

It was bound to happen...yes, it's true, this week is a blatantly holiday-themed column. But I promise to steer clear of the seasonal puns and clichés. As we all know, December marks crunch time for holiday gift shopping. In light of this annually apparent fact I thought I'd lessen the burden for all my fellow procrastinators and suggest a couple musical gift ideas. Sometimes the best gift is turning someone on to a new band or perhaps even better, supplying a fan with a coveted piece of memorabilia. The live music experience is always a good way to go and if you've run the gamut of concert tickets over the years, at music events and awards shows you may find your favorite bands all in one place. So let us commence to gathering the holiday gift awesomeness.



interactive "hardest Small Faces quiz in the world ever." This is certainly one of the most comprehensive DVD sets in the *Under Review* series and it is no overstatement to claim this DVD as "a package fans of the group have been waiting years to find."

THE GIFT OF GOOD LISTENING

Of course the albums covered over the past few months are prime for holiday gift giving (the latest by Hudson Bell, Broken Social Scene, Clap Your Hands Say Yeah, Get Him Eat Him, Big Bear, and many more). Here are a couple other good ones to consider for your list.

Part Chimp/*I Am Come!* Monitor Records

Oh sweet Jesus! Part Chimp's latest album is an eyebrow-singeing distortionfest! Where to begin? First I'll begin by saying this would make a pretty sick gift. Part Chimp have truly honed their gritty, abrasive and thunderous sound into a well-arranged album. While tracks like "Bakahatsu" grind your brain into oblivion, dirge-like numbers like "Bubbles" recover then throw you to the wolves with "Fasto's" feedback-heavy rampage. The highlight of *I Am Come* is by far "War Machine," a track that encapsulates the overall feel of the album—part aggressive, part subdued but catchy. The only downfall to buying Part Chimp's *I Am Come* as a gift is that you'll probably want to keep it for yourself.



The Kingsbury Manx/*The Fast Rise And Fall Of The South*/ Yep Roc Records

Chapel Hill, NC's The Kingsbury Manx debuted their mellow pop grooves back in 2000 and their latest is a breezy collection of lovely piano melodies, occasional

banjo and folk harmonies. *The Fast Rise And Fall Of The South* sounds like a collaboration between The Beatles and the Grateful Dead after many brainstorming sessions spent listening to Phish. At first listen the album seems almost too sunny and spacey, but it becomes clear the low-key keeps any sugary pop leanings in check. The album shines brightest with the banjo melodies of "Animations" and "Harness The Wheel's" Shins-like charm. It's no wonder recent fans include Calexico and My Bloody Valentine's Kevin Shields. Give this album to a friend this holiday and let them join the ranks!

GIFT WRAPPED SHOWS

Clap Your Hands Say Yeah Irving Plaza/Dec. 31

Who doesn't like a good show? What's more, who doesn't like a fun little Brooklyn band with catchy riffs and fun whiny vocals? Clap Your Hands Say Yeah have certainly been on the up and up since their *Pianos* show series and of course the release of their incredibly catchy Talking Heads/Feelies-esque self-titled debut. After playing this year's CMJ Music Marathon, touring the country and collecting armies of fans along the way, Clap Your Hands Say Yeah are playing a New Year's Eve show Irving Plaza. It's sure to be a very clap-worthy occasion, undoubtedly with more than a few tight-shirted hipsters in tow, but fun nonetheless. This event would be an ideal holiday gift for new and old CYHSY fans alike—a pretty sunny head-bobbing way to spend a New Year's.

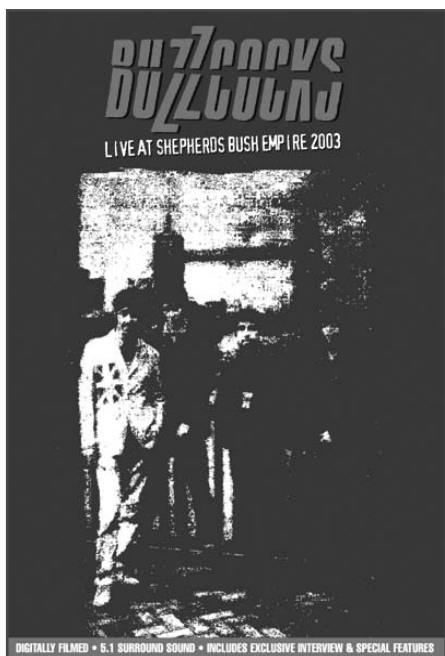
Broken Social Scene Webster Hall/Jan. 28

After Broken Social Scene's latest album was met with swarms of frothy attention a few months ago, the ever-growing collective are stopping by NYC to show off their new sound. For those who have already given the album more than a few spins, or for those who are simply interested in hearing what Canada's favorite collaboration have cooked up, tickets to their Webster Hall show would be an ideal present. It's especially fitting that BSS would be playing a massive venue like Webster Hall considering their overflowing number of members. It will surely be a sight to see and, of course, a giant sound to hear. Just make sure to grab tickets early, as it's likely to sell out!

MERRY MUSIC EVENT

Plug Independent Music Awards Webster Hall/Feb. 2

Surprise a loved one and bring them to the Plug Independent Music Awards as a gift. This year's Plug Awards are shaping up to be a good one and on Feb. 2 at Webster Hall the winners will be announced and the independent music love fest will ensue. This year's nominations for the coveted "Album of the Year" range from Wolfe Parade's *Apologies To The Queen Mary* to Antony and the Johnson's *I'm A Bird Now* to Animal Collective's *Feels*. Votes can be placed online at www.plugawards.com and unique categories such as "Music Festival of the Year" and "Record Label of the Year" keep it interesting. Nominees for "New Artist of the Year" include Dungen and Tom Vek while nominees for "Live Act of the Year" span The Arcade Fire (their CMJ Bowie surprise surely pushed them into the lead on this one!) to The Decemberists and Death From Above 1979. Last year's show featured rad sets by nominees and winners—Ted Leo And The Pharmacists, The Dillinger Escape Plan and more—and with this year's list of nominees the cliché will come true: we'll all be winners!



DIGITAL GIFTING

Buzzcocks: *Live At Shepard Bush Empire*

Buzzcocks had one of the most original and recognizable sounds from the UK punk era. Hailing from Manchester, the foursome formed in 1976 and played their brand of nasal pop melodies sung over driving rhythms and blistering guitar until disbanding in 1981. They have re-formed many times since 1981 with side projects and stand-in members cycling through with steady consistency. But what this DVD captures is their recent London performance at Shepard Bush Empire April 27, 2003. The release features their 32-song set including classics like "Orgasm Addict" and "Harmony In My Head." Along with interviews with Pete Shelley and Steve Diggle, the DVD has Australian tour footage, sound check footage and a special tour memorabilia photo gallery. Although it may not feature footage of Buzzcocks in their heyday, *Live At Shepard Bush Empire* is a nice addition to most any devotee's collection.

The Small Faces: *Under Review*

Get your pop on! The Small Faces are under review in the latest from the DVD series that reviews, criticizes and commends influential bands using a panel of experts, friends and musical contemporaries. Amid the collection of concert footage, previously unseen promo footage, interviews with band members and tv clips over the course of their career, is a host of great music from some of Britain's favorite modsters. Small Faces favorites such as "Ichycoo Park" and "What'cha Gonna Do About It?" make up the soundtrack, and for added super fan pleasure the DVD includes the

part chimp

