



Stuffed Like

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As this is the last issue of *Discoveries* for 2005, I want to go out with a bang and include as many releases as possible. This year brought more great music across my desk than we could possibly cover in 12 issues. So here's what you might have missed, in no order of preference, just alphabetical.

Chet Baker, *Career: 1952-1988* (two CDs). Showcases the two sides of Baker — as trumpeter and singer. A perfect introduction to another of music's tortured souls, whose gift of melody and fragile voice never deserted him. (Shout! Factory)

Beau Brummels, *Magic Hollow* (four-CD set). Long-overdue compilation from unsung '60s folk/country-rockers who could have given The Byrds a run for their money. (www.rhinohandmade.com)

Eliza Carthy, *Rough Music*. Traditional British folk takes flight on Carthy's heavenly voice and fiddle playing. (Topic Records)

Bruce Cockburn, *Speechless*. Superb steel-string acoustic instrumentals from one of Canada's greatest songwriters and guitarists. (Rounder Records)

Shirley Collins And The Albion Country Band, *No Roses*. **Richard Thompson**, **Maddy Prior**, **Ashley Hutchings** and others throw their weight behind Collins and a set of nine British folk-rock classics reissued from 1971. Check out "Murder Of Maria Marten" and "Van Dieman's Land." (Castle)

Colosseum, *The Complete Reunion Concert Concert, Cologne 1994* (DVD). An unexpected treat — Colosseum reunite after 23 years and tear it up with awesome performances by **Chris Farlowe**, **Clem Clempson**, **Dave Greenslade**, **Dick Heckstall-Smith**, **Mark Clarke**, and **Jon Hiseman**. (Music Video Distributors)

Sam Cooke, *Night Beat*. If you don't like Sam Cooke, get thee to a Muzak nunnery, for there's no hope for you in the church of soul. (RCA/Legacy)

Crazy Horse, *Scratchy — The Complete Reprise Recordings*. Proof that Neil Young's early backing band members weren't one-trick ponies. (Reprise)

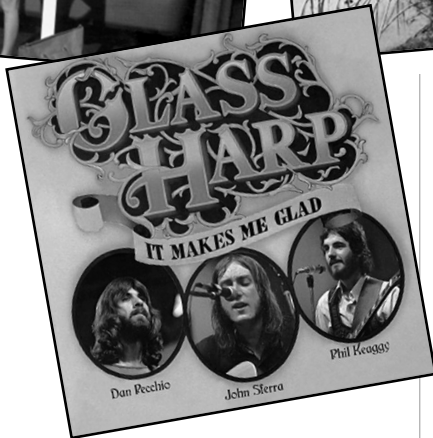
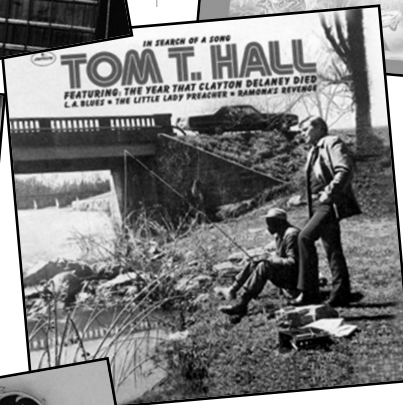
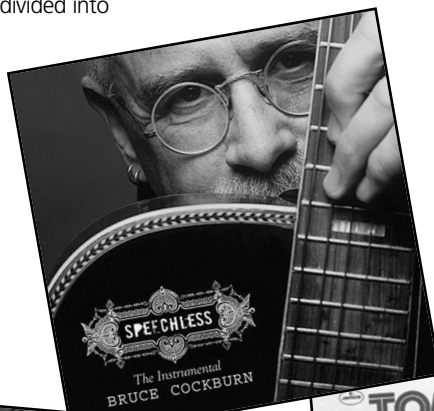
Deep Purple, *Who Do We Think We Are*. Underrated Mark II Purple given the Steve Hoffman remastering treatment on *24 KT+ Gold Disc*. "Rat rat rat rat blue!" (Audio Fidelity)

Djam Karet, *Recollection Harvest*. To call California instrumental quintet Djam Karet (pronounced "jam care-RAY") a "jam band" is like calling a skyscraper a "big building." There's a lot more to both. If the band's name,

which is taken from Indonesian and roughly translates to "elastic time," doesn't paint a picture, how 'bout a King Crimson/Pink Floyd/Ozric Tentacles smoothie, with extra garlic? (Cuneiform)

Bill Fay, *Bill Fay*. Reissue of 1971 debut by obscure British singer/songwriter described as "The missing link between Nick Drake, Bob Dylan, and Ray Davies." Strange and dark with curious orchestration. (Eclectic Discs)

Fish, *Bouillabaisse* (two CDs). A greatest-hits collection that works, divided into



