

All reviews by Darryl Sterdan. For more in-depth reviews, please go to canoe.ca/musicreviews

GARAGE BAND IDOL

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



Music on DVD

TAD

Busted Circuits and Ringing Ears

Grunge

★★★★

Remember TAD? Probably not. Fronted by 300-pound singer-guitarist Tad Doyle, they were the great lost band of the Seattle grunge era. But as this exhaustive 90-minute doc argues, they were also the loudest, heaviest and most intense band in that scene — and might have been as big as Nirvana, had it not been for a series of unlucky breaks. See what you missed, kids.

Donovan

The Donovan Concert: Live in L.A.

Folk

★★★★

Old folkies never die — they just make specials for PBS. This time it's eternal hippie Donovan. Sitting crosslegged for much of this 2007 unplugged show, he delivers all the hits, from *Mellow Yellow* and *Hurdy Gurdy Man* to *Season of the Witch* and *Sunshine Superman*, interspersed with stories about hanging out in Bohemia with Gypsy Dave.

Brendon Gomez

Toronto

[myspace/brendongomez](http://myspace.com/brendongomez)

Don't judge a book by its cover. Or a singer by his resume.

Toronto's Brendon Gomez apparently just missed the cut for a spot on *Rock Star: Supernova*. So we assumed he would be some sort of leather-panted, guynier-sporting rocker. But based on the tunes on his MySpace page, he's more of a smouldering, moody rock balladeer. Except neither his sad-sack vocals nor his shoegazing songs seem to have much personality or power. This guy makes Lukas Rossi seem like Bono.

DARRYL'S VERDICT

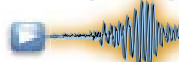


"Which part of Rock, Star and Supernova do you not get?"



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 CDcritic@wpgsun.com

LISTEN FOR YOURSELF



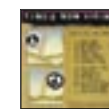
[myspace/brendongomez](http://myspace.com/brendongomez)

Times New Viking

Rip it Off

Noise-Pop

★★★



Your mom might call this noise, not music. And she'd be half-right. This ridiculously lo-fi co-ed Ohio trio like their sound fuzzy, buzzy, tiny and tinny — or at least they're too cheap or laissez-faire to do anything about it. But those who are willing to listen closer will discover decent little indie-pop nuggets glistening beneath all that distortion. Hey, Mom can't always be right.

Download: *Teen Drama, Drop-Out*

Birds of Prey

Sulfur & Semen

Metal

★★★½



Metal bands either play loud and fast or loud and slow. This Virginia quintet favours relentless rock-solid riffage and brute force over blazing speed, though the drummer clearly has more forward gears. The guttural Cookie Monster vocals are a cliché, but the singer's mid-song rants and remarkable enunciation earn points — along with their chunky cover of an Iron & Wine tune.

Download: *Mentoring the Mongoloids, Turning Big Rocks Into Little Rocks*



Ghostland Observatory

Robotique Majestique

Dance-Rock

★★★★

Austin buzz-duo GO are a glittering oasis in the dance-rock desert. And they get deeper into the groove on this third CD. While a cape-clad beatmaster programs a shotgun wedding of glam, funk, electro and industrial, their braided frontman struts like the product of a menage between Freddie Mercury, Zack de la Rocha and Cedric Bixler-Zavala. Resistance is futile. And no fun.

Download: *Heavy Heart, HFM*



Kronos Quartet and Wu Man

Terry Riley: The Cusp of Magic

Classical

★★★★

Think all string quartets are the same? You haven't heard Kronos. For their latest adventure, the eclectic group reteam with maverick composer Terry Riley, who fashioned a six-part work that incorporates Native peyote rituals, Indian wedding music, Russian cartoons, children's toys and a lute-like Chinese pipa played by virtuoso Wu Man. Nope, nothing unusual there. **Download:** *The Cusp of Magic, Emily & Alice*



Presidents of the United States of America

These Are the Good Times People

Pop-Rock

★★★★

Give them points for timing — since 1996, this quirky Seattle trio has issued a CD every presidential election year. And their music is almost as dependable as their schedule. CD No. 5 unveils a new slate of likably looney tunes with punchy beats, crunchy riffs, caffeinated hooks and whimsical lyrics. Talk about rocking the vote. **Download:** *Flame is Love, Warhead*



The Helio Sequence

Keep Your Eyes Ahead

Indie-Pop

★★★

If this Portland duo's fourth CD seems a tad Dylanesque, no wonder. Their three noise-rock discs wrecked their frontman's voice — and singing to Zimmy was part of his recovery. But instead of folk-rock, his earthy vocals are set against a psychedelic backdrop of swirly keyboards, chiming guitars and twinkly melodies that sounds like Flaming Lips jamming with U2. Go figure. **Download:** *You Can Come to Me, Can't Say No*

Coming up

NEXT WEEK

Trouble in Dreams
Destroyer

Here is What Is
Daniel Lanois

Get Awkward
Be Your Own Pet

Mail on Sunday
Flo Rida

11
Bryan Adams

2 WEEKS AWAY

Funplex
The B-52's

Saturday Nights & Sunday Mornings
Counting Crows

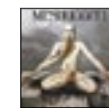
Pretty, Odd.
Panic at the Disco

Meshuggah

obZen

Metal

★★★★



The Swedish metal mathletes' sixth CD title melds obscure and Zen. No

doubt adherents of the latter would term it the former. Though less manic than previous discs, it's every bit as brutal and disorienting, with complex time-shifting polyrhythms, dark clumps of riffage, clanging basses and indecipherable homicidal-rage vocals. Music to cramp your brain and kick your ass. **Download:** *Electric Red, Pravas*