



[Musicomania](#) > Music Reviews

Note: If you can read french, go to the french section for additional content.

FEATURED REVIEW: [Collective Soul](#)

FEATURED NEW ARTIST: [Paramore](#)

OTHER CD REVIEWS:

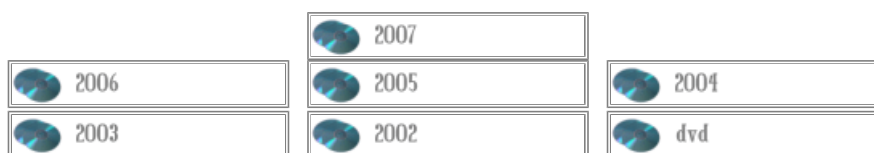
[The New Pornographers](#) - [The Weakerthans](#) - [The Cribs](#) - [The Honorary Title](#) - [Vanna](#) - [Emily Haines & The Soft Skeleton](#) - [Omara Portuondo](#) - [John Coltrane](#)

DVD REVIEWS :

[Keith Richards](#) - [Johnny Cash](#) - [All My Loving](#)

[OTHER NEW FINDINGS](#)
[REVIEWS COMING UP NEXT MONTH](#)
[KEY FOR THE STARS](#)

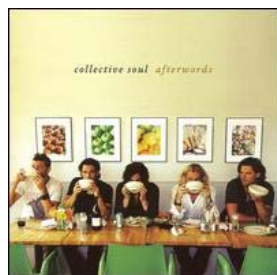
ARCHIVES:



You can also search by artists names if you visit the [artists directory](#).

ARCHAMBAULT 

Featured Review:



[Collective Soul](#) - *Afterwords*

With *Youth*, their previous album issued in 2004, the group from Georgia Collective Soul brought us in a world we didn't know about them while presenting glam rock. The result was surprising and rather interesting. *Afterwords* brings us back now in a better known territory, a territory explored 10 years ago not only by them, but also by several other pop rock bands that were a result of the post grunge period. The beats and guitars are still as effective, but with a greater intimacy on most of the songs, which are, it should be said, all love songs. Among those which arise among others, let's note the opening track, the powerful "New Vibration", which has the quality to catch our attention for the rest of the CD. After some effective songs that don't have anything particular, "I Don't Need Anymore Friends", composed and sung by the guitarist **Joel Kosche**, offers us a different sound than **Ed Roland**'s compositions, Roland having composed everything else, as usual. A little later, we can hear the very good power pop hit "Hollywood" which is an instant classic of the group to be added to their already long list of hits in career. Kosche also took part in the music composition on this one, which makes us say that Roland should perhaps leave a little more place to his lead guitarist for the writing. I also like the following song, "Persuasion Of You", but as a whole, it's an album which points out a little too much the past of the band without a big evolution. The fans of Collective Soul will be able once again to appreciate, but without any surprises. *Afterwords* is a good pop rock album, but which will not make history.

EI Music / [Warner](#)

Top of page

Featured New Artist:



[Paramore](#) - *Riot!*

Riot! is the 2nd album by the pop punk quartet from Tennessee Paramore, but the 1st on a major label. We can compare them with **Simple Plan**, **Amber Pacific** and **Red Jumpsuit Apparatus**, but because of the female presence of the young **Hayley Williams** on the microphone, we can especially compare them with **Avril Lavigne** and the band from Quebec **Meesh**. They offer us an energetic pop rock sound with punk influences, like it's the case for the first single, the excellent "Misery Business". Arrangements are polished, perhaps a little too much, the melodies are always effective and catchy, and the powerful voice of Williams catches quickly our attention. Without being an overflow of creativity, the album presents few truly weak tracks, which makes it a not too deep album easy to hear for 39 minutes. Most of the fans of the genre were already charmed by them. For the others, several are likely to pay attention towards this young band with a contagious energy.

