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Sugar Man, Secret World, Elvis songs chosen by fans and a birthday tribute

## Sumptuous sonic/video buffet

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This week's mostly complimentary column begins with my review of the latest album from D.O.A. then eases into reviews of documentaries by Les Krantz -- one about The Beatles, the other about Muhammad Ali. After that, we wind things up with reviews of two of "The Greatest" collections from Johnny Cash, to be continued next week.

### 'We Come in Peace,' D.O.A. (Sudden Death Records, HHHH)

This July 22 CD/LP release is the latest opus from Canada's punk pioneers D.O.A. and is the band's 14th studio release. "Canada's godfather of punk" Joe Keithley writes the songs and handles lead vocals and guitars. He's joined by bassist/vocalist Dirty Dan Sedan and drummer Jesse Pinner, as well as guest vocalists and musicians on different songs.

Many songs are politically themed and aren't as catchy as the best classic punk rock tunes, but there are highlights, such as the opener "He's Got a Gun," which kicks off with that slamming floor-tom beat. "Boneyard" is also cool, as is the snotty "Do You Wanna," the high-octane "Bring Out Your Dead," the Spaghetti-Western Clint Eastwood tribute "The Man With No Name" (catch the sonic cues for extra points) and the reggae-tinged "Walk Through This World."

Classic punk rock fans will dig this one.

### 'The Beatles: Their Golden Age,' (MVDvisual, HH 1/2)

### 'Muhammad Ali: The Man, the Moves, the Mouth,' (MVDvisual, HHHH)

The first of these two July 24 DVD documentaries is a fast-moving run through The Beatles' career that will reveal nothing not known by longtime fans, and there are a few needlessly embarrassing moments. In one, Krantz's narration identifies bassist (pronounced like the fish + ish) Stu "Sitcluff" (instead of Sutcliffe). The other is not explaining the post-Hamburg drummer change from Pete Best to Ringo Starr.

However, for those curious about the Fab Four's rise to fame, this is a good starting point, except that it features virtually no actual Beatles music.

The Ali documentary is better, with the Beatles actually shown hanging out with the Champ early in their conquest of America. Veteran boxing writer/commentator Bert Sugar, nominated by the Veterans Boxing Association as "the greatest boxing writer of the 20th century" and regarded as one of the best all-time boxing sportscasters, is our genial host. Interviews, photos, film of Ali's biggest fights (Liston, Patterson, Frazier, Foreman, Norton and more) plus commentary about his still-revered post-boxing life and struggle with Parkinson's are all part of this cool package.

### 'The Greatest: The Number Ones,' Johnny Cash (Columbia/Legacy, HHHHH)

These two Aug. 7 CDs are part of a new series by Columbia/Legacy celebrating Johnny Cash's 80th birthday this past Feb. 26. There have been many Cash collections released since his passing, and this particular recording is an inventive way of gathering his most commercially successful songs. There are 19 songs present, every one from Sun or Columbia that reached the top spot on the Billboard and/or Cashbox Country chart. The songs you'd expect are here, from "I Walk the Line" to "Highwayman," but the coolest to me are sort of surprising: "Don't Take Your Guns to Town," a great

"Mama Tried" prelude; three spirited live versions ("Folsom Prison Blues," "A Boy Named Sue" and "Sunday Morning Coming Down") and the comical "The One On The Right Is On The Left."

In other words, with this CD, which is also available with a performance DVD of 10 of the songs, listeners will get all of John's big hits.

#### **'The Greatest: Duets,' Johnny Cash (Columbia/Legacy, HHHHH)**

This 14-song collection repeats one from the collection above ("There Ain't No Good Chain Gang" with Waylon Jennings) and contains both "Jackson" and "If I Were a Carpenter" with John's spouse and favorite duet partner, June Carter -- but there are some surprises. George Jones joins in on "I Got Stripes," Lynn Anderson sings on the live "I've Been Everywhere," Bob Dylan and John sorta harmonize on "Girl From the North Country" and the late Ray Charles joins on "Crazy Old Soldier."

Other highlights include the story of a deceased miner, "Jim I Wore a Tie Today"; a playful duet with June called "Long-Legged Guitar Pickin' Man;" and two religious country-rockers: "The Greatest Cowboy of Them All" (with Waylon) and "You Can't Beat Jesus Christ" (with Billy Joe Shaver). There are enough rare songs here that interested listeners without them will want to purchase this collection.

#### **Coming soon**

The rest of "The Greatest" collection from Johnny Cash, a new album from Ingram Hill, more interesting DVDs, several new singer/songwriters, a new pre-punk postscript about Trapeze and road trip announcements will be featured in the next several columns.

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