

tion. The 14 songs begin with Neil Young's "Are You Ready For the Country" and end with Waylon's "I've Always Been Crazy." Included are his acknowledged favorite song, "Dreaming My Dreams With You," and his favorite Willie Nelson song, "It's Not Supposed to Be That Way."

A nod to the beginning of the Outlaw movement, of which Jennings was the primary instigator, is provided by two songs from the 1973 **Honky Tonk Heroes** album, the title track and the Billy Joe Shaver/Waylon Jennings piece "You Asked Me To." The Jennings-penned "Don't You Think This Outlaw Bit's Done Got Out of Hand" chronicles the very real federal narcotics raid that took place in the middle of his Nashville recording session on August 24, 1997.

As the liner notes observe, "he was in rare form that Tuesday morning." I totally agree!—Scott Peavler

Steve Lodder

Classic Hammond Organ: Know the Players, Play the Music
(Backbeat Books)

With its instantly recognizable sound, the Hammond B-3 organ has left an indelible mark on American music, with a major role in shaping jazz, R&B and even rock. Written primarily for keyboard players, Steve Lodder's **Classic Hammond Organ** is nothing if not comprehensive.

Lodder divides his book into three sections. "The Instrument" contains a wealth of technical information about the tonewheels, drawbars and rotating speaker, all of which give the B-3 its distinctive sound. "The Players" is the most accessible chapter for non-musicians. Here, Lodder gives an encyclopedic overview of famous organ players, from hard bop musicians like Jimmy Smith, Jack McDuff and Jimmy McGriff to funk/fusion organists like Larry Young and Richard "Groove" Holmes. The author devotes equal attention to rock, describing such '60s acts as the Grateful Dead and the Allman Brothers, which used the B-3 to help fuel



their extended instrumental jams. Lodder also analyzes the organ work of progressive rock keyboardists Rick Wakeman and Keith Emerson in detail. Many handsome black-and-white photos help bring these musicians to life.

The final chapter of *Classic Hammond Organ* consists of examples and exercises for keyboard players. Again, Lodder's thoroughness shows—the organ parts he transcribes cover every possible style that a keyboardist may need to play. Jazz, blues, soul and even the modern "acid jazz" sound are all demystified by these transcriptions and the accompanying CD of recorded examples. All in all, an invaluable tool for keyboard players and an interesting read for anyone

who loves the unique, soulful sound of the Hammond B-3 organ.

—Jon Kleinman

Pete Seeger, Tao Rodriguez-Seeger & Guy Davis

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, NY
Outdoor events can fall to the mercy of the elements, but rainy weather did not dampen the spirits of the Pete Seeger followers jamming the huge tent at Brooklyn's famed Cherry Esplanade. It was hard to believe that "ol' Pete" (as he often refers to himself), who began his musical journey in 1940, could perform with so much energy at 89. Accompanied by guitarist (and grandson) Tao Rodriguez-Seeger and famed bluesman Guy Davis, Seeger began the nearly two-hour set with a joyous version of the classic "Midnight Special." Seeger then took his banjo and introduced "She'll Be Coming Around the Mountain," which he claimed to have learned from kids, saying, "If you don't know it, it's a good time to learn it and you can teach it to the next kid you meet." Toward the end of the show, Seeger needlessly apologized, saying he

didn't "have much voice nor much song left" and then went into a soulful rendition of "Turn, Turn, Turn."

Pete Seeger at 89 left the fortunate attendees with a sense of wonder. He even came out to spend time with a score of ardent fans who would not leave until he made an appearance. Seeger continues to prove that his music is as positive and relevant today as it has been for nearly seven decades.

—Howard B. Leibowitz

Tommy Emmanuel

Center Stage DVD

(Favored Nations)

Warning to musicians: watching Tommy Emmanuel's DVD **Center Stage** may be harmful to your self-esteem. Emmanuel's utter mastery of the guitar is so jaw-droppingly perfect that you're likely to throw up your arms in frustration—right before dropping to your knees in admiration. The man on whom the legendary Chet Atkins bestowed the title of "Certified Guitar Player" gives all ten fingers a workout on this disc, delivering a passionate, untouchable performance.

Shot at Chico, California's Sierra Nevada Brewery for the PBS series **Sierra Center Stage**, *Center Stage* is a scorching display of Emmanuel's guitar playing and his magnificent sense of showmanship. Not only does he make his brand of fingerstyle playing look effortless, he makes it look fun. Throughout the nearly two-hour performance, Emmanuel intersperses his playing



with smiles, jumps and even a duck walk or two. His love of playing is evident, and he takes the audience along for the ride.

In addition to Emmanuel's own classics, he dazzles the crowd with treasures like a Fab Four tribute in "Beatles Medley" and arrangements of "House of the Rising Sun" and "Amazing Grace." The songs are performed in rapid succession, with little introduction or chatter to interrupt the flow

of the music. Watching the audience's faces, you'll be hard-pressed to find a single one lacking that "wow" look. The Grammy-nominated Australian guitar phenom makes a solo acoustic performance come alive, and the intricacies and nuances make him a joy to watch, as does trying to figure out just how the heck his fingers can fly like that. *Center Stage* is an electrifying study in acoustic music with Tommy Emmanuel showing us all how it's done.—Mark Uricheck

John Mayall's Bluesbreakers

Live at Iowa State University DVD

(Quantum Leap)

John Mayall is undoubtedly a living blues legend. Not bad for a guy who used to live in a tree. (True story: Mayall lived in a tree on Canned Heat's front yard near Topanga Canyon.) The history of John Mayall & the Bluesbreakers is the history of blues and rock 'n' roll since the '60s. He doesn't talk about it, but Mayall is the uncrowned English godfather of the blues, having "discovered" three of rock's greatest guitarists: Eric Clapton, Peter Green and Mick Taylor. With this DVD, Mayall presents two more guitar gods: Walter Trout and Coco Montoya. Trout's solo on "Rolling With the Blues" goes from a screaming jam to a feathery caress, and Montoya plays a blazing solo on "One Life to Live."

While "Room to Move" has become Mayall's unofficial signature song, the version here is a jazzier and shorter version than listeners are used to hearing, one that includes Trout doing a short but accomplished "Layla" riff. "One Life to Live" is the best cut on this disc, especially judging by the audience reaction.

If there's anything disappointing about this DVD, it's its brevity, with less than 50 minutes of music, including the encore. I can't help but conclude that this performance was an outtake, perhaps part of a joint performance; I've neither seen nor heard of a Mayall performance this short. Still, this is a worthwhile acquisition.—Lou Novacheck