[Atlantic](#) / [Warner](#)


Top of page

Other CD Reviews:

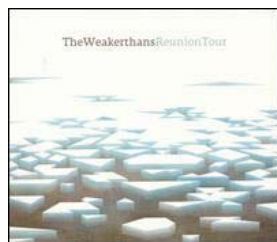


[The New Pornographers](#) - *Challengers*

Here is the 4th album by this indie pop super group from Vancouver. Once again, it's **A.C. Newman** which composed most of the songs on the album. In fact, he wrote 9 out of 12, the 3 others having been written by **Danny Bejar**. Newman proves again his huge talent in writing superb melodies which quickly make us sing several of the songs offered on *Challengers*. This is the case as soon as at the opening track with the excellent "My Rights Versus Yours" which is followed by my favorite one, "All The Old Showstoppers". The group explores various styles, offering a wide range throughout the album. They can pass from almost folk ballads (the title-song) to fast rock 'n' roll (the excellent "All The Things That Go To Make Heaven And Earth"). These variations represent perhaps the most negative point whereas we lose ourselves in it. The guitars are always quite present, even if it's the voices of **Neko Case**, **Kathryn Calder**, Bejar and Newman which remain in obviousness. We can compare the New Pornographers at some moments with **The Arcade Fire** and their music enters easily the same bosom as many brit pop bands. In spite of very good melodies and a very pop simplicity, New Pornographers have the characteristic of always offering us creative compositions with a great depth. We thus need some good attentive listenings for really appreciating all the facets of their music, even if the first listening is likely to be largely sufficient to seduce you completely. The production of the album is again of first quality thanks to the work of **Phil Palazzolo**, **John Collins** and Newman, and the arrangements are quite simply splendid. *Challengers* is a very good album which will please the fans of the group.

[Last Gang](#)


Top of page



[The Weakerthans](#) - *Reunion Tour*

Already 4 years passed since [Reconstruction Site](#), their 3rd album which enabled them to reach a larger audience. Even if they didn't split up, the group comes back with *Reunion Tour*. We can feel a greater maturity and a greater self-confidence on this album. Indeed, **John K. Samson** and his band seem now perfectly to know in which direction they wish to go musically and what they want to say. Music of great quality accompanies their often sarcastic lyrics about their entourage in which we recognize types of people we meet regularly. The album begins strongly with the excellent "Civil Twilight" which gives the tone to this album resolutely rock, somewhat leaving the folk and the country aside (in spite of some occasions, including the closing track, "Utilities"). "Hymn of the Medical Oddity" introduces a young boy who was raised as a girl after a tragic medical experiment. "Relative Surplus Value" is also very good, just like "Tournament of Hearts" a song about curling, a very popular "sport" in their hometown of Winnipeg. We find again the character of Virtute the Cat, the narrator we were hearing on their previous album. The poem in music of "Elegy for Gump Worsley" largely modified my opinion about the album by dramatically breaking the beat which I loved until there. Even if some ballads are present on the disc, they do a good job to counterbalance the tracks with a little more rhythm. But, that track about the famous goaltender shouldn't have had a place on the disc in my opinion. In spite of this unhappy moment, it's once again an excellent album that give us The Weakerthans, an album which shows a little more the direction the band is taking musically. We can feel that the masterpiece is easily reachable. Check it out in a near future...

[Anti- / Epitaph](#)

★★★★½



↑ Top of page



[The Cribs](#) - *Men's Needs, Women's Needs, Whatever*

The Cribs is an indie rock band from England which impresses in its native land since its debut in 2005. The trio is composed of the twins **Ryan** and **Gary Jarman** accompanied by their little brother **Ross** on drums. *Men's Needs, Women's Needs, Whatever* finally enables them to be discovered in America. The album was produced by **Alex Kapranos** of **Franz Ferdinand**. It represents a mix between **The Strokes**, **The Futureheads**, **Weezer** and **Bloc Party**, a good fusion of American indie rock and brit pop finally. The most important problem with The Cribs, it's that they work in a genre which was exploited at its full potential in the last years and they don't really succeed in dissociating from other similar artists. Well, there are a few very good moments with particular beats and excellent melodies, but we actually find only one song which is in a class of its own, "Be Safe", which arrives as far as at the 10th track (on a total of 12). It's nevertheless a good album the fans of Franz Ferdinand, The Strokes and Weezer are likely to like largely, but it's unfortunately not the creative group the British claimed they were sending us.

