



GEORGE MARTIN

Music on DVD

Charlie Daniels Band

Live at Rockpalast
Southern-Rock

★★★

The Devil went down to Georgia — and big-hatted, barrel-chested Southern man Daniels went to Germany with his band (including two drummers) in 1980 to tape this 75-minute showcase of slide-guitar boogie, Skynyrd-style rock, fiddle-fired country, bluegrass and more. The sound and video quality are dodgy and there's no bonus fare, but the muscular performance makes up for it.

George Martin

Produced by George Martin
Documentary

★★★½

For millions, producer George Martin's story begins and ends with The Beatles. The reality, of course, is different. This 86-minute BBC doc fills the gaps, rewinding Martin's life and career, from his wartime service and his early work producing comedy records to his later endeavours. But fear not, Beatlemaniacs; there's still plenty of Fab footage, including chats with Ringo and Paul.

GARAGE BAND IDOL

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

Mighty Oaks
Toronto
myspace.com/therealmightyoaks

Well, I guess we know what kind of tree Toronto singer-guitarist Owen Keenan would be. When it comes to what sort of music he makes, the answer is equally straightforward: Sweetly tender pop that's firmly rooted in the late '60s and early '70s, dusted with folk and psychedelia (not to mention a few whistling synthesizers), topped with delicate vocals and performed with unhurried, tasteful understatement. It won't top the pop charts, but it's worth a listen.

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 darryl.sterdan@sunmedia.ca

DARRYL'S VERDICT
★★★
"Mighty fine."

LISTEN FOR YOURSELF

myspace.com/therealmightyoaks



Jason Collett

Reckon
Indie-Folk

★★★★

The personal is political. And vice versa. It's never been truer than on singer-songwriter (and Broken Social Scenester) Collett's fifth disc, a sombre examination of loss and desperation set in a candlelit land of spare Can-roots and gentle pop-rock. But even when the music is downsized and the mood downbeat, the simple, open-hearted beauty of Collett's work remains undiminished.

Download: *I Wanna Rob a Bank*; *Black Diamond Girl*



Dave Stewart

The Ringmaster General
Rock

★★★

The world might be waiting for a Eurythmics reunion, but not Stewart. The musical multi-tasker and recent Nashville convert continues to keep busy with his second solo disc in as many years. Vocals may not be his forte — so he wisely enlists Joss Stone, Diane Birch, Alison Krauss and others for this assortment of country, Stones rock, blues and Southern soul. Loose but likable.

Download: *Girl in a Catsuit*; *Story of Success*



Bettye LaVette

Thankful N' Thoughtful
Soul

★★★½

What a difference half a century makes. In her 50-year career, vocal powerhouse LaVette has covered the waterfront from Armatrading to Zeppelin. And made them her own. On this eclectic document, she adds Tom Waits, Sly Stone, Savoy Brown, Black Keys and more to that list, casually and confidently converting their cuts into superb slices of Southern soul and rock. Solid.

Download: *I'm Tired*; *Everything is Broken*



Kreayshawn

Somethin 'Bout Kreay
Hip-Hop

★★

"I got the swag and it's pumping out my ovaries," boasts Bay Area rap phenom Kreayshawn on her debut disc. If only that were true. What she really has are a bunch of schoolyard-level rhymes full of stereotypical arrogance, pop culture references and shock value, delivered with a bratty, amateurish voice and underpinned by standard whumping G-rap tracks. It's a shame about Kreay.

Download: *Gucci Gucci*; *Left Eye*

Coming up

NEXT WEEK

Fanatic
Heart

Glad Rag Doll
Diana Krall

good kid, m.A.A.d city
Kendrick Lamar

Born to Sing: No Plan B
Van Morrison

The 2nd Law
Muse

The Connection
Papa Roach

Cheer It's Christmas
Blake Shelton

Transit of Venus
Three Days Grace

Now For Plan A
The Tragically Hip

Glad All Over
Wallflowers

All release dates subject to change

Waylon Jennings

Goin' Down Rockin':
The Last Recordings

Country

★★★



Rocking might be a bit of an overstatement. This post-humous album

from country outlaw Jennings — featuring bare-bones performances recorded shortly before his 2002 death and fleshed out recently — is quieter than its title implies. But thanks to the 64-year-old icon's reflective lyrics ("I been wasting time that I can't spare") and darkly rich vocals, it still delivers a decent punch.

Download: *If My Harley Was Running*; *I Do Believe*

Ait-J

An Awesome Wave

Folk-Step

★★★★



Yes, they're named after a computer keyboard command (or the symbol it produces: fj).

And yes, they refer to their fusion of pastoral acoustic and edgy electronic elements as folk-step. If they seem a tad pretentious, well, maybe so. But they're also daring and distinctive, producing a musical hybrid that recently earned the brainiac Brits a Mercury Prize nomination. Catch the wave.

Download: *Breezblocks*; *Fitzpleasure*

Grizzly Bear

Shields

Indie-Rock

★★★★



Evolution: Theory or fact? With the Bear, evidence points to the latter. The

Brooklyn quartet continue to grow on their fourth disc, honing their artful balance between strong melodies and chorale harmonies, noisy textures and psychedelic squiggles, orchestral beauty and muscular indie-rock. In the process, they achieve the near-impossible: They top their 2009 masterwork *Veckatimest*.

Download: *Speak in Rounds*; *Gun-Shy*