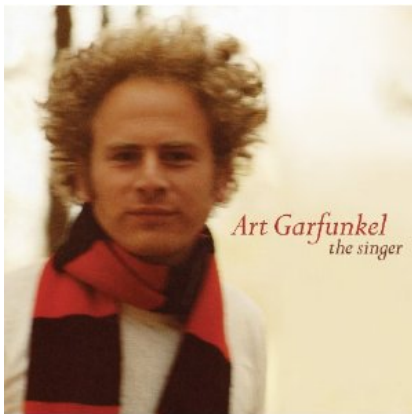


**PIANO MAGIC - "LIFE HAS NOT FINISHED WITH ME YET"**

There's an otherworldly allure to Piano Magic's textured, atmospheric songs. On their 11th album, there's a signature moodiness and broodiness. Yet, in the desolation, there is loveliness, as well. Angele David-Guillou's girlish voice offers a counterpoint to Glen Johnson's more darkly intoned vocals. The album radiates a bleak beauty.

**ART GARFUNKEL - "THE SINGER"**

As vocalist and vocal arranger, Garfunkel tends to be under-appreciated for his glorious contributions to the Simon & Garfunkel oeuvre. Here, the gentle, sensitive vocal work can be fully savored. Garfunkel himself selected the 34 tracks. His tones are smooth and satiny. In addition to exquisite S&G classics, such as "Bridge Over Troubled Water," "Sounds of Silence," "For Emily Whenever I May Find Her" and "Scarborough Fair," the two-CD set also features Garfunkel's gorgeous solo work, including "All I Know," "I Only Have Eyes For You," "Break Away" and "Bright Eyes." Less expected gems include Bruce Johnston's "Disney Girls," Jimmy Webb's "Skywriter," "When A Man Loves A Woman" and the Everly Brothers classic, "Crying in the Rain," a duet with James Taylor. Two newly recorded numbers, "Lena" and "Long Way Home," hold their own impressively in this exalted company. Simon may have been the songwriter. But Garfunkel, inarguably, is the singer.



**CLARE AND THE REASONS - KR-51"**

Clare Manchon and band brew up another batch of peerless experimental chamber-pop. "KR-51" (named for a model of moped), was recorded in Germany by this Brooklyn-based group. There's a childlike charm to Manchon's voice, which belies her vocal sophistication. Marvelously meticulous arrangements bring a sense of wonder to each distinctively different composition. The music is as entrancing as it is complex. Each time you play this album, you'll find new reasons to love it.

**THERESA ANDERSSON - "STREET PARADE"**

The Swedish-born, New Orleans-based vocalist/multi-instrumentalist creates a hypnotic spell all her own. Andersson inventively, intricately and evocatively layers instrumentation, rhythms and vocal harmonies. This results in uniquely haunting pop mini-masterpieces. Her vocals are sweetly, seductively soulful. As a lyricist, Andersson attains an impressive eloquence. The album is thoroughly captivating.



**"(I CAN'T GET NO) STEVIE JACKSON"**

Belle & Sebastian fans rejoice! Yes, you can get some satisfaction. The endlessly engaging U.K. band's guitarist, Stevie Jackson, has released a bountifully, benevolently bouncy solo pop-rock album. Recorded in Vancouver and Glasgow, the record includes guest appearances by other group members, as well as visitors from other fine bands, including The New Pornographers. Top tracks here include "Try Me," "Dead Man's Fall," "Bird's Eye View" and "Feel The Morning."

**TESSA SOUTER - "BEYOND THE BLUE"**

Beyond jazz. Beyond pop. Beyond