

All reviews by Darryl Sterdan. For more in-depth reviews of The Donnas, The Simpsons and more, go to canoe.ca/musicreviews



HOMER SIMPSON

GARAGE BAND IDOL

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



DAVID GILMOUR

Music on DVD

Bruce Springsteen

Under Review: 1978-1982 — Tales of the Working Man
Biography
★★★½

There's more than one way to get a new dose of the Boss' magic. This solid unauthorized 80-minute U.K. doc focuses on what is arguably the most fruitful period in Springsteen's career: The time between *Born to Run* and *Born in the U.S.A.*, which produced moody everyman masterpieces like *Darkness on the Edge of Town*, *The River* and *Nebraska*. Call it his blue-collar period.

David Gilmour

Remember That Night: Live at the Royal Albert Hall
Classic Rock
★★★★

No half-measures for Gilmour. On this live set, the Pink Floyd singer-guitarist plays his *On an Island* CD in its entirety — plus a slate of Floyd gems — with the aid of an all-star band (including keyboardist Richard Wright), VIP guests (including David Bowie and Crosby & Nash) and an eye-popping light show. A disc of extra tunes and docs make this a *Night* to remember, indeed.

Real Virtue
Bowmanville, Ont.
www.myspace.com/realvirtue

Writing good songs is difficult. But that doesn't mean writing difficult songs is good. Case in point: Teenage metal wannabes Real Virtue. Their epically awful song *Funeral for the Ages* starts off quoting Chopin's *Funeral March*, then moves into a galloping Iron Maiden knockoff that stops, starts and switches gears about every 16 bars for six loooong minutes. Ambitious? Sure. But not enough to conceal the fact that the whole thing threatens to collapse under the amateurish performances and tone-deaf vocals. If you want to listen, go ahead; it's your funeral.

DARRYL'S VERDICT
★
"Makes you long for the sweet caress of death."

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

LISTEN FOR YOURSELF
www.myspace.com/realvirtue



The Cult

Born Into This
Rock
★★★

Singer Ian Astbury and guitarist Billy Duffy are both here, but something else is missing from The Cult's first CD in six years: Namely, the dino-stomp bombast and AC/DC riffage of their '80s heyday. With their funkier bass-driven grooves and electronic textures, a lot of these dark mid-tempo guitar-rockers sound like Jim Morrison fronting latter-day Jane's Addiction.
Download: *Born Into This*, *Savages*



Mary Gauthier

Between Daylight and Dark
Roots
★★★★

You think Lucinda Williams and Nick Cave are bleak? They're Sonny and Cher next to Gauthier. With its stark takes on tragedy, heartbreak and violence, the Louisiana singer-songwriter's fifth CD may be her grimmest and most haunting work yet. But thanks to the quietly exquisite production of Joe Henry, it may also be her most beautiful and fully realized. Embrace the darkness.
Download: *Snakebit*, *Can't Find the Way*



will.i.am

Songs About Girls
Hip-Hop
★★★½

Surprise No. 1: This is Black Eyed Peas mastermind will.i.am's third solo CD (but his first since the Peas hit big). Surprise No. 2: It's less annoying than a Peas disc. Dialing back the over-the-top ringtones for more stylish, soulful and restrained dance numbers, will showcases his sharp songcraft and production skills — and gets your rump bumping with some irresistible beats.
Download: *I Got it From My Mama*, *Get Your Money*



Eddie Vedder

Into the Wild
Soundtrack
★★★

Pearl Jam's growly frontman truly and fittingly goes it alone on his solo debut, playing nearly every instrument on this soundtrack to Sean Penn's film about an Alaskan loner. And while the rootsy results lack the feral intensity and wallop of Vedder's day job, the earthy songs and homespun, pared-down sound convey the spacious beauty and isolation of the setting and story.
Download: *Far Behind*, *Hard Sun*

Coming up

NEXT WEEK

Revival
John Fogerty

Necessary Evil
Deborah Harry

Rock 'n' Roll Jesus
Kid Rock

Brave
Jennifer Lopez

2 WEEKS AWAY

Rare and Unreleased Recordings From the Golden Reign of the Queen of Soul
Aretha Franklin

Chase This Light
Jimmy Eat World

Chrome Dreams II
Neil Young

R.E.M. Live
R.E.M.

All release dates subject to change

The Pipettes

We are The Pipettes
Retro-Pop
★★★½

It's been a year since this retro-tastic debut from the hip U.K. trio came out in Britain. Of course, it's been 40 years since their sound — a sweetly spun, flawless Xerox of classic girl-group pop — was current. So a year is nothing. In any case, The Pipettes' time has truly come.

Various Artists

Across the Universe
Soundtrack
★★½

As Beatle-song soundtracks go, this is no *Sgt. Pepper*. Thank heavens. In fact, this cast recording of Lennon-McCartney covers has a few fab moments.

The Donnas

Bitchin'
Hard Rock
★★½

You can't be a party girl all your life. And with album No. 7, The Donnas have completed their evolution from teenage Ramones disciples to polished, radio-friendly arena-rockers. Trouble is, most of these '80s-metal anthems are devoid of the sassy fun of their earlier records.

Dashboard Confessional

The Shake of Poison Trees
Emo
★★★½

"I could fake it if I have to," claims Chris Carrabba. We doubt it. The emo poster-boy is one of the most sincere artists in rock, and this fifth CD won't change that.

The Simpsons

Testify
Soundtrack
★★

Remember classic Simpsons tunes like *Monorail!* and *Rock Me, Dr. Zaius?* Well, forget them. They're not here — they were on previous soundtracks. Sadly, this third comp of 'toon tunes sticks to more recent (and forgettable) fare.