



Album reviews

Steve Lukather

TRANSITION
Mascot

Transition is a varied beast with chugging rock, clinical fingerplay and a heap of atmospheric all channelled through some offbeat arrangements - and it makes for a megalithic production. A stark and unfussy guitar tone allows room for some

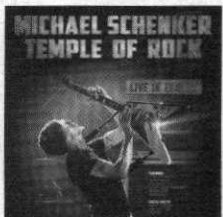


equally sizeable themes to be aired, and with absorbing architecture and expressive skills such as these, it's no wonder he stood up to Vai and Satriani on the G3 tour.

Michael Schenker

TEMPLE OF ROCK: LIVE IN EUROPE
Inakustik

A hefty helping of stadium bombast never hurt anyone, and if one player wears it well it's Schenker. With a fretbound skillset that's beyond most, he offers grinding riffs and surging grooves throughout these live cuts taken from two of his



best performances, one in Tilburg and one in London. Relentless is one word for it, gargantuan is another. Hold aloft the nearest Flying V and kneel at the altar.

Julian Sas

BOUND TO ROLL
Cavalier Recordings

A hearty fusion of big, bolshy blues and honest, roomy ballads from the Dutchman for his eighth studio effort. Tethering sleek blues-rock licks and earnest lyrics to the cooking tunes here may well just elevate Sas a little further up the ladder too.



In amongst the nine originals Sas does Rory Gallagher's *Shadow Play* proud and adds a keen and ferocious wah to Dylan's *Highway 61 Revisited*. On the up.

Red Lamb

RED LAMB
Proper

Red Lamb is the vision of Anthrax's lead man Dave Spitz, helped along by Megadeth's Dave Mustaine, who wrote lyrics and co-produced. The heavy yet melodious crunch comes straight out of their day jobs and tech-whizz Chris Venna adds an extra



dimension that lifts their darkened musical vision. They could quite easily have overdone this with too much showy speeding, but it's a nicely upfront piece of metalwork.

The Malingers

THE LONELY YEARS
Fat & Balabous

Squawking harmonica, dusty strumming and a ragged feel scoops us up and plonks us in the Americana-flecked house of UK folk outfit Malingers. They've been shaking things up on the airwaves, and for sound reason; the down-trodden



slur of *The Optimist* is irresistible melancholy, *Hell Child* delivers a breezy, upbeat shanty, and the boxy stomp of *Down By The Sea* is pure unadulterated campfire bliss.

Hot Club Of Cowtown

RENDEZVOUS IN RHYTHM
Gold Strike

This exemplary Texan swing trio roll out the best of gypsy jazz and French swing for *Rendezvous*. Here they indulge in the influential grooves of Django Reinhardt and fiddle-meister Stephane Grappelli with popular favourites that include the cheeky fun



of *Crazy Rhythm*, an oh-so-slinky take on *I'm In The Mood For Love* and Reinhardt's own classic *Minor Swing*. Characterful and perfectly executed craftsmanship. Bravo!

Pat Metheny

THE ORCHESTRION PROJECT
Nonesuch

We sat agape while Metheny conducted his pneumatic orchestra for 2010's groundbreaking *Orchestrion* album. This expands on that undertaking with all five movements from the project featured and eight more pieces that get



the treatment too. Musical creativity is re-defined by moments like this, and when man and guitar meet machine it's incredible to behold. A fascinating record.

Kevin Eubanks

THE MESSENGER
Mack Avenue

Eubanks' slender jazz wanderings have always painted a sensuous scene that's both relaxing and exhilarating when in full flow, but here there's a mellowed vibe that embraces other avenues including funk and blues too. Jeff Beck's *Led Boots*



is visited with a scat-led groove and John Coltrane's *Resolution* adds familiarity with a twist while Eubanks' cuts are signed off with the utmost finesse.

Buddy Miller & Jim Lauderdale

BUDDY & JIM
New West

Two multi-award winning country stars celebrate their mutual love of male duets (the Louvin Brothers, Johnny & Jack et al) with their own gem of a collaboration. Buddy and Jim's close-knit tenors weave their harmonies around some



freshly-written tracks as well as diving into tried and tested oldies like *Down South In New Orleans* and Jim Cracklin's jumpin' hit *The Wobble*. Fantastic meeting of might.

SNAP JUDGEMENTS

Erin McKeown

MANIFESTA
TVP

Political themes, offset grooves and some nice subtle touches give McKeown's latest brood a personal quality. Pop in places, haunting in others, but so addictive

The Brew

LIVE IN EUROPE
Jazzhaus

These three truly know how to raise the roof. Powerhouse rhythms, some forcible riffing skills and a spirited vox all collide for a bristling and epic live offering

Dave Kilminster

SCARLET - THE
DIRECTOR'S CUT

Cherry red First released in 2007, this is wondrous stuff from Roger Waters' guitarist, darting from rock to offbeat funk to lilting epics

Charlie Winston

HOBO
Real World

Bouncy, beat-box-fuelled, brooding, spacious... Winston's kind of pop is a moving and slanted thing, and quite delightful. It's utterly original, too

Marc Carroll

STONES BEADS & SILVER
One Little Indian

The Irishman decamped to the US to record this dreamy and finespun menu. It's part rootsy folk, part beat-up ballad, part upbeat pop, but all good

Larry Carlton

THEN & NOW
335 Records

Fans of Mr 335 should seek out this three-disc set covering choice old tracks, his Japan-only live album plus *Four Hands & A Heart*, 14 new versions of his classics