

CD Reviews



NO MERCY
MY PROMISE

There have been a number of groups who have successfully blended the qualities of a number of cultural rhythms and music. Witness the success of Gloria Estefan, Enigma, Robbie Robertson and so on. Now with their debut album entitled *My Promise*, No Mercy produces another wonderful compilation of blended music. Well-known talent promoter and musical producer Frank Farian invited three young musicians to work in his studio in Germany, and the resulting recording created No Mercy. This group combines the talents of New Yorker Marty Cintron, and Cuban singers Ariel and Gabriel Hernandez. These three are no strangers to the musical industry.

Marty Cintron began his singing/dancing career in Florida, working as a singer at many of the terrace restaurants. It was during one of these performances that he caught the attention of Frank Farian, who invited him to record some works. Two of Marty Cintron's Cuban friends, Ariel and Gabriel Hernandez, were also included. The Hernandez twins had already been discovered by The Artist Formerly Known As Prince, and had worked with him on a number of musical collaborations. The trio began recording in Germany, where their first single, "Missing," hit the top of European charts. Soon the group began hitting the top of dance charts around the world, especially with the hit, "Where Do You Go" and "Don't Make Me Live Without You."

No Mercy blends house, pop, soul and latin rhythms in an infectious beat. Cintron's and the Hernandez twins' vocal talents lend themselves well to the mix of fast-paced dance and soulful love songs found on their debut album. Several favourites include "Message of Love," "Don't Make Me Live Without You (Mainstream Mix)" and "Kiss You All Over." Hopefully, we can look forward to more from this talented trio in the future.

*JETHRO E. CABILETE

MORTAL KOMBAT
MORE KOMBAT

Follow-up music to popular movie soundtracks are a mixed bag of thoughts. On one hand, it could be very good and actually contain music that fits the theme of the movie. On the other hand, it could just as well be a mix of stuff that sounds like it may be good, but doesn't really have any relationship to the movie; much less have been played in the movie itself. However, *Mortal Kombat: More Kombat* is actually a good CD that remains faithful to the hard-core theme of the movie and its previous soundtrack.

The tracks on this compilation are a mix of hard core dance, techno, speed metal and industrial music. Although the eclectic variations seem a bit odd, they have all remained true to the central theme of the *Mortal Kombat* movie - a fast-paced, high energy rhythm that is active and upbeat. In no way is this meant to be a cerebral trip through *Kombat*; rather it is an infusion of movement, sound and fury. Some of the groups found in this compilation include, Paykoonik, Sepultura, Babylon Zoo and Crawlspace. The tracks are amazing, highly charged beats that one can dance, bounce, mosh or rage to in complete abandon. This is a really good sequel to the first *Mortal Kombat* soundtrack.

*JETHRO E. CABILETE

BARBARA LYNCH
GOBBY AND GOODLUCK

This has got to be one of the weirdest CDs I have ever heard in my life. Wildly moody and entertaining it reminds me of some of my friends. Unfortunately I am one of those critics who has to compare one artist to another to give the reader an idea of what he or she sounds like. Barbara Lynch is stuck somewhere between Tom Waits and Holly Cole. A deep raspy voice backed by music with a bluesy feel to it would be the perfect way to describe Barbara Lynch's CD. She has a unique sound and the lyrics are cutting like a knife - this is real life. These songs are not pretty and they're not dressed up with gorgeous adjectives that make you want to swoon with romantic delight. "You know there must be something wrong. When you can't buy food and cigarettes, too. You didn't make enough money to do them both. What do you think is wrong with you? Try take it a day at a time." Bleak I know but it's also funny that these opening sentences of "Take It A Day At A Time" paint a picture of true life. This is something which is sadly lacking in a lot of today's popular music. There is nothing coincidental in regards to her lyrics and your own crappy life. She tells it like it is. Looking for Top 40 music, pick up *The Smashing Pumpkins* (that's right, you heard what I said) and forego this one. Want something a little bit gritty, a little bit raw, a little bit personal - give this CD a try.

*DENNIS GERMAN



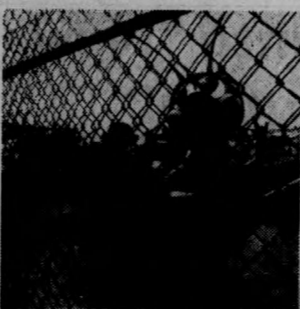
This album originally caught my attention with its heavy, male version of the great Jefferson Airplane tune "White Rabbit." The band really goes in for the crunchy sound and does a good job at it. The album, however, is boring. It has been heard before and without any revolutionary tactics the album starts to slide after the fourth song (incidentally, "White Rabbit").

The main deterrent to this album is that it seems like any riff that could have appeared on any previous Soundgarden or Tool album. The sound is good, but in a few albums with more time under their belts, this band will definitely be worth to watch for in the heavy sounds department.

*ANTHONY DAVIS

The latest release from Toronto rockers hHead is definitely the result of their learning. The band has taken from its past two albums to write songs for a third, completely different album. Turmoil has obviously surrounded this band, and it is nice to see them a) with a new drummer, b) with a new record, and c) a disappearance from their major label stint.

