

All reviews by Darryl Sterdan. For more in-depth reviews of Beastie Boys, Metric and more, go to canoe.ca/musicreviews



Metric's EMILY HAINES

GARAGE BAND IDOL

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



ECHO & THE BUNNYMEN

Music on DVD

Echo & the Bunnymen

Dancing Horses
Post-Punk
★★★

Morrisonian singer Ian McCulloch and guitarist Will Sergeant lead their latest band of young bucks through a 90-minute show peppered with oldies like *The Cutter*, *Ocean Rain* and *The Killing Moon*. A striking light show and sensible camera-work — along with a 45-minute interview — make up for the fact that everyone's feet seem nailed to the floor during the 2005 performance.

Danny Michel & The Black Tornados

Live
Pop-Rock
★★★

For years, Danny has been one of the finest Canadian singer-songwriters most people have never heard. Now he can be one of the finest songwriters they've never seen, either. This two-hour set captures the magnificent Michel in concert in Toronto, backed by his capable band and guests like Luke Doucet and Emm Gryner. A bonus CD of home demos rounds out the package.

Sugar Packet Solution
Ancaster, Ont.
www.myspace.com/sugarpacketsolution

When you're 38, you're too old to take up certain activities. Ballet dancing for one. Skateboarding for another. And, most certainly, rock 'n' roll. But that, confesses Pat Brooks, is when he got a guitar and began singing somewhere besides his car. Now, five short years later, he has progressed to the point where he can barely play, barely sing, barely write a song and barely keep time. At least, that's going by Limestone Ridge, one tune on the MySpace page of his one-man band Sugar Packet Solution. There are other cuts, but we didn't listen — frankly, life's too short.

DARRYL'S VERDICT
½
"Too old to rock 'n' roll, too young to die."

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 CDcritic@wpgsun.com

LISTEN FOR YOURSELF

www.myspace.com/sugarpacketsolution



Kelly Clarkson

My December
Rock
★★★

Poor Kelly. The ex-*American Idol* is beefing with her label. She's lost her manager. Her summer tour is toast. And for what? Reportedly, because she balked at making another fluff-pop CD and defiantly recorded this loud, angry set of Alanis-style guitar-rock bitterness. The worst part: It's her most revealing and challenging disc. Here's hoping it doesn't turn out to be her last.
Download: *Never Again, Hole*



Brad Paisley

5th Gear
Country
★★★½

There are two sides to affable country star Paisley on his fifth CD: 1) The winking cut-up who delivers twangy novelty tunes about cars, online nerds and wanting to check you for ticks; 2) The earnest balladeer who croons wistful numbers about how it doesn't get better than this. Even better, both of them love to crank out blazing Bakersfield licks on that trademark Telecaster.
Download: *Ticks, Online*



Mandy Moore

Wild Hope
Roots-Pop
★★½

Reformed teen-popster Moore co-wrote this fifth CD — a first for her. Full points for that. Trouble is, most of these rootsy tunes — penned with Chantal Kreviazuk and The Weepies, among others — are the sort of overly sincere jangle-pop and Dear Diary ballads you'd expect from someone of her experience. It's a step in the right direction, but she's still got a long way to go.
Download: *Slummin' in Paradise, Most of Me*



Beastie Boys

The Mix-Up
Acid-Jazz
★★½

Beastie Boys are not content to be the finest white rappers in the world. Every so often, they want to remind us they're musicians too. So they set up their gear, start jamming and slap together funky Latin-jazz instrumentals like these. If you have a blaxploitation flick in need of a soundtrack, this is your lucky day. Otherwise, not so much. Time to get back to work, boys.
Download: *Suco de Tangerina, The Rat Cage*

Coming up

NEXT WEEK

Ms. Kelly
Kelly Rowland

Last 2 Walk
Three 6 Mafia

T.I. vs. T.I.P.
T.I.

Libertad
Velvet Revolver

2 WEEKS AWAY

New Maps of Hell
Bad Religion

Time on Earth
Crowded House

Our Love to Admire
Interpol

Zeitgeist
Smashing Pumpkins

Metric

Grow Up and Blow Away
Electro-Pop
★★★

A new Metric disc? Not quite. It's actually Emily Haines' and James Shaw's first album, cut in 1999 but never officially released. As you might expect, it's somewhat primitive and prototypical, with more beatboxes than drums, more keyboards than guitars, and a softer, warmer poppier sensibility.

Sinead O'Connor

Theology
Singer-Songwriter
★★★½

Sinead lowers the volume on this spiritual two-CD set. Disc 1 offers delicately hushed folk-guitar ballads a la Joni; Disc 2 reworks most of the tunes in slightly poppier, more contemporary fashion.

Editors

An End Has a Start
Post-punk
★★★

For album No. 2, these Brits don't totally discard the spiky, anxious sound that earned them comparison to Interpol and the Bunnymen. But they do try to gussy it up with richer sonics and glummer vocals.

Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons

Jersey Beat: The Music of...
Box Set
★★★★½

Sure, this four-disc anthology has all the Jersey boys' falsetto-powered doo-wop hits. But the big payoff is what comes with: A diverse set of obscurities, novelties, Valli solo fare, and a DVD that includes surreal footage of the boys in psychedelic duds at a '71 show.

Various Artists

Anchored in Love: A Tribute to June Carter Cash
Country
★★★½

Kinfolk and kindred spirits pay their respects to the late, great singer and songwriter.