

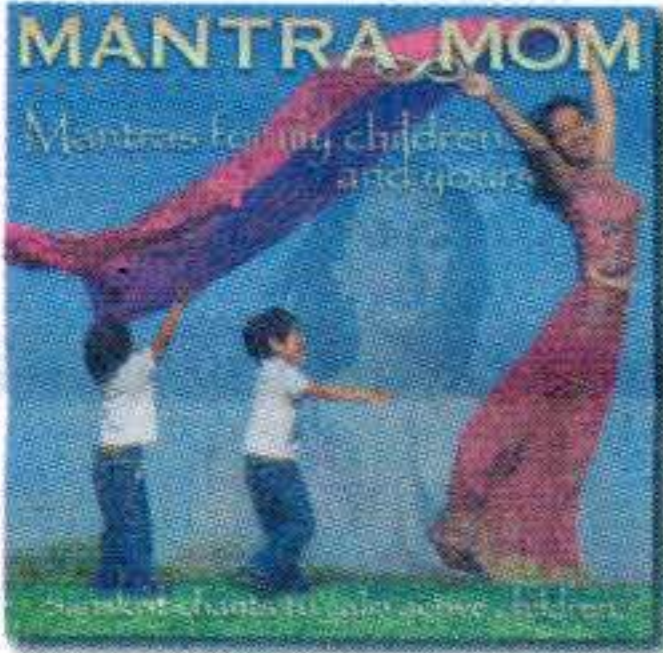
Music Reviews



By Samir Shukla

Mantra Mom

Mantras for my children...and yours
(Kumari Records)



Sanskrit mantras have been chanted for eons. On *Mantras for my children...and yours*, Ninakumari Patel, a.k.a. Mantra Mom, infuses contemporary music into ancient mantras. She believes these mantras, with musical accompaniment of moody new age, playful tablas, sitar, keyboards, and a touch of bhangra and hip-hop for 21st Century kids, will help calm active children. Elements of yoga also play a part in these musical chants created by a Gujarati mom in Texas for her children. The recording is warm and the music is lilting and fits the flow of these chants. The mantras include "Hare Rama Hare Krishna," "Gayatri Mantra," and "Gurur Brahma Gurur Vishnu." They are all chanted in Sanskrit by Chandrakantha Courtney along with Mantra Mom. The disc comes with a booklet that includes English translations and a message for parents on how to use mantra meditation in their busy lives. She was inspired to make the CD to give her children solace before bedtime and also enhance the connection to their spiritual heritage. For details visit www.mantramom.com.

The Blues Legacy Series

Lost & Found – Volumes 1-3
(MVD Audio)

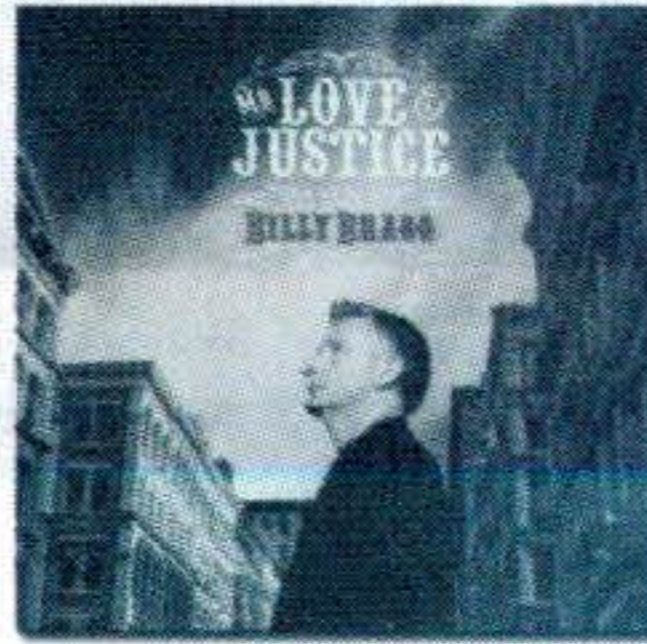


Live recordings of R&B and blues from the 1950s are fairly rare. This new series gathers several concert recordings made at the Free Trade Hall in Manchester, England in the late 50s through the mid 60s by British band-leader Chris Barber. The discs are loaded with gems and rare versions of blues standards. Volume 1 features two shows, Sonny Terry & Brownie McGhee (1958) and Sister Rosetta Tharpe (1957). Volume 2 features previously unreleased R&B from Muddy Waters (1958) Sonny Terry & Brownie McGhee (1958),

and Louis Jordan (1962) along with guests Otis Spann and Champion Jack Dupree. Volume 3 features concerts by Sonny Boy Williamson (1964), Jimmy Witherspoon (1964), Howlin' Wolf and Hubert Sumlin (1964) along with guests. These recently discovered concerts are a treat for fans as live recordings from these artists are hard to find. Many of these recordings have been in hibernation since the original concert broadcasts. For collectors, fans and even casual listeners of American music, in this case gospel, blues and R&B, these recordings are a precious find.

Billy Bragg

Mr. Love & Justice
(Anti)



Socially conscious folk singer Bragg returns with his first studio recording in more than six years. He emerged from the fertile protest punk movement in England in the late 70s and has been writing literate thinking man's songs of activism and social protest for over 25 years. On *Mr. Love & Justice* Bragg expands his folk foundation with Celtic sing-a-longs, folk-rock, Morrissey-like ballads to the gospel-tinged "Sing their Souls Back Home." He sings about "I Keep Faith," and "You make me Brave" with splashes of jazz percussion and moaning guitars. The upper-rung crew of musicians includes Robert Wyatt, Lu Edmonds, Ben Mandelson, Nic Waterhouse, Ian McLagan, Simon Edwards, Martin Barker, and May Fitzpatrick.

Body of War

Songs that Inspired an Iraq War Veteran
(Sire)



The interminable Iraq imbroglio will be among the top issues affecting this year's historic American elections. *Songs that Inspired an Iraq War Veteran* is the accompanying 2-disc set of songs to the documentary film of the same name. There are original songs by Eddie Vedder (Pearl Jam) along with a varied collection of anti-war songs by John Lennon, Bruce Springsteen, Tori Amos, Pearl Jam, Roger Waters, Tom Waits and many others. The songs were selected by Thomas Young, a soldier paralyzed from the neck down from a bullet wound received to his spine during his stint in Iraq. Young's heartbreaking and heroic story is just one of thousands that will come to light as the Iraq War drags on.