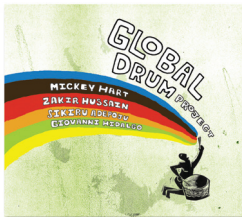


# Music Reviews



By Samir Shukla

## Global Drum Project Featuring Mickey Hart & Zakir Hussain Shout Factory (CD)



The Global Drum Project features master percussionists Mickey Hart, Zakir Hussain, Sikiru Adepoju, and Giovanni Hidalgo. The opening track "Baba," arguably the most intriguing on the whole album, is a tribute to and features the late African percussion legend

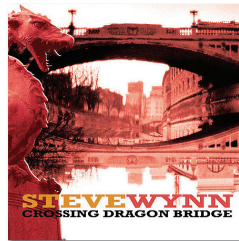
Babatunde Olatunji. Hart and Hussain have worked together on many projects throughout the last couple of decades including the Diga Rhythm Band and Planet Drum. This recording combines the world music ethos of the musicians along with elements of trance, dance and meditation flowing through the compositions. "Under One Groove" has sitar lines and serenade intertwined with a dance groove. "Heartspace" is a tabla-laden and sarangi-touched meditative and spirituality piece that's among the best pieces on the album. "Funky Zena" is a meditative, almost new age piece that nevertheless brings percussion into the mix with sparse, spacey vibes. "Tars" is a like a drum march with a rhythmic trance groove. Other musicians include Taufiq Qureshi (percussion and vocals), Niladri Kumar (sitar), and Dilshad Khan (sarangi).

## Living Colour The Bowery Collection (CD) (CBGB Records)



Living Colour exploded onto the rock scene in 1988 with a blistering debut album that landed several hits on the radio and MTV. After several albums and high-profile tours they split in 1995. Well, the reunited Living Colour hit the stages again in 2001 and on this disc the band recorded a live benefit for the legendary but now defunct NYC club CBGBs on August 19, 2005. The sound quality is up to par as the concert was recorded straight from the soundboard. The quartet's ferocious mix of rock, punk, funk and tropical reggae is in fine form during this live outing. Anchored by Corey Glover on vocals and Vernon Reid on guitar, the band performs songs spanning their career including "Glamour Boys" "Terrorism" and "Sacred Ground." "Open Letter to a Landlord" is as fresh and relevant as it was first recorded. The gents also blast through "Type," "Funny Vibe," "Times Up," and of course their signature mega hit "Cult of Personality."

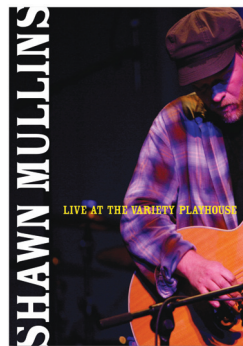
## Steve Wynn Crossing Dragon Bridge (CD) (Rock Ridge Music)



Written and recorded in Ljubljana, Slovenia, *Crossing Dragon Bridge* has a different mood and aura than other Steve Wynn solo efforts. The Los Angeles native channeled the lush guitars of the 60's and 70's that he loved into his band the Dream Syndicate in the 80's.

Since that paisley underground fave's demise, Wynn has released a stack of solo records and performed with his side project Gutterball. *Crossing Dragon Bridge* is another notch in Wynn's top-rung songwriting capabilities, where layered music and words evoke a combo of a storyteller and poet. The best songs on this disc are when Wynn is crafting a tale with just his acoustic guitar accompanied by sparse instrumentation, like the dreamy "Punching Holes in the Sky." "Manhattan Faultline" and "Bring the Magic" are also floating acoustic numbers. There are plenty of rockers on this collection, but much of the album has an acoustic air about it. Wynn's guitar and piano work is solid, at times sounding as if the songs were left over by some long-defunct band back in the late 60's, but Wynn's knack for songcraft brings a contemporary vitality to them, making them sound more timeless than dated.

## Shawn Mullins Live at the Variety Playhouse (DVD) (Vanguard Records)



Before strumming into the song "For America," Mullins tells the audience it "is not meant to be a protest song." Although when he sings of the soldiers serving in Iraq, "When they all come back home, what will they find?" it may feel like a protest song, but the message is more somber and filled with introspection. *Live at the Variety Playhouse* is a fine document of singer/songwriter Shawn Mullins in his favorite element, performing live.

Mullins performs two sets, one solo and the other with a full band before a sold out, hometown crowd at the historic venue in Atlanta. Mullins is a troubadour, relaying his stories of American life and love as only one can through travels and performing. Mullins taps into his large catalog of recordings and performs "Lullaby," "Beautiful Wreck," "Shimmer," and "All in My Head," along with audience favorites "Twin Rocks, OR" and "Gulf of Mexico." He also does a chilling rendition of the standard "House of the Rising Sun." Mullins' back-up band include veteran musicians Peter Stroud (Sheryl Crow, Stevie Nicks, Dixie Chicks), Clay Cook (John Mayer), Gerry Hansen (Randall Bramlett, The BoDeans), and acclaimed soul singer Francine Reed. The bonus material features interviews, a photo gallery and music video.