



For the latest from Sun Media's audiophiles
blogs/canoe.ca/turntable

My humble opinion

Oldies but goodies

It's a blast from the past with this week's onslaught of reissues and compilations

Wake up and smell the oldies. Here are some of this week's best reissues and compilations:

Duane Allman

Skydog: The Retrospective

The late slide-guitar god's brief career gets replayed in minute detail in this limited-edition seven-disc box. From early recordings and session work to his hits with Derek & the Dominos and the Allmans, it's all here in chronological order, accompanied by a 72-page book. Exhaustive, enlightening, essential.

Shuggie Otis

Inspiration Information | Wings of Love

Once is not enough. First reissued back in 2001, singer-

guitarist Otis's superb 1974 sleeper — a slow-moving set of psychedelic soul and laid-back funk — gets unearthed again with bonus cuts and an extra CD of odds 'n' ends from the past 35 years. Sadly, signature song *Strawberry Letter 23* is AWOL.

Jamiroquai

Collector's Editions: Emergency on Planet Earth | The Return of the Space Cowboy | Travelling Without Moving

Jay Kay's seamless, slinky synthesis of soul and social consciousness landed on planet Earth 20 years ago. To celebrate, the first three Jamiroquai albums got deluxe makeovers, with newly remastered recordings and extra discs of B-sides, rarities and live recordings. Get down.

Charles Mingus

The Complete Columbia & RCA Albums Collection

Complete is relative. Maverick jazz bassist Mingus bounced from label to label in his career, which means this 10-disc box jumps accordingly from late '50s post-bop gems to more sophisticated '70s fare, a posthumous tribute and outtakes. Worthy nonetheless.

Herb Alpert

Fandango

Trumpet king Alpert's 1982 offering rekindled his romance with Latin rhythm and melody, and stands to this day as one of his strongest releases. The downside: This reissue has zero extras.

— Sterdan



Jamiroquai's Jay Kay

Singled out

Sampling the pop songs you're hearing

Avril Lavigne



Beady Eye

Flick of the Finger

★ ★ ★ 1/2

Different direction, still speeding. After looking backward (presumably without anger) on their 2011 debut, Liam Gallagher and his mates move forward with this horn-topped Bond theme wannabe produced by Dave Sitek of TV on the Radio. Bloody good, lads.

Ray J

I Hit it First

★ ★ ★

Oh, snap! R&B singer Ray J — who made an infamous sex tape with Kim Kardashian in 2007 — taunts both her and fiancé Kanye West in his hilarious single. Sure, it's mostly a desperate, tasteless ploy for attention. But imagine the fun if Kanye takes the bait.

Avril Lavigne

Here's to Never Growing Up

★ ★

And so it begins. Lavigne's anthemic ode to eternal adolescence was co-written with betrothed Chad Kroeger, making it the first official offspring of their unholy Chavril union. Here's to them joining forces forever — if it means halving their individual outputs.

In the pipeline

The albums and artists to listen for in the weeks ahead

April 23

	Michael Bubl� To Be Loved	Phoenix Bankrupt!	Rob Zombie Venomous Rat Regeneration Vendor
	Fantasia Side Effects of You	Queensr�che Frequency Unknown	Alanis Morissette Live at Montreux 2012
	Har Mar Superstar Bye Bye 17	Frank Turner Tape Deck Heart	Steve Martin & Edie Brickell Love Has Come For You
	Kid Cudi Indicud	will.i.am. #willpower	
	Snoop Lion Reincarnation	Whitesnake Made in Japan	
	Michael Buble		



★ ★ ★

Pink

Still on Fire

You've heard her sing; now hear her talk. And be talked about. This double-DVD package combines the 85-minute 2009 documentary *Pink: A Life Less Ordinary* with a second disc of TV and radio interviews from throughout her career — but little in the way of performance footage.



Pink

Best of the Rest

More of the new music available this week

James Blake

★ ★ ★ ★

Overgrown

Can machines have soul? If they're being operated by Blake. Electronic and organic unite again on the Brit singer-songwriter's second disc, as his fractured Antony Hegarty croon swoops and sways to claustrophobic electro-balladry. Aching and artfully beautiful.

Intronaut

★ ★ ★ ★

Habitual Levitations (Instilling Words with Tones)

Some metal bands are about punishment. These proggy Angelenos are about discipline. A masterwork of precision and restraint, their fourth album features prime-number polyrhythms propelling spacious guitars and robust haunting vocals.

The Knife

★ ★ ★ ★

Shaking the Habitual

Rules are made to be broken. So the Swedish electro duo gladly oblige. Their fourth disc abandons traditional songcraft in favour of sonic creations as short as 37 seconds and as long as 19 minutes, fuelled by leftist politics and gender studies. Music as provocation.

Eric Church

★ ★ ★

Caught in the Act: Live

File under: Striking while the iron is hot. Fresh from the ACMAs — and his addition to Lollapalooza — the country-rocker capitalizes with a 17-track live compilation of gritty odes to drinkin', smokin', creepin' and hellraisin'. Crank it up in your pickup truck.