



FRANK ZAPPA

## Music on DVD

### Frank Zappa

From *Straight to Bizarre*  
Documentary

★★★★

What do Alice Cooper, Lenny Bruce and Captain Beefheart have in common? They were all signed to Mothers of Invention leader Frank Zappa's Straight and Bizarre record labels in 1969. And their experiences all form part of this well-researched 160-minute documentary on Zappa's brief but creatively rich period as the head of his own freaky little music empire. Wowie zowie, baby.

### Santana

Greatest Hits Live at Montreux 2011

Latino Rock

★★★★½

After 40-some years, guitar guru Carlos Santana has enough hits to play for hours. And so he does on this two-disc set taped in 2011 at the Swiss festival. Backed by his 10-piece band — plus guests Derek Trucks and Susan Tedeschi — Santana delivers nearly three hours of hypnotic grooves and highlights, from early hits to his most recent covers album, plus everything between.



### Fun.

Some Nights

Pop

★★★★½

Fun for young and old alike. These New York popsters caught the ears of the Glee club with the soaring melodies and old-school songcraft of their hit *We Are Young*. The bulk of this second CD stays on message, intertwining their youthful exuberance and AutoTuned tomfoolery with bombastic Queen-sized arrangements and REO Speedwagon vocals. Pretty good for a bunch of kids. **Download:** *We Are Young*; *It Gets Better*



### Plants & Animals

The End of That

Indie-Rock

★★★★

Every end can be a new beginning. Or at least a step in the right direction. This Montreal indie-rock trio continue to hone their abilities with this muscular third album, sharpening their songcraft and edging toward the mainstream with the help of chunkier guitar lines, stronger melodies and leaner, meaner arrangements. Some may miss their stylistic wanderlust — but not for very long. **Download:** *The End of That*; *Crisis!*



### The Chieftains

Voice of Ages

Celtic

★★★★

Like The Beach Boys and Stones, Paddy Moloney and Co. turn 50 this year. Unlike them, the Irish legends invite the hipsters over to celebrate. This T-Bone Burnett-produced affair finds the band welcoming Bon Iver, Pistol Annies, Decemberists, Low Anthem, Civil Wars and more — all of whom help the birthday boys kick up their heels on traditional Celtic-folk gems. Join the party. **Download:** *When the Ship Comes in* w/ The Decemberists



### Lyle Lovett

Release Me

Country

★★★★½

Lovett is his own man again — the singer-songwriter's 13th CD also marks the end of his record deal. Guess that's why it feels like he's cleaning out his desk: The set blends a typically eclectic array of rootsy originals with covers from Chuck Berry to Townes Van Zandt, a kd lang cameo on the title cut and even holiday fare. Lyle's dry vocals and drier wit still get the job done, though. **Download:** *White Boy Lost in the Blues*; *Isn't That So*

# GARAGE BAND IDOL

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

**Frailfragment**  
Toronto  
frailfragment.com

Some people create. And some people re-create. These Toronto metal men belong in the latter category. Their songs check all the required alt-metal boxes — from the grinding guitars and slow-chugging gaits to the angry-dude howling. But there's absolutely nothing going on here that you haven't heard done before, and likely better. That's not to say they don't have potential. But until they force themselves to blaze new trails instead of just following in everyone else's footsteps, they're just another bunch of also-rans.

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 [darryl.sterdan@sunmedia.ca](mailto:darryl.sterdan@sunmedia.ca)

**DARRYL'S VERDICT**  
★★  
"Metal fatigue."

**LISTEN FOR YOURSELF**

frailfragment.com

### Sleigh Bells

Reign of Terror

Noise-Pop

★★★★½



Bring in the noise, bring in the pop. And crank 'em. This duo wooed

the blogosphere in 2010 with their endearing alloy of metallic guitars, dreamy girl-pop vocals and drumline beatboxes. Now they're out to conquer the world by upping the ante — every riff is massive, every melody soars, every cut is a blast of sonic intensity. It gets relentless — but you can't say they've gone soft. **Download:** *Crush*; *Demons*

### Sinead O'Connor

How About I Be Me (And You Be You?)

Folk-Rock

★★★★



As if she could be anyone else. Despite her recent travails — the off-and-

on marriage, the troubled tweets, the *Playboy* dreams — O'Connor pulls herself together beautifully on her ninth album. Armed with otherworldly pipes and frank lyrics, she casually moves between bouncy pop, Celtic folk, soulful ballads and even crunchy rock — and makes you wish she handled life as expertly.

**Download:** *4th & Vine*; *Queen of Denmark*

### The Cranberries

Roses

Pop-Rock

★★★★½



This week in unnecessary reunions: Irish pop-rockers The Cranberries are

back with their first album in a decade. Not that you'd know it — they take up more or less right where they left off, with Ontario resident Dolores O'Riordan's Gaelic lilt floating above gently chiming guitar melodies and lazy beats. Anyone out there with an unquenched thirst for freeze-dried Cranberries, enjoy.

**Download:** *Conduct*; *Schizophrenic Playboys*

## Coming up

### NEXT WEEK

Live at the Carousel Ballroom 1968

Big Brother & The Holding Company

Family Man

Shooter Jennings

Women & Work

Lucero

Hell in a Handbasket

Meat Loaf

Sky High

Mike Posner

Little Mountain

Said the Whale

Enslaved

Soulfly

Sounds From Nowheresville

Ting Tings

All release dates subject to change