

CDS/DVDS

BEN ROGERS' INSTRUMENTAL ASYLUM

Reverb Rehab / Blazz Music

Aussie guitarist Ben Rogers released his *Instrumental Asylum* and now he's back on the street with *Reverb Rehab*. The results are pretty much the same: expertly crafted and rocking guitar instrumentals highlighted by Ben's vast knowledge of guitarists and guitar songs. How many instrumental artists can combine tracks as diverse as "Strawberry Fields Forever," "All The Things You Are" and Bert Weedon's "Ginchy" all on one album? Decked out with guitar-istic cover art, *Reverb Rehab* features Rogers on a wide range of electric guitars backed up by Nicki Scarlett (bass) and Denis Close (drums). www.blazz.com.au

REISSUES / RETROSPECTIVES

HURRICANE SMITH / From Me To You With Stories / Arena

Norman "Hurricane" Smith rose to prominence in the early '60s as the studio engineer responsible for helping The Beatles achieve their incredible studio sound during the early '60s. Along with Norrie Paramor and George Martin, the main 'ear' at the Abbey Road studios in London, Smith is also renowned for his brilliant production work on the early Pink Floyd albums (*Piper* through *Atom Heart Mother*), yet as a solo artist in his own right, Smith never quite earned the accolades he so clearly deserved. That injustice comes close to being righted on a new twenty track compilation on the U.K. based Arena Music Company. Now age 84, Smith is pictured on the cover art with the Beatles in '62 and also his circa '67 solo look—hence the 'From That-To This' sleeve concept. With a solid 50 years in the biz, Smith remains a legend of the U.K. pop world—having influenced everybody from the Fab Four to Pink Floyd to tin pan alley songwriter Gilbert O'Sullivan and more. In addition to some, but not all, of Smith's greatest songs and singing, the 20 track *From Me To You* also features spoken word excerpts from Smith describing his upcoming book while also highlighting liner notes by Paul McCartney and a reprint of a telegram from John & Yoko. www.thestoreformusic.com

THE DOORS / The Doors Live In Boston 1970 / Rhino

In 2007, Rhino did an impressive reissue campaign on the classic Doors studio albums, complete with remixes and out take cuts. Rhino's latest release comes with the 2007 release of *The Doors Live In Boston 1970*. A triple CD set featuring two live concerts from the same night, *Live In Boston* captures The Doors live on April 10, 1970 at the Boston Arena. Amazing CD art and discography information is topped off by fresh insights by the surviving band including guitar great Robby Krieger as well two pages of notes by Doors producer / engineer Bruce Botnick. www.thedoors.com

J.J. CALE / Rewind: Unreleased Recordings / Time Life

Vintage recordings from the '70s and early '80s, *Rewind: Unreleased Recordings* is a time capsule of musical treasures of unreleased and rare music by American music icon J.J. Cale. Vintage tracks recorded by Cale during his time at both Shelter and Mercury Records, *Rewind* features eight Cale-penned tracks, offset by Cale's personally selected covers of tracks written by Eric Clapton, Leon Russell, Waylon Jennings and Randy Newman. Assisting Cale in the studio on these cuts are session icons like U.K. guitar great Richard Thompson, Tim Drummond (bass) and Jim Keltner (drums). www.timelifeentertainment.com

CHET ATKINS AND LES PAUL / Chester & Lester / RCA / Legacy

One of two albums guitar giants Les Paul and Chet Atkins recorded together during the golden years of the late '70s, *Chester & Lester* has lost none of its influential glow. Recording back in 1975, both Les and Chet sound totally in sync with each other on a set that features a number instrumental classics. Produced by Atkins in Nashville with some fine backing musicians, *Chester & Lester* is truly one of the most important mergers of country music and jazz. Legacy includes some wonderful liner notes on their 2007 CD reissue of *Chester & Lester*, adding four bonus tracks including a stellar instrumental version of "The World Is Waiting For The Sunrise," sadly omitted from the album's original RCA records 1976 Lp release. www.sonybmg.com

MUSIC LABEL SPOTLIGHT

AQUA PULSE RECORDS - Taylor Mills really lucked out when she auditioned as a backup vocalist at Brian Wilson's then suburban Chicago home and the rest is history. After years of adding harmony vocals to Brian Wilson's recent recordings, Mills mines gold her own with the 11 cut *Lullagoodbye*. Produced by Styx drummer Todd Sucherman and featuring songs and playing by Wilson's ace guitarist / keyboardist Scott Bennett—with a couple Wilson vocal cameos—the CD has a cool L.A. kind of West Coast / Bangles flavor. www.taylormillsmusic.com

BLOODSHOT RECORDS - Currently referred to as the Sisterhood of the Gretch, The Gore Gore Girls put might and mane together on their 2007 CD, *Get The Gore*. Lead singer / guitarist Amy Gore sounds influenced by L.A. punk girl group The Runaways with the tie-in here being the appearance of legendary Kim Fowley, who co-wrote a few cuts here. Having shared stages with Shonen Knife, New York Dolls, and The Pretty Things, Gore works well with her Gore Gore Girls bandmates including guitarist Hamer. www.bloodshotrecords.com

EMI - Described as a cross between Monty Python and The Beatles, England's **Bonzo Dog Band** were renowned for their hilarious rock albums recorded for EMI / Liberty Records between 1966-72. With a wide variety of tracks that simply rock to hilarious recorded skits, the Bonzos had some great talent on hand including rock guitar ace Neil Innes and the extremely funny, and now late, great singer Vivian Stanshall. Reissued by EMI in 2007 are *Gorilla* (1967), *The Doughnut In Granny's Greenhouse* (1968), *Tadpoles* (1969), *Keynsham* ((1969) and a final contractual obligation album, *Let's Make Up And Be Friendly*. Of course, Innes would go on to keep his rock meets parody stance in tact on a couple of albums and a movie with The Rutles, but these early Bonzo classics are a great place to rediscover the great sound of his first major band. www.neilinnes.org

LASER'S EDGE - One of the best late '70s fusion bands from Europe was **Secret Oyster**. Hailing from Denmark, the band had a guiding light in horn man Karsten Vogel and a great lead guitarist with Claus Bohling. In 2007, Laser's Edge did a fine job with the band's self-titled debut from 1973 and a top sounding reissue of the band's finest album *Straight To The Krankenhaus*. Bonus cuts and new liner notes from Vogel make these essential Eurock CD remasters. www.lasersedgegroup.com

MVD AUDIO / INAKUSTIK - On his 2007 CD release of *Diabolic Inventions And Seduction For Solo Guitar, Volume 1*, guitarist Al DiMeola sounds like he was born to reinterpret the music of Argentine tango master Astor Piazzolla. In his liner notes DiMeola says it was in conversation with the tango god, that Piazzolla described his music as diabolic, referring to his modern departure from the standard approach to tango. Released on the German Inakustik label, DiMeola's eight, newly reworked Piazzolla guitar instrumentals sound excellent in this all acoustic tango setting, backed only by tasteful, syncopated flamenco-inspired programmed percussion. www.aldimeola.com