

Hit List

Taylor that speaks of her passing the symbolic torch to Kight and other blues artists. "Let the blues live on..." the late great queen of the blues proclaims in the song. She would be proud that Kight is going above and beyond the call of duty to do her part. — **RA**



The Soul of John Black Good Thang

Yellow Dog Records

The Soul of John Black is the alter ego of John Bigham. Known mostly for his eight-year stint in Fishbone, he has also worked with folks ranging from Miles Davis to Eminem. This followup to '09's *Black John* establishes Bigham as a soul man with one foot in the past, the other firmly in the future.

The songs have a strong soul base, with hints of blues, jazz, and even electronica in different forms. They mostly take a minimalistic lyrical approach. Slinky rhythm guitar on "Digital Blues" gives way to smoldering funk and a soulful solo. Chunky rhythm guitars highlight the title cut, with its pop leanings and great hook. "New York to L.A." has the same great rhythm guitar, with a fine slide solo and one of many vocals from Bigham that call to mind fine soul singers like Al Green. Speaking of Southern soul, "Lil' Mama's in the Kitchen" makes you wish Bigham would make a dedicated album in that genre.

Bigham incorporates different styles of music that most would say don't fit. "Strawberry Lady" uses acoustic country-blues slide guitar over a one-chord funk vamp that mixes old with new. Funk and country blues meld in a way one wouldn't suspect.

Bigham is on an artistic roll, and while the difference between this disc and his last is obvious, it also points to an artist not afraid to take chances. — **JH**



Janne Louhivuori Yin 'N' Twang

Texicalli

This is the fifth solo album by Louhivuori, an alumnus of Finland's Hurriganes and an in-demand session musician there. The 13-instrumental set covers a wide range of styles, but the opening Duane Eddy-inspired "Guitar Swamp" (and the CD's title) show where this guitar twanger's heart lies — at least some of the time.

"Swedes In Space" is a Brian Setzer-ish speedster, while "Zodiac Walk" swings like Elvis' "Stuck On You," with Janne cranking up the amp's tremolo, and "The Ghost Of Shiloh" sounds like Duane Eddy jamming with Santo & Johnny and Les Paul

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