



Bruce Springsteen



George Thorogood



Tom Petty

MUSIC NOTES

Classic rock full of riches and rags



SCOTT
IWASAKI

Classic rock fans like their music comfortable.

To them, putting in a CD by the likes of Tom Petty or Bruce Springsteen is like slipping into a soft, faded pair of blue jeans.

There is a washload of classic rockers out there. And while some of these stars' new albums are still sewn with sturdy denim fiber, a few contain synthetic threads. In fact, some releases sound like unraveled rags.

— One of the stalwart classic music-makers is Tom Petty. His new album, "Echo" (Warner Bros.), done with the Heartbreakers, is a solid album.

Granted, Petty's style hasn't changed a bunch since the band's eponymous 1977 album. And, sure, there are a few songs that sound like his earlier tunes — "Free Girl Now" smacks of "You Wreck Me" and "So You Want to Be a Rock 'n' Roll Star."

But, Petty hasn't compromised himself. He's a rebel. He's business savvy and has a sound his fans can wear over and over again.

— Bruce Springsteen is another fan-conscious artist.

His new album "18 Tracks" (Columbia) is basically a compilation of outtakes that spans his 24-year career. This is another sturdy denim work.

In fact, the opening cut, "I Grow Up," was recorded in 1972 (three years before his first album, "Greetings from Asbury Park, N.J.," was released).

Other tracks, like "Seaside Bar Song," could be a prelude to "Glory Days," and the previously unreleased "Rendezvous" could have been the basis of his hit, "Dancing in the Dark."

The gem of the album is a dark and menacing acoustic version of "Born in the U.S.A." — a far cry

from the well-known single's anthemic bombast.

— Jeff Beck's "Who Else" (Epic) isn't quite what fans would expect. The guitar work is grand and bluesy, just what the axeman is known for. But you can easily pick out the plaid polyester elements of the production.

There are times when the CD gets too technical and Beck begins to sound more like Joe Satriani or Steve Vai.

— Then there's Sammy Hagar. The former Van Halen and Montrose screamer has sounded so much better solo than he did within the confines of established bands — until now.

These days Hagar's jeans have started to unravel and he's patching them up with overused iron-ons.

His new album, "Red Voodoo," is just a collection of rehashes from every classic-rock cliché in the business.

In fact, the opening cut, "Mas Tequila" is really Gary Glitter's "Rock 'n' Roll Part 2" — you know, the "Hey" song they play at NBA games.

And the Red Rocker does a Tom Petty in "Red Voodoo."

— And that goes double for George Thorogood & the Destroyers. The band's new album is called "Half a Boy/Half a Man" (CMC International). And these jeans have been worn and torn so much the patches need patching.

The cocaine/blooze-style revivalist has changed his tune. The raspy voice has been replaced by smooth, and sometimes smarmy vocals.

— Which brings us to Jimmy Buffett.

"Beach House On the Moon" (Margaritaville/Island) is just his staple Calypso rock. No surprises. No changes. No life.

Not even the Deseret Industries could salvage this one.

OUT AND ABOUT

Atomic Deluxe at top of the class



LUCY
CAMPBELL

I had a dream the other night that I graduated from law school at UC Berkeley. You know, that one university across the bridge from San Francisco. Anyway, I ended up finishing in the bottom half of my class.

In my dream, I asked if I could get a job, and my advisers said "No, not where you graduated."

I assume they were talking about my class rank, and not the school.

"That's OK," I said, "I'm a writer anyway."

They all thought that was very funny and began laughing at me.

That was when I woke up in a cold sweat.

Why would they think that was funny?

Anyway, last Friday night, Atomic Deluxe, the absolutely fabulous Salt Lake rockabilly act, had a shindig.

A very private, for-press-only shindig.

I didn't go.

Which was too bad for me, 'cause I missed out big time.

My editor tells me I need to be very clear in describing things; I guess I haven't been so clear in the

past, so I am going to explain "rockabilly" to y'all right now.

It's a music form. Obviously.

In plain, very plain terms, rockabilly has roots in country, bluegrass and '50's rock 'n' roll.

No Dolly Parton ballads, no K-BULL; just old-fashioned, sittin'-on-the-front-porch-with-my-best-hound-dog music.

Stay with me, people.

I haven't written about Atomic Deluxe yet because I'm lame.

I mean, this band has been around for ages and is *the* act to see.

Headed by Lara Jones, the gang of five has conquered South by Southwest, the local competition, and has garnered compliments from critics in Austin, Texas.

"It's dangerous to say things like this 'round here, but . . . this band from Salt Lake City sounds so fine, they could almost be from Austin," wrote Raoul Hernandez, of the Austin Chronicle.

I'm impressed.

Not a ton of SXSW winners get applause like this.

If you know of any, write me. I'd love to hear from you.

I'm also very floored by Atomic Deluxe's latest release, "My True Love."

Lots of killer tracks (quite a bunch of good songs) that are absolutely singalongable. (No translation.)

I couldn't possibly describe all of

'em, so I'm only going to highlight my fave:

Track number one: "Cryin', Waitin', Wishin'." So, the words are the same pretty much the entire way through. That's the beauty of rockabilly, and Atomic Deluxe.

It's like lemonade.

Old-fashioned and always refreshing.

Lara's voice is a little bit Patsy Cline and a little bit Billie Holiday. Thank you, Lara.

You could really envision yourself swingin' and two-steppin' across some hay-filled hoedown when you listen to this puppy.

I mean, I honestly have been inspired to go and get myself a pair of Justin boots after tossing "My True Love" into the player.

If Atomic Deluxe could be likened to a law school graduate, and the state of Utah to Berkeley, then, I guess, unlike me, Atomic Deluxe would be at the top of the class and bound for money.

Total money, baby (Atomic Deluxe is so talented).

If you're very, very interested in hearing Lara and the boys perform live, they'll be fiddlin' around Tuesday, June 8, in Park City at Dynamite Dom's in the afternoon, and that night at Mulligan's for a 21-and-over show.

Friday, June 11, is the band's really big show at the Zephyr. That's the CD-release party.

Go. Get out of the house. It's summer.

RECORD REVIEW

Ricky Martin album soars to the top

By Scott Iwasaki

Deseret News music editor

RICKY MARTIN; Ricky Martin (C2/Columbia). ★★½

The former member of Menudo has sure capitalized on his grand appearance singing "The Cup of Life" on the Grammys in Febru-

ary.

What a coup for him. In fact, that appearance helped skyrocket sales of his Spanish language album, "Vuelve." Well, he's back, after a rushed recording and remastering session, for his first English language, self-titled debut

album.

And it became his first No. 1 album last week when it debuted in the Top Slot on the Billboard 200 Album charts.

To make matters better, Mar-

Please see **MARTIN** on W9