[Warner](#)

★★★★



↑ Top of page

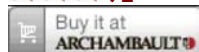


[The Honorary Title](#) - *Scream & Light Up The Sky*

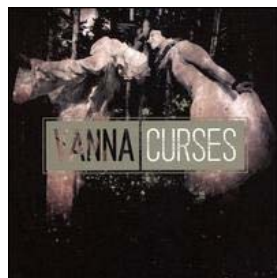
The duo from Brooklyn, New York evolved in a quartet in the last years and it offers now its 2nd album, their major label debut. The group thus became a little less intimate, less centered on the singer, guitarist, author and composer **Jarrold Gorbel**. I found a little weird the fact they issued a 4-track EP a few weeks only before the release of this new record, but I must acknowledge the idea was very good if we consider the evolution of their style since their first album. The EP, [Untouched & Intact](#), gave us 2 new songs ("Untouched and Intact" and "Along The Way" we can find also here), and 2 B-sides going back to their beginnings ("Finally Understand" and "7 Blocks"), what enabled us to make well the bridge between the duo and the quartet and to mentally prepare the fans for their new style. It's thus without much surprise that we find this indie pop sound of great deepness with obvious brit pop influences. We can compare them with **Dashboard Confessional**, **Muse** and **Jimmy Eat World**. When we hear tracks like "Thin Layer", "Untouched and Intact", "The City's Summer" and the first single "Stuck At Sea", we applaud Gorbel's guts to have accepted to somewhat erase himself in a group centered on the guitar with a powerful rhythm section. In my opinion, it's with *Scream & Light Up The Sky* that The Honorary Title truly emerges.

[Reprise](#) / [Warner](#)

★★★★½



↑ Top of page



[Vanna](#) - *Curses*

Vanna is a post hardcore band from Boston presenting its very first album, in spite of an already long experience in concert throughout all America. The group had also offered us an EP of 6 tracks in 2006, [The Search Party Never Came](#), which made a good impression within the US hardcore punk scene. Their sound, a fusion of punk and metal, takes its inspiration from bands like **Norma Jean** and **Underoath**. Their colleagues at Epitaph, **Escape The Fate** and **From First To Last**, also come to our mind in many occasions. The major part of the album is based on the screaming voice of **Chris Preece**, but we find anyway moments with melodies in some choruses. Few tracks arise truly among the others, except maybe for the first single, "The Things He Carried". Finally, *Curses* remains an hardcore album offering very few moments to sing along. Therefore, sensitive ears should listen to something else.

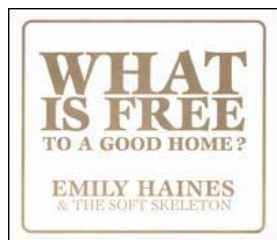
Video: ["The Things He Carried"](#)

[Epitaph](#)

★★★★



↑ Top of page



[Emily Haines & The Soft Skeleton](#) - *What Is Free To A Good Home?*

One year after her first solo album, [Knives Don't Have Your Back](#), Emily Haines gives us an EP which is the logical continuation to the album. In fact, 5 of the 6 songs presented here were recorded at the same time that the album, but they were left aside when came the time to decide the final content of the CD, even if they had all the necessary qualities to appear on it. They thus remain exactly in the same atmosphere that those of the previous record and are not likely to surprise anybody. They're all soft songs, primarily on piano, highlighting largely the voice of Haines and her lyrics. The 6th track of the 20-minute CD is a remix of "Mostly Waving" that we found on [Knives Don't Have Your Back](#). This EP should go jointly with her previous album, therefore don't buy one without the other.