Balladeers and Rocketeers. Fish's ability to pen gorgeous love poems ("Lavender" and "A Gentleman's Excuse Me") alongside angry and cutting songs ("Big Wedge" and "The Perception Of Johnny Punter") hasn't changed since his **Marillion** days. This collection of 32 songs vindicates the decision to go his own way. (Navarre/Snapper)

Glass Harp, *Glass Harp, Synergy and It Makes Me Glad*. An urban legend abounds about **Jimi Hendrix** saying **Phil Keaggy** was

the greatest guitarist ever. It never happened, but listening to Keaggy's guitar work on the first three Glass Harp albums goes a long way in explaining how such a rumor began. (Music Mill)

Tom T. Hall, *In Search Of A Song*. Reissue of Hall's 1971 classic: songs/stories about real people sans the saccharine sentimentality that mars much country music. Great packaging, too, with a replica LP cover and sleeve for the CD. (Hip-O Select)

Head East, *Head East/Gettin' Lucky*. I still have my *Head East* eight-track, but this twofer bundled on one



CD is what I'll be playing in the vehicle now. Great straight-ahead Midwest rock from a '70s act that could never take the next step from "Never Been Any Reason." Excuse me while I fire up

the Camaro (OK, it was really an Impala). (limited-edition available only at www.hip-oselect.com)

Elton John, *Captain Fantastic And The Brown Dirt Cowboy, Deluxe Edition* (two CDs). Disc two contains the only known complete live performance of *Captain Fantastic*, from Wembley Stadium, June 1975. (Universal)

Joseph, *Stoned Age Man*. Wild-ass gutbucket, acid-psych stoner blues. If **Captain Beefheart** and **Roky Erickson** made a blues album, it might sound something like this. Favorite track: "I Ain't Fattenin' No More Frogs For Snakes." (Radioactive)

Pink Floyd, *London 1966/1967* (DVD/CD combo). Worth it just for the live footage of **Syd Barrett** playing "Interstellar Overdrive." (Snapper)

The Running Man, s/t. One of the many sides of guitarist Ray Russell's genius, intriguing, early '70s prog-rock from Britain. (Angel Air)

Earl Scruggs Revue, *Anniversary Special Volume One/Volume Two* (double-album reissue on one CD). On these 1975-76 releases Scruggs brings in the electric guitars and rock drums and sends the country purists running to the hills and hollers. I say, "Boo-hoo, too bad for you." Rock and bluegrass have never formed such a joyous partnership, and the guest list includes everybody — **Johnny Cash**, **Billy Joel**, **Dan Fogelberg**, **Jim Messina**, **Roger McGuinn** and on and on. **Loudon Wainwright III** gives the definitive performance of his own "The Swimming Song." (Gott Discs)

Stackridge, *Sex & Flags*. Tremendous Beatles-esque pop including a brilliant song about a wildebeeste. Could be my favorite of the year. (Angel Air)

Michael Stanley, *American Road*. Recognize the name? Stanley's back with another platter of meat-and-potatoes heartland rock that doesn't need any seasoning. (Line Level)

Uriah Heep, *Chapter And Verse*. Beauty of a box (six CDs) with loads of alternate takes, live cuts and more, chronicling a band still going strong after 35 years. (Sanctuary)

Various artists, *Back Against The Wall*. **Billy Sherwood** gathered dozens of rock/prog legends and pulled off a tribute to **Pink Floyd's** *The Wall* that stands on its own. (Cleopatra Records)

Various artists, *Jamie Oldaker's Mad Dogs & Okies*. Oldaker had a clever idea: Assemble a group of Oklahoma musicians and those with ties to the Sooner state — **Vince Gill**, **Eric Clapton**, **Willis Alan Ramsey** (!), **Tony Joe White**, **Peter Frampton**, **Taj Mahal**, **J.J. Cale**, **Willie Nelson** — and make an album. A very good album. (Concord/Mint Blue Island) (Visit www.goldminemag.com for an exclusive Web interview with Oldaker.)

George Winston, *Summer and December, 20th Anniversary Deluxe Editions* (Enhanced). Call it new age, call it ambient, call it whatever, but I admit it: I've always loved Winston's piano playing (his music practically defined the Windham Hill label in the '80s). This deluxe reissue comes not only with a bonus track, but also with printable sheet music for a Winston piano composition. The keyboard-inclined can listen and also play along. How cool is that? (Windham Hill)

Frank Zappa, *Dub Room Special* (DVD). Two live Zappa shows, one from 1974, the other from 1981. The 1974 performance is special — with Napoleon Murphy Brock, George Duke, Ruth Underwood, Chester Thompson, and Bruce Fowler tearing up tunes including "Inca Roads" and "Florentine Pogen." (Eagle Rock) ●