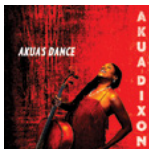




**THE WHO**

*Isle of Wight 2004*

Late bassist John Entwistle is irreplaceable, but this smokin' three-CD/DVD set shows The Who in fighting form. Roger Daltrey and Pete Townshend were both singing great, and Pete's rhythm riffage is still lethal (that's his brother, Simon, on second guitar). All the FM hits are here, but check out "Real Good-Looking Boy," the acoustic "Naked Eye," and a feedback-laced *Tommy* medley, where Townshend gets his Jimi on. — **PP**



**AKUA DIXON**

*Akua's Dance*

Cello isn't an instrument typically employed in jazz, but on her third CD, Dixon proves it can lead a hip jazz quartet consisting of some of the genre's greats. Her tone, sense of swing, composing and improvising chops are right at home with master jazz guitarist Russell Malone on three cuts and Freddie Bryant on the rest, as well as legendary bassist Ron Carter. — **DF**



**DON BRYANT**

*Don't Give Up On Love*

Between 1969 and 2017, Bryant didn't record a secular album. Instead, he was writing classics for wife Ann Peebles and others, like "I Can't Stand The Rain." The 75-year-old proves he hasn't lost a step, with the *soulfullest* aid of drummer Howard Grimes and organist Charles Hodges of the legendary Hi Records rhythm section, bassist Scott Bomar, leader of the Bo-Keys, and the

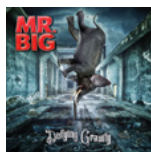
group's guitarists, John Paul Keith and Joe Restivo. — **DF**



**KATHY AND THE KILOWATTS**

*Let's Do This Thing!*

Hailing from Austin, it's little surprise that this rootsy band packs a Fab Thunderbirds wallop, with an added dollop of rockabilly. Kathy Murray fronts, with hubby Bill Jones leading the guitar elements. "Beautiful Moments" stands tall with full horn-section backing. — **MD**



**MR. BIG**

*Defying Gravity*

Mr. Big reunites with producer Kevin Elson for a satisfying continuation of the band's shred meets pop-rock legacy. Billy Sheehan, Eric Martin, and Paul Gilbert are in resplendent form while Pat Torpey gets an assist from drummer Matt Starr due to Parkinson's disease. Marinating in Gilbert's '70s blues-rock phase, it's a strong record with hooks galore. — **OJ**



**PHIL OCHS**

*Live In Montreal 10/22/66*

Ochs was a guitar-wielding 20th-century troubadour and he was at the height of his tragically brief career for this 1966 Montreal concert. Marrying voice and guitar into a single emotional unit, he delivers charming performances of several of his eloquent songs of love and justice like "Flower Lady" and "There But

For Fortune" that remain as powerful and evocative as ever. — **RA**



**RICK MASSIMO**

*I Got A Song: A History Of The Newport Folk Festival*

Begun in 1959, the Newport Folk Festival is more than just the scene of Bob Dylan and the Hawks' 1965 electric shakeup. Combining detailed research with recollections from artists and organizers, Massimo relates the bumpy but fascinating history of an iconic event trying to respectfully mind its origins while welcoming music that fell within an increasingly inclusive definition of "folk." — **RA**



**DAVID RYAN HARRIS**

*Songs For Other People*

When he's not on tour supporting John Mayer, Harris takes the stage as a solo acoustic performer crooning about loss, love, and more love. Originally written for other artists, he compiled these intimate gems and recorded them with a full band. Soulful, crafty, and smooth, Harris sings for the ladies. — **OJ**



**NAT KING COLE TRIO**

*Zurich 1950*

Part of the Montreux Jazz Label Series, what a treasure for song lovers and guitarists this is! Guitarman Irving Ashby features prominently in Cole's performances, and the CD even starts with his "Nothing To Fret

About" while he solos wonderfully on chestnuts like "How High The Moon." Recorded in 1950, this music is as vibrant now as ever. — **JH**



**THE REUNION PROJECT**

*Varanda*

Despite its name, this is not some jazz band's comeback; it's a gathering of Brazil's top musicians with shared backgrounds and experiences. In addition to his own albums, guitarist Chico Pinheiro has backed artists as diverse as Bob Mintzer and Placido Domingo. He displays impressive bebop chops on "Sinuosa," as well as supreme musicality. Jerome Kern's "Yesterdays" rounds out a set of memorable originals. — **DF**



**JOHN PIZZARELLI**

*Sinatra & Jobim @ 50*

Celebrating a brilliant album 50 years later is the perfect vehicle for Pizzarelli's lighter-than-air vocals and stunning guitar versatility. Although there's not as much guitar as you might expect from him, his rhythm playing on everything forms the basis for each tune and when he solos ("Agua De Beber"), it's perfect. Throw in Jobim's grandson, Daniel, and you've got a worthy tribute record. — **JH**



**MICKI FREE**

*Tattoo Burn - Redux*

Free has a rock-solid Jimi vibe going, but the 10 originals here display his depth beyond. He plays blues-rock with grit and panache, whipping out riffs with ease and majesty. The mid-tempo "Greens & Barbecue" sizzles — and makes you hungry for more. — **MD**