[Last Gang](#)

★★★★



↑ Top of page



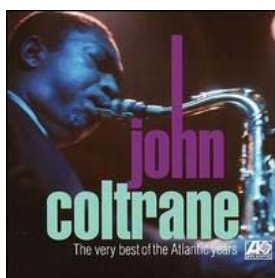
[Omara Portuondo](#) - *Duets*

Omara Portuondo is a true Cuban legend, the best known singer in the country. She took part in the famous **Buena Vista Social Club** in 1996, but what we find here, it's rather a compilation of duets recorded during the 25 last years (except one which was recorded in 1974). She's accompanied most of the time by the **Egrem** orchestra featuring among others **Rubén Gonzalez**, **Juan Pablo Torres** and **Orlando Lopez**. We can hear famous duets with **Arnaldo Rodríguez** ("Habana Travel"), **Pedro Rivera** ("Como Es Posible"), **Miguel Ángel Cespedes** ("Para Vivir de Lejos" and "Amor, Dame Vida"), **Pío Leyva** ("Reclamo Místico"), **Maria Felicia Perez** ("Libre de Pecado"), Juan Pablo Torres ("Eso No Lo He Dicho Yo") and several others. But the person who is more often in company of Omara is **Elena Burke** whose name appears 6 times, including the excellent opening and energetic track "Este Son Homenaje". After several songs with good beats worthy of the best Cuban music, we find some consecutive romantic ballads which come somewhat to break the beat of the CD, even if they're of good quality and contribute to highlight well the exceptional voice of the singers. I largely prefer Omara when she presents beats of bolero or with the mambo of "Deja Que Suba la Marea". These 20 tracks for a total of 75 minutes largely contribute to make us understand why this famous diva was acclaimed throughout the world.

[Disconforme](#) / [MVD](#)



[↑ Top of page](#)



[John Coltrane](#) - *The Very Best Of The Atlantic Years*

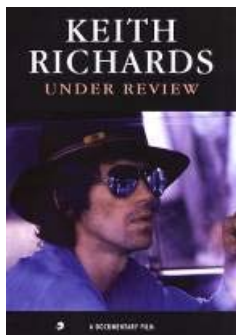
John Coltrane is a true jazz legend, although he was active for only a short period between 1955 and his death in 1967 (his solo career started only in 1960). After having worked with great names like **Miles Davis** and **Milt Jackson**, he decided to go on his own before forming his own legendary quartet in company of **McCoy Tyner** (piano), **Steve Davis** (bass) and **Elvin Jones** (drums). These are these 2 periods that we find here whereas we explore the years 1959 to 1964. We can hear several tracks from the classic album [Giant Steps](#) (1959). In one week only, in October 1960, the quartet recorded enough material to fill up 3 albums: the excellent [My Favorite Things](#) (1961), [Coltrane Plays The Blues](#) (1962) and [Coltrane's Sound](#) (1964). We also find here tracks from the album [Coltrane Jazz](#) (1961). Finally, we can hear the bossa nova of "Aisha" issued on [Ole!](#) (1962), as well as a track with Milt Jackson, "Stairway To The Stars", recorded in 1959 for the album [Bags & Trane](#) which was only released in 1961. Even if this compilation does not completely cover the career of Coltrane, we can hear all his best material on this CD. Moreover, with its 15 titles filling the CD at full capacity, it's a jazz compilation of a great value which is offered to us here. It acts definitely as the best way to discover this jazz giant.

[Warner](#)



[↑ Top of page](#)

DVD Reviews:



[Keith Richards](#) - *Under Review*

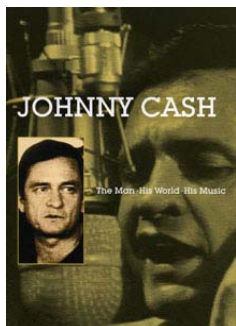
Under Review is a documentary about the career of Keith Richards, and at the same time, of [The Rolling Stones](#). Indeed, having primarily evolved within this mythical group for the last 45 years, the career of Richards is almost the same as the Stones' in spite of some solo albums and other solo projects in the 80's and 90's. The documentary is particularly well made with the opinions of many experts. We discover the very first influences of Richards in rock n' roll and blues (**Chuck Berry**, **Muddy Waters**, and so on) and how he used those influences to build his own guitar style. The explanations of the guitar specialist **Wolf Marshall** are particularly instructive and show us how fabulous and unique Richards is as a guitarist, succeeding in mixing perfectly rhythm and lead guitar. We can obviously also learn a little more on his dependencies to drugs and his great authenticity. This is a true rocker and a unique performer like there is very few, and we can truly wonder how he can still be alive after all those abuses. To see the importance he granted to musical creation in his life, we must understand that it's probably what holds him still upright, even if his best creative period goes back to the 2nd half of the 60's and the early 70's. In addition to the various interview sequences, the unauthorized DVD presents live footage or images of their every day life, including great classics of the group ("Satisfaction", "Jumping Jack Flash", "Brown Sugar", "Tumbling Dice", "Start Me Up", "It's Only Rock n' Roll" and several others). This extremely interesting documentary is impossible to avoid for any fan of Keith Richards and The Rolling Stones.

