pretext that you are a huge fan of Beethoven. We cannot even claim that it's an album to make it possible to initiate fans of metal to classical music. One of the good moments of the CD, by excluding the Beethoven "covers", is "Funeral March", an extremely effective instrumental. Superior to her 1st album, *Beethoven On Speed* allowed The Great Kat to make a name for herself, even if we didn't hear from her after that.

[Metal Mind / MVD](#)



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DVD REVIEWS:

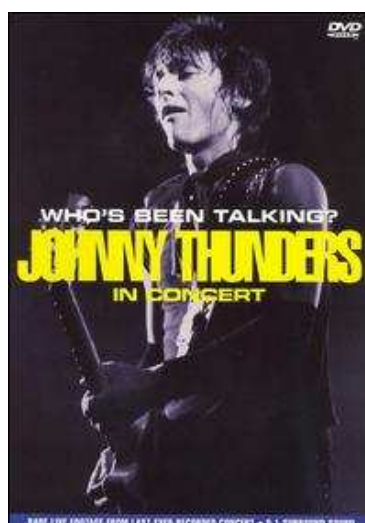


[Nirvana](#) - ***Unplugged In New York (2007)***

The famous acoustic concert of November 1993, which appeared on CD in 1994, had never been released in video. Here is finally this excellent performance of Nirvana on DVD, in its entirety, and with a 5.1 surround sound. The sound is in fact almost perfect and allows us to rediscover greatly the quality of the songs interpreted in acoustic version. We can hear 3 additional tracks compared to the original version aired on MTV: "Something In The Way", "Oh, Me" (with **Meat Puppets**) and a short improvisation of "Sweet Home Alabama" of **Lynyrd Skynyrd**. We can also hear various comments by the musicians between the songs. In bonus, we can also see the MTV final version, in addition to a short documentary on the production of this TV special and 5 tracks played in rehearsal. Among these tracks, it's particularly interesting to see the massacre of "Pennyroyal Tea" which **Kurt Cobain** finally decided to play by himself during the concert, doing of it one of the greatest moments of the evening. *Unplugged In New York* became truly a collector's item following the death of Cobain a few months later, whereas it remains one of the best filmed concerts of Nirvana. A must have!



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[Johnny Thunders](#) - ***Who's Been Talking? (2007)***

This former member of the **New York Dolls** and the **Heartbreakers** continued his career of rock n' roll star until his death on April 23, 1991, in spite of his dependence to hard drugs. This DVD contains one of the last concerts offered by Thunders whereas it was captured at the time of a

mini-tour in Japan on April 3, 1991, 20 days before being found dead at his home in New Orleans. We can see a guy in great shape on stage whereas he reminds us more than ever his idol, **Keith Richards**. He offers nothing less than 22 tracks including 2 medleys: "Hit The Road Jack/I'm Not Your Stepping Stone" and "Louie Louie/Hang On Sloopy". Among the songs played, we can hear some from the New York Dolls era for our greater pleasure, of which the excellent "Personality Crisis". The main problem in this concert of more than one hour is the poor quality of the image, recovered from the analogical recording of the time. On the other hand, the sound remixed in 5.1 is excellent. For the atmosphere at the venue and the interaction with the crowd of Citta Club in Osaka, forget that because practically any crowd noise was deleted in the final mix. It's almost embarrassing when the moment of the encore comes, but it's understood that the DVD doesn't reflect truly the atmosphere on the spot at that time. In spite of its defects, *Who's Been Talking?* is a very beautiful document for the fans of Johnny Thunders. We can see in bonus a very detailed written biography of his career.

[Secret](#) / [MVD](#)

★★★★½



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[The Rolling Stones - Under Review 1967-1969 \(2007\)](#)

After a strong beginning whereas the Rolling Stones primarily were recognized thanks to their unique covers of classic R&B songs, the group truly exploded with the mega hit "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction" in 1965. After a certain period of experimentation, the group had its best creative years before the turning of the following decade. It's this exact period of the 45-year career of the Rolling Stones they analyze here in every detail. They introduce the whole with the presentation of the experimentation of the albums [Between The Buttons](#) and [Their Satanic Majesties Request](#), before presenting the masterpieces [Beggars Banquet](#) and [Let It Bleed](#). This unauthorized documentary offers us comments by specialists and people who were close to them during that single period of the history of rock music, a period which was going to cement once and for all the style of the Rolling Stones for the decades to come. The 85-minute documentary is thus particularly interesting, as much for the fans of the band than for the musicologists.

[Sexy Intellectual](#) / [MVD](#)

★★★★★



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OTHER NEW FINDINGS:

Ringo Starr – *Photograph: The Very Best Of Ringo* (2007)

The greatest solo hits of the former [Beatles](#) member, Ringo Starr. There is only one big song missing, his hit with the [Beatles](#), "Octopus's Garden".



Traffic - *The Definitive Collection* (2007)

This is the re-edition of a collection released in 2000 as *Feelin' Alright: The Very Best Of Traffic*. It includes the 15 greatest hits of Traffic, presented chronologically. The CD is accompanied by a detailed booklet doing a great review of their career.



U2 - *The Joshua Tree* (1987) (2007 re-edition)

Two remastered editions for the classic album *The Joshua Tree* were released at the end of 2007 for the 20th anniversary of the original release of the album. The first one has a bonus CD with B-sides and other rarities recorded around 1987 and the second one adds a DVD with a concert captured in Paris in July 1987 and other previously unseen bonuses. This is a great way to rediscover that great album.



Me Mom & Morgentaler - *Shiva Space Machine Gone Fission (Expanded Edition)* (2007)

Re-edition of the 1992 classic by this ska / rock band from Montreal with 5 live bonus tracks.



Champion - *The Remix Album* (2006)

This is a remix album by DJ Champion. It includes interesting tracks for your favorite lounge bar.



Radiohead - *The Astoria London Live* (DVD) (2005)

Captured in 1994 when the band had only one album, this is a real rock concert offered by Radiohead which changed of direction since that time. Even if we can most of all hear tracks from [Pablo Honey](#), there are many new songs that would be issued later on the excellent [The Bends](#).





Kanye West - *The College Dropout* (2004)

The first and best album by rapper Kanye West, including the mega hit "Jesus Walks". I don't have any other choice to add it to [2004 top 20](#).



Bo Diddley - *His Best* (1997)

The best greatest hits collection for the legend of R&B, Bo Diddley, with his 20 best songs in career.

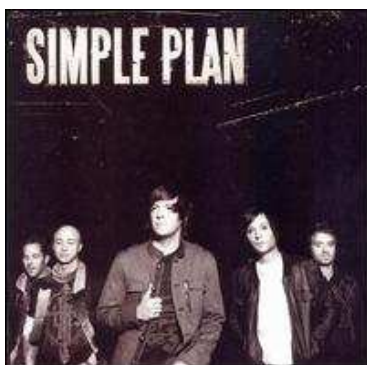


The Respectables - *No Dogs, No Bands* (1993) et *Full Régalia* (1997)

Before becoming one of the most popular bands in Quebec in 1999 with their album \$ = *bonheur*, the Respectables produced 2 very good records in english. The first one, *No Dogs, No Bands*, presented raw rock n' roll influenced by the [Rolling Stones](#) and 70's hard rock. *Full Régalia*, on its side, included elements of reggae that the band would explore a little more after that, integrating it perfectly to its rock sound. We can already hear 2 tracks that the band would re-arrange and re-record later to become big hits: « Sunshine » and « La Java ».



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+
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