

## CDs



Underrated Bow Wow | Path of Totality KoRn  
 Bestival Live 2011 The Cure | Lioness: Hidden Treasures Amy Winehouse

# Black Keys' sweet ride

This week in the rock: Black Keys hit the gas, KoRn learn some new steps, Nils kicks it old-school, Venom unleash hell and Lynne makes revelations



## The Black Keys

**El Camino**  
Blues-Rock

★★★★

It's not about a car. It's about a road. A journey that's taken Black Keys singer-guitarist Dan Auerbach and drummer Pat Carney from Akron to Nashville, from clubs to arenas, from obscurity to the winners' circle at the Grammys. Now that they're firing on all cylinders commercially, it only makes sense for the blues-punk duo — joined by old pal and collaborator Danger Mouse — to put the pedal to the musical metal. On their muscular seventh CD, Auerbach's fuzzy riffs (and soul-dust vocals) and Carney's lumpy, thumpy beats have all been souped up — turbocharged with extra RPMs, upgraded with Motown and Stax, Studio One and psychedelia, pimped with prominent basslines, keyboards and background vocals. And from the twangy garage-rock shuffle of leadoff single *Lonely Boy* right through the smoky soul-funk finish line of *Mind Eraser*, they deliver their biggest, most consistent and hardest-driving disc in years. It's one sweet ride.

**Download:** *Lonely Boy*; *Run Right Back*

## KoRn

**Path of Totality**

Nu-Metal

★★★½

Revolutionary or just revolting? Jonathan Davis and KoRn seem destined to divide fans with their 10th CD, which



The Black Keys' Dan Auerbach (left) and Pat Carney put the pedal to the musical metal on their latest album, *El Camino*.

revamps their propulsively creepy nu-metal with the twitchy textures and murky grooves of dubstep and drum 'n' bass. Davis dubs it *Future Metal*; we'll see if that holds up in betrayed mooks' kangaroo court. In any case, full points for not taking the path of least resistance.

**Download:** *Chaos Lives in Everything*; *Get Up!*

## Nils Lofgren

**Old School**

Roots-Rock

★★★★

Older and wiser, ornery and wistful. Springsteen's utility man Lofgren is all of these

on his first new tunes in five years — griping about kids and Congress, mourning fallen heroes and pondering the eternal mystery of love in his choirboy rasp. But the 60-year-old guitarist also shows those kids how it's done with his spiky fingerpicked solos and piercing slide lines. An old master at work.

**Download:** *Old School*; *Ain't Too Many of Us Left*

## Venom

**Fallen Angels**

Metal

★★★★

Hell f---ing yeah. So sayeth Cronos on Venom's 13th

CD. Truer words were never f---ing spoken. Three decades after welcoming us to hell, the leather-lunged British frontman, his bulldozer bass and his latest hellions are up to their usual hilarious antics, laying waste to all with their relentless, vulgar display of power forged in a crucible of black metal and thrash. Hail Satan or be killed.

**Download:** *Pedal to the Metal*; *Damnation of Soul*

## Shelby Lynne

**Revelation Road**

Americana

★★★★

"I don't need a reason to cry,"

insists Lynne. That's because she already has plenty. All of which the singer-songwriter channels into one of her most personal and powerful works: A solo album filled with grim confessional ballads and slow-burning tales of yearning, loss, grief and self-destruction — including one about the murder-suicide of her parents. You won't need a reason either.

**Download:** *Revelation Road*; *Heaven's Only Days Down the Road*

✉ darryl.sterdan@sunmedia.ca

📧 @darryl\_sterdan

🌐 blogs.canoe.ca/ent

## Down Stream

3 Picks, 3 Clicks.  
3 Cool Online Tracks

### 1 Leonard Cohen

Show Me the Place

One of the first and most anticipated new albums of 2012 is Cohen's *Old Ideas*, the 77-year-old folk icon's first new studio work in seven years. Here's a sneak peek from the Jan. 31 release, which is billed as his "most overtly spiritual" album: A gorgeously simple ballad anchored by a country-gospel piano and topped with Cohen's spectacularly craggy, weathered pipes. Stunning.

leonardcohen.com

### 2 Florence & The Machine

Take Care

So, you like Florence & The Machine? And Drake? Why not enjoy them at once? Here's a live recording of British diva Florence Welch and her band, covering the title track from the Canadian rapper's recently released sophomore album during a BBC Radio studio session. Naturally, Flo and Co. give it the usual sweeping, soaring overhaul. Can't wait for Drake's take on *Shake it Out*.

hypem.com

### 3 Rosanne Cash

Live From Zone C

Singer-songwriter Cash recently invited a handful of friends (and her guitarist husband John Leventhal) to join her in a living room concert in her New York apartment — and then invited fans to pick the set list from songs on her recent *Essential Rosanne Cash* anthology. The intimate 54-minute concert was streamed live over the Internet, but you can find it archived on various sites.

prx.org

## CHARTS

Nielsen SoundScan Singles

- Moves Like Jagger**  
Maroon 5  
feat. Christina Aguilera
- Without You**  
David Guetta feat. Usher
- We Found Love**  
Rihanna feat. Calvin Harris
- Someone Like You**  
Adele
- Sexy And I Know It**  
LMFAO