118 minutes

Sexy Intellectual / [MVD](#)



[↑ Top of page](#)



[Johnny Cash](#) - *The Man, His World, His Music* (2000) (2007 re-issue)

Here is a 90-minute film reviewing the various facets of the life of this legend of country music. The music is at the center of the film whereas we can see images of Cash in various contexts: hunting, in family, with friends, on tour, in studio or on stage. These various images give a good portrait of his life, while presenting him on tour at the end of the 60's. We can see him in duo with his wife **June Carter**, as well as with the folk legend **Bob Dylan** (who turned country in contact with Johnny Cash). We can also see **Carl Perkins** on stage performing his classic "Blue Suede Shoes". Among the 21 tracks offered here, we can hear several Cash classics, even if it cannot be seen like a compilation of his greatest hits. It's sure we cannot expect an image quality of the years 2000, but the video capture has the advantage of bringing us back to an environment of the 60's. The fans of Johnny Cash will appreciate undoubtedly this film which gives a good outline of the persona.

[Cherry Red](#) / [MVD](#)



[↑ Top of page](#)



[All My Loving](#)

All My Loving is a TV documentary by **Tony Palmer** that was initially broadcasted on the BBC in 1968 and which is finally available on DVD. The 60-minute film presents for the first time the influence of music on pop culture through the most creative artists of the modern era. We can see previously unseen footage from the greatest artists like **The Beatles**, **Cream**, **Jimi Hendrix**, **The Who**, **Eric Burdon** and **Pink Floyd**. But, there are also very interesting interview segments with guys like **Frank Zappa**, **Paul McCartney**, **Manfred Mann**, and more. The whole is mixed with typical footage of that time, including the Vietnam War. This DVD primarily makes it possible to take conscience again at how the creativity was at its apogee in the pop music of the 60's. On the other hand, I thought that the mixing was somewhat unstitched and with some lengths, which I didn't like and made me think I didn't agree with all those which spoke in praise about this documentary through the years. It's anyway an excellent report of the most outstanding artists of the 60's and all the modern era, artists who provided the foundations for their followers. In bonus, we can hear a 40-minute interview with Tony Palmer who explains in details the genesis of the film, which largely came from a suggestion by **John Lennon**, and the BBC's reluctance to air it.

Isolde / [MVD](#)



[↑ Top of page](#)

Other New Findings:

[Garbage](#) - *Absolute Garbage* (2 CD)

The ultimate collection of the post grunge band Garbage. All their hits are included (except one, "Androgyny") from their 4 albums, plus "The World Is Not Enough" from the original motion picture soundtrack of the same title, "Tell Me Where It Hurts", a new composition, and a remix of "It's All Over But The Crying". So, it's a total of 18 tracks we can find here, presented chronologically. This version of 2 CDs gives us a disc containing 13 remixes in bonus, most of them very danceable. But, you can buy the [version of 1 CD only](#).



[Queens Of The Stone Age](#) - *Era Vulgaris*

The newest album by Queens Of The Stone Age. A good album but too similar to their previous ones.



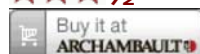
[The Mars Volta](#) - *Amputecture* (2006)

The 3rd album by the creative band The Mars Volta. Once again, it's full of experiment and weird sounds.



[Saint Etienne](#) - *Tales From Turnpike House* (2006)

Saint Etienne gives us a more natural and organic sound on this album, leaving the electronic sounds of the excellent [Sound Of Water](#) for example.



[Blondie](#) - *Greatest Hits: Sound & Vision (CD + DVD) (2006)*

Another greatest hits collection for the new wave band of the early 80's Blondie! The most important difference on this one is that it includes a DVD with 16 videos (probably they're all here). We can also hear for the first time a mix of "Rapture" with "Riders On The Storm" by [The Doors](#), on the CD as well as on the DVD.

