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Friday, Jul. 30, 2010

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Mick Taylor's tenure, '60s flashbacks and SetLists from Johnny and Willie and an arresting debut album

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This week's Sound Check contains my last two reviews of Legacy's Setlist Series, a DVD about the most successful period of The Rolling Stones long career and the 40th anniversary re-release of a counter-culture movie from the late 1960's and the debut from Australian singer/violinist Savannah Jo Lack.

'Rolling Stones - 1969-1974: The Mick Taylor Years' (MVDvisual, HHHH)

This July 27 DVD details the most successful period of The Rolling Stones' long career, the "Mach II" line-up featuring former John Mayall guitarist Mick Taylor, which began at a mammoth Hyde Park concert shortly after original guitarist/band founder Brian Jones' accidental drowning, which followed his dismissal from the band for out-of-control drug use.

GALLERY: [Mick Taylor's tenure, '60s flashbacks and SetLists from Johnny and Willie and an arresting debut album_0](#)

During subsequent months/years, Keith Richards' drug problems intensified to the point where he was partially non-functional; but his physical endurance enabled him to continue through Mick Jagger's marriage and flirtation with red-carpet celebrity.

Once the wonderful Sticky Fingers and chaotic Exile on Main Street were released, lapses in songwriting quality from the Glimmer Twins, managerial and record company changes, and eventual disputes over songwriting credits ended Taylor's tenure.

Stones fans and curiosity seekers will love this one.

'Gold: Before Woodstock. Beyond Reality,' (MVDvisual, HH1/2)

This "blast of counter-culture craziness" July 27 DVD release is hard to follow, but is in tune with the spirit of the era in which it was originally released. There's enough nudity, drug references and political incorrectness to prevent me from endorsing it for younger viewers; and it seems that the filmmakers were often as stoned as their cast. Get it if you want a look back at a time gone by that's occasionally humorous but sometimes baffling and disturbing.

'Knitting Songs,' Savannah Jo Lack (Independent Release, HHHH)

This July 27 CD is Australian singer/violinist Savannah's debut album, and is available at online digital download portals, and hard copies will be available at shows and via her website. The artist describes "Knitting Songs" as, "A little bit red earth and desert sky, a little bit glistening strings and pixie twists."

That's a bit cosmic for me, but this is a solid selection of songs; and, Savannah has an engaging voice. The music is hard to pigeonhole, but there are reminiscent moments of British-invasion songbirds like Marianne Faithful and vintage American vocalists like Melanie.

[Next Page](#)

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