

All reviews by Darryl Sterdan. For more in-depth reviews of Mars Volta, Louis XIV and more, go to [canoe.ca/musicreviews](http://canoe.ca/musicreviews)



LOUIS XIV'S JASON HILL

## GARAGE BAND IDOL

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



BOB MOULD

## Music on DVD

### Bob Mould

**Circle of Friends**  
Post-Punk  
★★★★

If you've been disappointed with alt-rock icon Mould's recent forays into dance and electronica, get in line. And get this fiery live DVD. Backed by a smoking band including Fugazi's drummer, the singer-guitarist blasts through a 90-minute set of fierce guitar-rock peppered with tunes from his Hüsker Dü and Sugar days. If his next studio disc sounds half this good, all is forgiven.

### Pelican

**After the Ceiling Cracked**  
Metal  
★★★★½

This artsy instrumental metal outfit won over plenty of new listeners with last year's intricate City of Echoes CD. This live DVD, however, seems aimed at older fans. It's anchored by an hour-long 2005 gig in London, augmented with more than an hour of assorted footage from shows dating back to 2003. Maybe they should have titled it Before We Cracked the Mainstream.

**Un-Arm-Me**  
Edmonton  
[www.myspace.com/unarmme](http://www.myspace.com/unarmme)

Their MySpace proclaims them "the filthiest bastards in Edmonton." Their songs have titles such as *Kaboom Bitch* and *Eat Hot Laser Death*. And they call themselves a thrash-metal band. What more could you possibly want? Well, how about some actual thrashing? Of the four songs they've got online, only one of them gets as far as second gear. The rest are the sort of sludgy slogfests that would put any self-respecting Slayer fan to sleep. Our advice: Either learn to play faster or start taking speed.

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](mailto:CDcritic@wpgsun.com)

**DARRYL'S VERDICT** ★  
"Un-Impress-ive."

**LISTEN FOR YOURSELF**

[www.myspace.com/unarmme](http://www.myspace.com/unarmme)

### Protest the Hero

**Fortress**  
Metalcore  
★★★★

On this jaw-droppingly ambitious sophomore disc, the Whitby, Ont., quintet switch from visceral post-punks to metal shredders to proggy technicians with dizzying split-second precision.

### Louis XIV

**Slick Dogs and Ponies**  
Glam-Garage  
★★★★½

For this dog and pony show, these sleazy San Diegans try to civilize their glummy, thumpy garage-rock by adding swirling, fluttering string arrangements to every cut.

### Chris Walla

**Field Manual**  
Indie-Rock  
★★★★

Between his gig in Death Cab for Cutie and his sideline as a producer/studio owner, it's surprising Walla had time for a solo disc. Not so surprising: How superb it is.

### Lightspeed Champion

**Falling off the Lavender Bridge**  
Indie-Rock  
★★★★

Singer-guitarist Devonte Hynes used to be one-third of short-lived Brit noisemakers Test Icicles. Now he's pulled an about-face, moving back to the U.S. and teaming with the Saddle Creek crew for this odd batch of melodic, artfully rendered roots and folk-rock.

### Buzzcocks

**30**  
Pop-Punk  
★★★★

Yep, it's been 30 years since these Manchester punk legends put out their first album. Trouble is, it seems like they've also released that many live discs over the decades. Which is not to say this massive 28-song London gig isn't up to snuff — for old dogs, these guys still have plenty of bite.

## Coming up

### NEXT WEEK

**Detours**  
Sheryl Crow

**Good Times**  
Alan Jackson

**It is Time for a Love Revolution**  
Lenny Kravitz

**Watershed**  
k.d. lang

### 2 WEEKS AWAY

**Do You Like Rock Music?**  
British Sea Power

**The Heavy Circles**  
Edie Brickell

**Roots & Grooves**  
Maceo Parker

**Thriller 25th Anniversary Edition**  
Michael Jackson

All release dates subject to change



### Mars Volta

**The Bedlam in Goliath**  
Prog  
★★★★

Mars Volta claim this fourth concept disc was inspired by a cursed Ouija board haunted by an evil spirit named Goliath. Whatever. You don't need a psychic to know this epic is another uncompromising, furious fusion of '70s-style prog intricacy, jazz-rock skronk and Latin-percussion grooves. Or that the band's kinetic new drummer is the real force behind this *Bedlam*.  
**Download:** *Aberinkula, Ouroboros*



### Natasha Bedingfield

**Pocketful of Sunshine**  
Pop  
★★★

Released last spring in the U.K. as *NB*, this sophomore set from featherweight soul-popster Bedingfield was radically revamped with six new songs for North America. And while a few of those hip-poppy singles might be a slight improvement, they aren't stellar enough to justify all the time, effort, money and interference. Bottom line: They should have left well enough alone.  
**Download:** *Who Knows, Not Givin' Up*



### Hayden

**In Field & Town**  
Singer-Songwriter  
★★★★½

It's been nearly four years since Hayden's last disc. Thankfully, the sad-sack Toronto troubadour brings something new to the table on this fifth studio album. Setting his world-weary creak and bleakly witty lyrics against upbeat melodies and arrangements flecked with vibraphone, trumpet and pedal steel, the rootsy singer-songwriter delivers a disc well worth the wait.  
**Download:** *Worthy of Your Esteem, Where and When*



### Sarah Brightman

**Symphony**  
Popera  
★★★

Kudos to Brightman for inspired duet picks: This has to be the first CD to co-star Andrea Bocelli and Paul Stanley. Pity that daring didn't extend to song choices. Apart from a few moments of gothic Kashmirish bombast and anthemic guitar-pop, the disc is a bit too true to its title, relying on the sort of grandly sweeping popera balladry the stunning soprano can serve in her sleep.  
**Download:** *Fleurs du Mal, Canto Della Terra* (with Andrea Bocelli)