

All reviews by Darryl Sterdan. For track-by-track reviews of Chris Cornell, Poison and more, go to canoe.ca/musicreviews



POISON'S BRET MICHAELS

GARAGE BAND IDOL

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



GUIDED BY VOICES

Music on DVD

Guided by Voices

Live From Austin Tx.
Indie-Rock
★★★★

Much beer is consumed. Nearly as much is spilled. The guitarist gets spectacularly blotto and wipes out. Singer Robert Pollard blathers about "the kids," disses Smash Mouth and calls guest Pete Yorn "Tom." Oh, and the band drunkenly lurches through 30 cuts of Pollard's Brit-inspired lo-fi indie-rock. So basically, it's just another GBV gig. Except it was filmed for Austin City Limits.

The Jesus Lizard

The Jesus Lizard
Indie-Rock
★★★½

If you missed seeing these legendary Chicago noise-rockers in their '90s heyday, you're in luck. This hour-long video from a sweaty 1996 bar gig captures the mighty Lizard at full roar, with the band grinding and pumping away at maximum strength while aptly named frontman David Yow howls and attacks the crowd with Iggy-like aggression. This is rock as a contact sport.

Cam McD
Edmonton
www.myspace.com/johnnybfamous

Is there some sort of Alberta law that forces indie bands to play cruddy garage-rock? 'Cuz we sure seem to get a disproportionate amount of it coming our way. The latest chuck comes from Cam McD, whose track All My Days is your basic 12-bar blast of distorted guitars, Peter Gunn / Brand New Cadillac licks, ham-fisted drumming, slapback psychobilly vocals and dumb lyrics. To wit: "I never seem to find anything new. It always seems to be the same old thing, day after day after day after day." What he said.

DARRYL'S VERDICT
★½
"Cliche after cliche after cliche after cliche."

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
www.myspace.com/johnnybfamous



Chris Cornell

Carry On
Rock
★★★½

It's becoming a pattern: Cornell rocks out with a band for a while. Then he makes a so-so solo CD. Carry On, like 1999's Euphoria Morning, finds the Soundgarden / Audioslave belter playing around with poppier melodies, softer rhythms and more ballads — including an inexplicable power-waltz version of Jacko's Billie Jean. We can only hope he's ready to rock out again soon.
Download: *No Such Thing, Your Soul Today*



R. Kelly

Double Up
Urban
★★★

"You can hate me, I don't care," says R. Well, OK. But no matter what you think of the lascivious singer's private life, his musical supremacy is indisputable — as evinced yet again by this 10th strong (if overlong) set of club-floor thumpers, get-freaky humpers, bizarre novelties and VIP duets. The bad news: No new *Trapped in the Closet* chapters. The good news: They're due in July.
Download: *Tryin' to Get a Number, I'm a Flirt Remix*



Wil

By December
Folk-Rock
★★★½

Born in Quebec, raised in Calgary and based in Vancouver, Wil (last name: Mimnaugh) has friends all over. The sandy singer-songwriter's major-label debut has equally wide appeal, with bouncy roots-pop singles sitting next to ragged acoustic-folk laments and sophisticated rockers — not to mention a guest list of CanCon icons and indie mainstays. Expect big things.
Download: *Tell You Twice, She's Coming Down*



Marilyn Manson

Eat Me, Drink Me
Goth-Metal
★★★½

Who knew Marilyn had a heart? Let alone one that could be broken? Yet here the shock-rock Antichrist Superstar sits on his first CD in four years, jilted by his burlesque queen and pouring his bitterness into the poison-pen letters of these plodding gloomfests. "I should have picked the photograph," he sneers. "It lasted longer than you." So much for staying friends.
Download: *Heart-Shaped Glasses, You and Me and the Devil Makes 3*

Coming up

NEXT WEEK

Big Dog Daddy
Toby Keith

Era Vulgaris
Queens of the Stone Age

Instant Karma: The Campaign to Save Darfur
Various Artists

Insomniac
Enrique Iglesias

2 WEEKS AWAY

Lost Highway
Bon Jovi

Wild Hope
Mandy Moore

Icky Thump
White Stripes

Fancy Footwork
Chromeo

All release dates subject to change

Grady

A Cup of Cold Poison
Blues-Rock
★★★½

Gordie Johnson, formerly Big Sugar, traded his Armani for a cowboy hat and moved to Austin a few years ago. The change did him good — this second CD as Grady is a red-hot platter of greasy southern-fried roots-rawk.

Poison

Poison'd!
Covers
★★★

Hey, it worked for Def Leppard. So we aren't surprised to hear Poison compiling sleazy glam-slam covers of '70s classics by Bowie, The Stones, KISS, The Cars, The Who, Grand Funk, Tom Petty and more.

Prog

The Bad Plus
Jazz-Rock
★★★½

This piano-led post-bop power trio pens strikingly original modern jazz epics. But their classic-rock covers get all the hype. This fourth CD delivers the best of both worlds.

Various Artists

Monterey International Pop Festival
Classic Rock
★★★

On the 25th and 30th anniversaries of the 1967 fest, Rhino issued a superb four-CD box. For the 40th, another label offers this inferior two-disc summary. It boasts three unheard cuts from Simon & Garfunkel and Buffalo Springfield, but it's still missing way too many classics to make the grade.

The National

Boxer
Indie-Rock
★★★½

A jigger of Joy Division. A touch of Tindersticks. A little Leonard Cohen. A nugget of Nick Cave. Combine them with chimy guitars and thumpy indie-rock grooves. Layer in wry lyrics. Then add some mood elevators to the mix and you've got *Boxer*.