



gun club cemetery
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(359/MVD)

pete macleod
rolling stone
(359/MVD)

tess parks
blood hot
(359/MVD)

Alan McGee, who's peppered my Top 40 since the '80s with Creation Records and later Poptones, is back for a third go-round with an egalitarian concept. He's invited us all to send him recordings, and promised to listen to them all (yeah?) for potential signings. If you can't see him now, he's been buried alive by his local postman. Anyway, though none of these three will set the world afire like **My Bloody Valentine**, **J&MC**, **Ride**, **Swervedriver**, **Boo Radleys**, **Slowdive**, **Primal Scream**, **Oasis**, etc., there's good listening. The funny-named Gun Club Cemetery (is **Jeffrey Lee Pierce** smiling from the afterlife?) are a ringer, led by **Alex Lowe**, formerly of Creation's **Hurricane #1** (with Ride's **Andy Bell**). Guitar rockers "Get it Down" and "The Hollow Face of a Shadow Man" are very Oasis, though it's a Small Faces/Faces blueprint they both draw from. The quieter piano ballads are kind of boring—but when they crank classic rock they boogie well.

Those favoring Creation's initial, Byrds-y/gentler Velvets era will prefer MacLeod, whose cheerful ringing pop bears little trace of his Scottish accent— his voice is more Graham Parker. When he sings "and we all shine on," he's quoting John Lennon's 1970 #5 "Instant Karma," but his northern folk rock is The Smiths' jangly variety (viva Johnny Marr) or dBs, Triffids, and R.E.M. (Another Oasis connection: **Bonehead** joins him live.) MacLeod'd be a good opener for The Decemberists.

That leaves Toronto's Parks, who apparently knows **Dandy Warhols**, and if she doesn't she should: there's a similar cool, lysergic quality to her behind the beat, draggy neo-psych like the T-Rex-lite lumber of "Gates of Broadway"—though is that Kendra Smith or Hope Sandoval singing? Or Downey Mildew's Jenny Homer? It's a similar menthol, legato style as Sandoval in the slurry way she intones, as if to take up more space. *Blood's* hypnotic enough to make this stick. (359music.co.uk; mvdb2b.com) - Jack Rabid