★★★★½



[Lisa Loeb](#) - *The Very Best Of Lisa Loeb (2006)*

Compilation of this folk pop singer which didn't have many top 10 hits, but was always able to create her own interesting things. You will recognize anyway a couple of songs that played a lot like "I Do", "Stay (I Missed You)" and "Truthfully".

★★★★



[Brazilian Girls](#) - *Brazilian Girls (2005)*

Here is the first album by this very creative american band. They give us varied sounds exploring rock, electro and latin beats, and they give us lyrics in French and Spanish in some occasions.

★★★★½



[Agnostic Front](#) - *Another Voice (2005)*

The best album by the hardcore punk band Agnostic Front in almost 20 years.

★★★★



[Kylie Minogue](#) - *Ultimate Kylie (2 CD) (2004)*

The greatest hits by the australian **Madonna** on 2 CDs. It's almost a 20-year career we can find in 33 tracks, including some that were most of all hits in Australia and Europe.

★★★★½



[Division Of Laura Lee](#) - *Black City (2002)*

The first album by the Sweden garage band Division Of Laura Lee to be issued in America. This is a very good record.

★★★★½



[Bran Van 3000](#) - *Discosis (2001)*

Another very good album by the collective band from Montreal Bran Van 3000, including the hit "Astounded". They will be back with a new record soon, so check it out.

★★★★½



[Stereolab](#) - *Emperor Tomato Ketchup (1996)*

The best album by the alternative band Stereolab. A classic in that genre.

★★★★★



[Black Flag](#) - *Damaged (1981)*

The hardcore punk band from California Black Flag was active only from 1977 to 1986, but they were very important for a generation of punks, especially thanks to this album, *Damaged*, a classic in the genre.

★★★★★



Reviews Coming Up Next Month:



James Blunt,
All The Lost Souls



- + Kanye West - [Graduation](#)
- Ash - [Twilight Of The Innocents](#)
- Against Me! - [New Wave](#)
- Tiësto - [In Search Of Sunrise 6: Ibiza](#) (2 CD)
- Chiodos - [Bone Palace Ballet](#)
- Orange - [Escape From L.A.](#)
- Joe Henry - [Civilians](#)
- Mother Mother - [Touch Up](#)
- Foreign Born - [On The Wing Now](#)

and much more...

Top of page

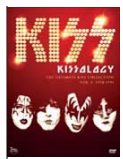


artists directory	music reviews	musicographies	best albums
shop	links	faq	bookmark
newsletter list		tell a friend	
Musicomania		Comicomania	

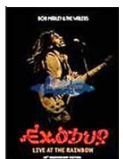


[Nouveautés](#) / [New releases](#) - [Préventes](#) / [Preorders](#)

	<p>James Blunt <i>All The Lost Souls</i> 15,99 \$</p>		<p>The Cult <i>Born Into This</i> 14,99 \$</p>		<p>P.J. Harvey <i>White Chalk</i> 13,99 \$</p>
	<p>Foo Fighters <i>Echoes, Silence, Patience & Grace</i> 14,99 \$</p>		<p>50 Cent <i>Curtis</i> 14,99 \$</p>		<p>Kanye West <i>Graduation</i> 14,99 \$</p>
	<p>Super Furry Animals <i>Hey Venus!</i> 18,99 \$</p>		<p>Korn <i>Untitled</i> 19,99 \$</p>		<p>Sum 41 <i>Underclass Hero</i> 13,99 \$</p>



KISS
[Kissology Vol. 2, 1978-1991](#)
 (4 DVD)
29,99 \$



Bob Marley & The Wailers
[Exodus: Live At The Rainbow](#)
 (DVD)
18,99 \$



Heaven & Hell
[Live From Radio City Music Hall](#)
 (DVD)
21,99 \$

Prix en dollars canadiens, indiqués sous réserve de modifications / Prices in canadian dollars may vary

[↑ Haut de page](#) [↑ Top of page](#)

Copyright © 2001-2007, [Musicomania.ca](#). Tous droits réservés / All rights reserved.



SERVICES
GRATUITS

FREE & PRO