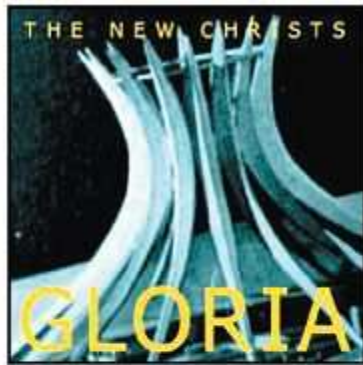


In Tune

The Daily News

THE NEW CHRISTS, "Gloria"
(Impedance Records/MVD Audio) ★★★½
— Australian alternative hard rockers the New Christs have undergone a handful of lineup changes since Rob Younger founded the band in the early 1980s and nearly three decades down



the road, Younger and his latest band of merry men have made their best record to date in the driving "Gloria." If you enjoy loud, jangly guitar-based rock 'n' roll, then this should be right up your alley. The 11 tracks gathered here walk a tightrope between punk rock brashness and straight-ahead hard rock, and the results are pretty close to fantastic.

A little front-loaded, "Gloria" opens with a series of stellar tunes in "Try Something," personal favorite "My Existence," "These Reasons" and "The Wheel." The remainder of the record is a little spottier with middling tracks "The Posse," "Animalisation" and "On All Fours," offset by gems "Psych Nurse" and set closer "Bonsoir a Vous." (JS)