This album changes as it passes from song to song. The album starts off sounding somewhat like their 1992 release, *Fierman*, and then, with a slow, twelve song transition, they're all of a sudden are playing songs similar to their 1994 album, *Jerk*. The only thing is, they have changed. This album is one which the band can play live, without losing the sounds which many bands overdo.



hHEAD
OZEY

All in all, an excellent album from an excellent band.

*DREW GILBERT



THE SECRET PROJECT
REMEMBERING DISCO

"Silly" would be the best word to use to describe this CD. The cover and the title had me expecting it to be a combination of '90s dance and '70s disco. Well, not quite. I did immensely enjoy the first and last songs on the CD. They had me doing a little jig around my room. However, the songs sandwiched in between were pretty awful. A couple of '80's sounding songs, a couple of "somewhat disco-like songs," and a Bobby Brown style love song do not a good CD make. Back in '86 when I had really big blonde hair, blue eye shadow and acid wash jeans I would have loved this CD but now it just makes me laugh at a forgotten era. If you are the kind of person who holds onto the past musically, pick it up. If you aren't, throw on a flannel shirt and pick up Sheryl Crow's new CD instead.

*JEN BROWN

THE MAHONES
RISE AGAIN

This Celtic Rock group from Kingston, Ontario rocks. High energy folk music, played the way it should be, with a passion.

The top track has to be "Holloway Jack," with its catchy singing, it has you up and singing along about ten seconds into the song. The title track and "100 Bucks" (the first video/single) are both excellent songs, as well. It's an awesome feeling the way that some of the screams and yelps come across at the beginnings of songs.

If you like Great Big Sea, Irish Descendants, and Spirit

of the West, make way for the Mahones, your new favourite band.

*ANTHONY DAVIS

MOBB DEEP
HELL ON EARTH

After the surprising success of their last album, *The Infamous*, Mobb Deep wasted little time coming right back with their third and most ambitious CD to date. *Hell on Earth* picks up where the hip hop left off with heavy beats and smooth, well-written lyrics. And although the rhymes still paint a picture of violent, urban upbringing, there is a newfound maturity that questions where such a lifestyle will undoubtedly lead. With contributions from Nas, Method Man and Busta Rhymes, the lineup reads like an all star roster of the East Coast scene. There are only one or two weak tracks, but with the enhanced CD feature, Mobb Deep's latest project is not only a pleasure to listen to, but also a great multimedia experience.

*RICHARD PAIXAO

E40
THE HALL OF GAMES

At first glance, one could mistakenly regard E40's latest album, *The Hall of Games*, as a great album just waiting to become a regular in anybody's compact disc player. After all, E40 has had some prior success having released three other CDs and some having gone platinum. With appearances from 2Pac, Too Short, K-Ci & Jay-Z (of Jodeci fame), Spice 1 and The Luniz, this CD should be pretty good - "should" being the key word. It is far from pretty good; in fact, it is pretty ugly. The first track, "Record Haters," is an attempt to refute AZ's claim that E40 doesn't deserve to be a platinum artist, but instead of contradicting the statement he supports it with unintelligible lyrics that are much too fast and plain of sloppy. To make matters worse, the few phrases that I do understand are even worse than those I don't. The only bright spots on this CD are those during which E40 chooses to remain silent while others try, in vain, to make this album half decent. And, as the track goes, "It Is What It Is." And in this case, it is crap.

*RICHARD PAIXAO

12 EYES
UNIT

12 Eyes is Canada's answer to Bad Religion. A talented old school punk band, who writes catchy tunes that actually have meaning.

Although this album does not have the continuity that was found on their first release, *Family Sized Bucket*, there is still that wholesome, super-cool image in your mind of a bunch of really cool guys dancing around on stage.

The top tune on the album is definitely "When Mary Smiles," with a really catchy melody, and a powerful bass riff to back up.

This album is worth picking up, especially if you feel punk/power-pop has been spoiled by the wave of California punk that has hit the world over the past couple of years.

*ANTHONY DAVIS

H **H**

Har! Have You Ever Been To Sea, Billy? Perhaps you're interested in a job as a cabin boy? No, says you, you're more inclined towards a professional career. Well, by, if that's the score, you'd be wise to navigate a course to www.att-careers.com/. There be many an opportunity for a bright boy such as you. This here's a website designed to appeal to a gentleman such as you. It has a Maritime appeal to tempt those dainty souls to stay at home. It's a place for those interested in accounting, finance, administration,

human resources, computers, information technology and education to connect with those who have job opportunities in these areas. The bilingual site updates the career opportunities frequently. It's possible to send in your resume and for a membership fee of \$50 they will expose your information to potential employers - looking for someone like you - from NB, NS, PEI, Newfoundland and Labrador.

*CINDY GATES

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February 27	Introduction to Authorware 3.5
March 13	What is HTML?
March 13	Creating a Web site
April 3	What are PDF files? A look at Adobe Acrobat

This series of demonstrations will be approximately 15 to 60 minutes in duration consisting of Macintosh-based computer programs and services, although most subject can apply to both platforms. Pre-registration two days in advance is appreciated.

chdr.

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ALI

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