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MUSIC REVIEWS



WALLS OF JERICHO

Redemption

Trustkill Records

I am not going to lie to anyone reading this that may know me personally. I usually tend to hate music where the singer is constantly screaming at me. This was the case with Walls of Jericho for me a few years ago. It just simply wasn't my thing. With Redemption, the 5-song EP produced by Corey Taylor (Stone Sour/Slipknot), Walls of Jericho have found a sound that I not only can wrap my arms around and embrace, but something I fell in love with after the initial shock settled down that this was the same band I heard a few years back. The screaming is gone, and instead is replaced with an outstanding lead vocal from Candane Kucsulain, who shows she is more versatile than I had originally thought. Her soft delivery and painful tones to her voice deliver the lyrics perfectly as she sings about life, loss, and heartache. Musically, this is modern alternative without a punk or hardcore edge at all, but rather smoothly delivered guitars that are much more radio friendly than anything I have heard from Walls of Jericho in the past. Corey Taylor does lend his voice to 3 of the tracks on the EP and delivers a background vocal each and every time that will have you singing along as it adds that much more depth to the tracks. Though they claim that they will go back their old style with this summer's release, this is a nice departure from what we are used to from Walls of Jericho and a welcome addition to my music collection.



IAN WALSH

Please Remember

Plus 5 Records

"If you think of breakups, this was a hell on earth kind of break up," states 19-Year-old, Berklee College of Music student, Ian Walsh about the relationship that spawned the songs that made up his first EP, all five of which coincidentally appear on his wonderful full length debut album "Please Remember." Walsh writes what he knows and knows what he writes. It is simple, who hasn't been through a breakup that changed their life and their outlook on how love is supposed to be? For the listeners, we are lucky that Ian decided to share with us how it made him feel not only in his words, but in the wonderfully crafted music that will fit amongst today's mainstream acts like Maroon 5 just as easily as it will against some of the Warped Tour artists like Academy Is. Walsh lends his musical talents to guitar, bass, and piano throughout the album and knows just when to crank it up a notch to drive home his lyrics as he displays on "Catch My Eye," but more importantly when to slow it down and use the piano as the prominent instrument as he displays on "Now or Never" and "Goodbye." Ian Walsh has created an album chalked full of emotion that anyone and everyone who has ever dared to play the game of love and lost will relate to with relative ease.



WEEN
The Friends EP
Chocodog Records/MVD Audio

Ween is always one of those bands that you never really know what's in store for you when you hit play on any of their releases, but you can bet it is going to be completely out there as is the case with "The Friends EP." A remixed version of their song "Friends," kicks off the EP and you are instantly met with beats that would be more suited for a dance club than the mainstream radio that was playing "Push The Little Daisies." As you dig into the EP you find yourself surrounded by more dance beats, and then you stumble upon "King Billy," which is a very strange combination of reggae and Jamaican dance hall and will have you looking for your old Bob Marley albums. The Jamaican dance hall flavored "Light Me Up" follows before the album closes out with "Slow Down Boy," which coincidentally is the only slower paced song on the EP. Another truly unique release from Ween and if you are one of those folks that likes something that is truly an acquired taste then make sure to check out this EP.