



PAUL SIMON

Music on DVD

Paul Simon

Live in New York City

Folk-Rock

★★★★

Still adventurous after all these years. Rhymin' Simon isn't resting on his ample laurels in his latest concert vid; instead, the singer-songwriter continues to live in the present, showcasing his superb 2011 album *So Beautiful or So What* — while tastefully revamping some Simon & Garfunkel and solo classics with his large band — at an intimate theatre. The sound of excellence.

Rockwell

Various Artists

Brit-Rock

★★★

No, not the *Somebody's Watching Me* singer. This Rockwell was a 2009 charity gig at London's O2 Arena, highlighted by British rockers like Robert Plant (who regrooves Zep oldies with Indian and African textures), Tom Jones (who time-shifts from *It's Not Unusual* to *Sex Bomb*), Joss Stone (who brings in the funk) and more. A bit slight at 66 minutes, but fairly well done nonetheless.

GARAGE BAND IDOL

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

Endivera
Edmonton, Alta.
www.reverbnation.com/endivera

Just what the world needs: Yet another post-grunge modern-rock band from Alberta — but with a name that combines all the metallic qualities of leafy greens and hand lotion. What, was Arugulaveeno already taken? And it gets better: They have a song titled *Killing Me*, which is precisely what I believed they were doing as I struggled to endure all their uninspired grinding, hamfisted chugging and substandard yawling. On the plus side, I was inspired to have a nice salad and moisturize afterward.

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
★
"Crud-blort."

LISTEN FOR YOURSELF

myspace.com/therealmightyoaks

Richie Sambora

Aftermath of the Lowdown

Rock

★★★



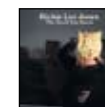
It's his life. And every now and then, Richie Sambora reminds us it doesn't begin and end with Bon Jovi. The singer-guitarist's third solo album — his first since 1998's *Undiscovered Soul* — finds him leaving his arena-sized comfort zone and venturing into everything from fuzzy blues-punk and near-metallic guitar heroics to Foos-style modern-rock jangle. Better than you'd expect. **Download:** *Burn That Candle Down*; *Sugar Daddy*

Rickie Lee Jones

The Devil You Know

Folk

★★★½



As the cliché goes, it's the singer, not the song. In Jones' case, it's both. On the third covers collection in her restlessly creative catalog, the idiosyncratic troubadour — in collaboration with producer/performer Ben Harper — tackles a selection of late '60s and early '70s classics, stripping them down to their melodic bones and recasting them as hushed boho ballads. Heaven sent. **Download:** *Sympathy For the Devil*; *The Weight*

Steve Harris

British Lion

Hard Rock

★½



He's running free — but going backward. After more than 30 years with Iron Maiden, founding bassist and primary songwriter Harris braves the solo spotlight with his new band British Lion. To his credit, he doesn't recreate the galloping metallic epics of his day job. Pity he replaces them with ridiculously overblown '70s shlock-rock topped with absurd, preening vocals. Laughably bad. **Download:** *Karma Killer*; *A World Without Heaven*



R.E.M.

Document: 25th Anniversary Edition

Alt-Rock

★★★★½

Their finest hour? That's a tough call. But there's no disputing the critical and commercial success of the Georgia jangle-rockers' fifth disc, which became their first platinum album thanks to the top 10 hit *The One I Love*. This reissue expands the original, um, document with a vibrant 1987 live recording from Holland — but not the B-sides that were included on an earlier version, sadly.

Download: *The One I Love*; *It's the End of the World As We Know It (And I Feel Fine)*



Frankweenie: Unleashed

Various Artists

Rock

★★★

It's alive! Or at least vaguely inspired. In contrast to the standard mish-mash of oldies, leftovers and who-cares filler, the soundtrack to Tim Burton's animated horror-comedy stars a slate of suitably spooky (and sometimes kooky) new ditties and sharp covers from Karen O, Robert Smith, Imagine Dragons, the unholy union of Grace Potter with Flaming Lips and more. A cut above.

Download: *Strange Love*, by Karen O; *Witchcraft*, by Robert Smith



Aimee Mann

Charmer

Pop-Rock

★★★★½

Eighth time's the charm? Yes and no. Criminally underappreciated singer-songwriter (and ex-'Til Tuesday frontwoman) Mann's first album in four years finds her once again doing what she does best: Penning superb, smoldering pop-rock that dissects modern life, love and relationships with a sharp critical eye. Fans will rejoice; everyone else may resume kicking it *Gangnam Style*.

Download: *Charmer*; *Gamma Ray*



Jon Spencer Blues Explosion

Meat & Bone

Blues-Punk

★★★½

Put some whiskey in a ass pocket of your bellbottoms, brothers and sisters; the JSBX are back. And on their first disc in eight years, singer-guitarist Spencer and his cohorts waste no time in reviving the buzzy blues-punk freakouts and fuzzy funk jams of their youth — although their crash-bash mayhem, feral howling and unhinged slapback-echo swagger has lessened a bit with age.

Download: *Bag of Bones*; *Bottle Baby*

Coming up

OCT. 9

Don't Panic
All Time Low

Rock and Roll is
Black and Blue
Danko Jones

Road to Forever
Don Felder

Halcyon
Ellie Goulding

Unfinished Business
Wanda Jackson

Monster
KISS

Long Wave | Mr. Blue Sky
Jeff Lynne

Shut Down the Streets
AC Newman

Songs for the End
of the World
Rick Springfield

Napalm
Xzibit
All release dates subject to change