All reviews by Darryl Sterdan. For more in-depth reviews, please go to **canoe.ca/musicreviews**

Music on DVD

Flipper

Live Target Video 1980-81

Noise-Rock

★★★

Gleefully undisciplined and unrepentantly annoying, slow-fi San Francisco sludge-grinders Flipper were either the greatest band in history — or the worst. For the few in the former category, here's a treat: More than an hour of decently shot live footage featuring the band in all its shambolic glory — which is to say, out of synch, out of tune and loving every second of it.

Various Artists

Live at Montreux

Concerts

★★★½

Another month, another bunch of cool archival performances from the famed Swiss music fest. Among the latest batch: A smoove 2007 set from a cappella sensations Naturally 7; fiery blues from two Albert Collins shows in '79 and 1992; a star-studded 1996 performance by Quincy Jones and a big band; and some smokin' fusion from Weather Report in 1976. Every one's a winner.

GARAGE BAND IDOL

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

Cipher

Toronto

macjams.com/artist/CIPHER

"I'm crazy like Gary Busey," claims the anonymous dude who bills himself as Cipher. Damn right he is. But he's an impressive oddball. Armed with recording software, a wild imagination and an endless supply of killer riffs, this one-man basement band cranks out soundtrack-style jams by the dozens in an array of styles — metal, electronica, new age, reggae, Celtic, you name it. But none of them can top his latest cut *Crazy*, a Weenish electro ditty that finds him finally stepping up to the mic to deliver lyrics like: "Mr. Busey can smell your fear." We smell a hit.

DARRYL'S VERDICT

★★★½

"Crazy good."

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 CDcritic@wpgsun.com

LISTEN FOR YOURSELF

macjams.com/artist/CIPHER

Jim Lauderdale & the Dream Players

Honey Songs

Roots

★★★★

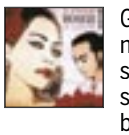
That band name is no gag; Lauderdale's Dream team includes sidemen for Springsteen, Parsons and both Elvises, with Emmylou Harris and Patty Loveless singing backup. But even they can't steal the spotlight from his twang-fuelled tunes and hickory vocals. Even more impressive: It's his second disc in four months — and the last one just won a Grammy. So whatcha waiting for?
Download: *Honey Suckle Honey Pie, I Hope You're Happy*

Supreme Beings of Leisure

11i

Electronica

★★½



Given their name, we shouldn't be surprised it's been five years since this L.A. trip-hop duo's last release. Nor, perhaps, should we be shocked to discover that this third disc sticks to their familiar formula: Luxurious down-tempo soundscapes X sultry female vocals + lyrics about dreaming, drifting and disappearing = Music to keep you supremely relaxed for the next five years.
Download: *The Light, Mirror*

Genghis Tron

Board Up the House

Electro-Metal

★★★★

Genghis Tron has no drummer or bassist. But that doesn't stop them from making one hell of an inhuman racket. The Poughkeepsie cybergrind trio program their battery of synths and beatboxes to do the heavy lifting, while the guitarist and a torture-victim vocalist wail insanely amid the intricately layered prime-number spazz-mayhem. Music for homicidal robots.
Download: *Things Don't Look Good, The Feast*

Kelley Stoltz

Circular Sounds

Indie-Pop

★★★

If Ray Davies and Brian Wilson were a duo, they might sound like Kelly Stoltz. And if they locked themselves in the basement and made a disc on which they played nearly every instrument under the sun themselves, it might resemble the surfy, acid-washed '60s Brit-pop of his fifth album. Pretty impressive — especially for a former teacher who hails from Detroit Rock City.
Download: *The Birmingham Eccentric, Gardenia*

Pennywise

Reason to Believe

Punk

★★★

Pennywise have upgraded to a major label (in Canada, anyway) for this ninth CD. But fear not, kids; the California punk stalwarts haven't changed their tune at all. These 14 cuts come with all the buzzsaw guitars, double-time beats, anthemic choruses, whoa-ho gang vocals and idealistic lyrics mandated by punk law. If you still need a reason to believe in these guys, here it is.
Download: *One Reason, All We Need*

The Kills

Midnight Boom

Art-Rock

★★★★

If you've heard of Jamie Hince, it's likely because he's Kate Moss' new guy. Here's a better reason: He and Alison Mosshart (a.k.a. London duo The Kills) have just released a killer third CD — an aptly titled gem full of gritty indie-rock and dark blues-punk that connects the dots between PJ Harvey, Royal Trux and The Raveonettes. He keeps this up, he might get too famous for Moss.
Download: *Cheap and Cheerful, Hook and Line*

Justin Townes Earle

The Good Life

Americana

★★★½

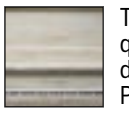
Steve Earle's son may be taking up the family trade, but he's not exactly following in dad's footsteps. On his debut CD, the singer-songwriter wisely eschews his dad's roots-rock rebellion for old-timey honkytonk that owes more to Hank Williams. Of course, when he applies his sandy rasp to an acoustic ballad, there's no mistaking whose boy he really is. Dad would be proud.
Download: *The Good Life, Hard Livin'*

Grand Archives

Grand Archives

Indie-Pop

★★★½



This Seattle quintet got a deal with Sub Pop after just one gig. It's easy to hear why. Fronted by ex-Band of Horses guitarist Mat Brooke, Grand Archives handily recreates the sunny '60s vocal-pop of CSNY, The Association and Mamas and the Papas, down to the chirpy horns, swelling arrangements and layered folk harmonies. A nice piece of California dreamin' for a winter's day.
Download: *Index Moon, A Setting Sun*