

## TRIVIUM THE CRUSADE

★★★★★



Trivium have done right with the early-Metallica/Megadeth school of thrash on their latest album: **Matt Heafy** is ferocious as a singer and a guitarist, and he's bolstered mightily by the skillful drumming of **TRAVIS SMITH**. On "Ignition," Smith maintains a bestial, colorfully nuanced beat splashed with tasteful cymbals; and he steps into overdrive with a full-throttle kick and wicked fills on "Detonation." *The Crusade* will delight fans of both extreme metal and tuneful rock. (Roadrunner) **Jeff Perlah**

## HIPBONES 4

★★★★★



Grooving, sax-fronted jazz group Hipbones are consistently interesting yet not overly slick. Drummer **ROBIN TOLLESON**'s engaging delivery makes you raise an eyebrow with his over-the-bar phrasing on album-opener "Scram" and the perfectly placed duple rolls in the half-time shuffle of The Police's "Walking On The Moon." He knows how to set up others too, catching a tambourine here or a splash there, always lending the right support for **Gary Schwantes'** cool sax solos. The excellent recording seals the deal on a satisfying listen. ([www.hipbones.net](http://www.hipbones.net)) **Ilya Stemkovsky**

## VARIOUS ARTISTS WHAT IT IS! FUNKY SOUL AND RARE GROOVES (1967-1977)

★★★★★



As detailed as the liner notes are to this four-disc set of deep funk and soul, you'll still spend hours Googling the names of the unsung drummers represented here. And in addition to the mystery timekeepers supplying proto breakbeats, there are plenty of recognizable names doing their best work. **ZIGGY MODELISTE** laying it down with simplicity on Willie West's "Fairchild" and Joni Mitchell/L.A. Express drummer **JOHN GUERIN** sweating out a manic beat in Tulane's jazz-funk workout "Hammer" are but a couple highlights that barely scratch the surface of this treasure chest of sample-ready grooves. (Rhino) **Patrick Berkery**

## THE DECEMBERISTS THE CRANE WIFE

★★★★★



While *The Crane Wife* features pop fare like "O Valencia!" that stops you cold, arriving there requires serious navigation skills—through murder ballads, Irish jigs, four-part suites, and blue-eyed disco rock. It's a topsy-turvy trip, but drummer **JOHN MOEN** (late of Stephen Malkmus & The Jicks) makes it smooth as possible, whether pacing "The Perfect Crime # 2" with a steady four-on-the-floor, or bouncing from dramatic fills to halting pauses during "The Island/Come And See/The Landlord's Daughter/You'll Not Feel The Drowning" mini opera. Think of it as prog without the tuneless fog. (Capitol) **Patrick Berkery**

## SIGNIFICANT REISSUES BY KEN MICALLEF

### INCREDIBLE BONGO BAND



Comprised of studio players including the mighty **JIM GORDON**, The Incredible Bongo Band created one of hip-hop's seminal beats in "Apache," one of the most sampled songs

ever. And one listen to Gordon's titanic grooves on *Bongo Rock*, which are often augmented by conguero **King Errisson**, proves why this album (nineteen tracks) was in high demand by '80s beat purveyors. Amid its early-'70s funky grooves, Gordon trades long fours in "Dueling Bongos," lays down an incredible pulse in "Tom Dooley," and takes a thumping solo in "Sharp Nine." *Bongo Rock* confirms Gordon's eerie greatness. (Mr.Bongo)

### SEETHER ONE COLD NIGHT

★★★★★



Seether vocalist **Shaun Morgan** was sick. He couldn't even stand and perform—but he could sit and sing, thus the impetus for the live acoustic performance of *One Cold Night*. Acoustic collections often sound contrived, but not here. High in the mix, **JOHN HUMPHREY**'s drums sound perfectly at home meshing with all acoustic instruments. And Humphrey grooves nicely on the funkied-out intro to "Truth" and on the Pearl Jam cover "Immortality." *One Cold Night* is a pleasant surprise: Seether takes a chance, and delivers. (Wind-Up) **Steven Losey**

## TAKING THE REINS

### BILLY COBHAM FLIGHT TIME

This live Billy Cobham disc, culled from a 1980 European tour, features the fusion master's short-lived unit of guitarist **Barry Finnerty**, keyboardist **Don Grolnick**, and bassist **Tim Landers**.

Previously available only as an import, this Stateside release is worth the wait. On the title track, Cobham opens with a quick spin around the toms and cymbals before Finnerty starts filling in the margins and playing off the drummer. And when the histrionics cool to a mellow glow on "Princess," the interplay of the entire group is a thing of restrained beauty. (MVD Audio) **Patrick Berkery**



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