

# New Albums

The new guitar releases, including Album Of The Month and Classic Album...

## ALBUM OF THE MONTH



### MADS ERIKSEN JUST WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

Mtgmusic ★★★★★

Mads Eriksen might just be Norway's best kept secret but hopefully that is all about to change. He's a guitar virtuoso and has been described in the past as a cross between Eddie Van Halen

and Joe Satriani, but although he definitely sits comfortably in that league he is also very much his own man. This is his eighth album and although it's fully instrumental it has to be one of the most accomplished albums in that genre. It's also exceptionally melodic throughout. Whether shredding or drawing us into lush soundscapes, this is guitar playing on a very high level indeed and deserves to be recognised as such. Although he's not featured on this solo album, Chris Thompson of Manfred Mann's Earthband works regularly with Mads, performing together and writing, and although the odd vocal on here might have been welcome, the truth is that this stands out as it is thanks to the sincere and melodious playing. We strongly suggest you check this album out - you won't be disappointed.



### FEMI TEMOWO ORIN META

Femitone records ★★★★★

As musical director and band leader to the late Amy Winehouse, Femi Temowo is a guitarist with a lot of knowledge, ability and musical clout. He's also a fine jazz player, as this album demonstrates rather well. If you like your jazz cool and modern then there's no need to look any further. There's also a great degree of accessibility to the music here, which is more in keeping with the jazz wave of the '60s rather than the current scene that often crosses over into fusion. Like any true jazz album no one instrument dominates throughout. In fact the opening

track The Storyteller's Psalm offers several solos from all concerned and it's this constant changing of emphasis that keeps this lengthy piece interesting throughout. Femi tells us that the album is based on the song culture of the ancient Yoruba of West Africa: "It was inspired by my need to reconnect with who I am on a geographical level". Whilst the African element is apparent in the music it's the overall joy and skill of the players that is infectious and demands the attention. Refreshing and smooth - like an iced cocktail!

### SUNDAY RECOVERY COMA

Mazepa Records ★★★★★

With modern technology allowing us all the ability to buy and share music via the internet, it's never been easier for a rock band to achieve success globally... or has it? In reality you still need airplay and luck in order to spread your wings beyond your borders and that's exactly what Sunday Recovery are trying to do with their debut



release. They have a huge following in Italy but they need to crack the UK and the USA in order to really make it big time. Their music is composed by band producer Gianluca Cucchiara who, along with singer Mirko Petrini and guitarist Fabio Staffieri, formed the band back in 2009. Gianluca doesn't perform however and bass and drums have subsequently been added to make this a fully functional band. If there's any justice in the world, this should stand every chance of wider success as it comes packed with well constructed songs that are strong on melodic and lyrical content yet have darker, more menacing elements running through. It's certainly different and takes a couple of plays to really sink in but it does get there!

### RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS I'M WITH YOU

Warner Brothers ★★★★★

Back on form, The Chili Peppers seem to have rediscovered some of the essence of what made their early material so special. In fact the band goes even further with Chad Smith declaring: "Same name, but it's a new band". And we agree that it really is a positive step forward. Incredibly it's their tenth studio album and the first to include guitarist Josh Klinghoffer, who took over from John Frusciante in 2009. This is packed with great grooves, laying the foundation for a bunch of catchy songs with opportunities aplenty for everyone to shine. Notably, Did I Let You Know contains a very cool solo from Josh and Flea thumps out a great bass interlude on Goodbye Hooray. There's the odd moment when



something sounds rather familiar, and we think that perhaps The Adventures Of Rain Dance Maggie occurred whilst hanging around with White Stripes! Workaholic Chad Smith is banging out some great rhythms, tied in tightly to Flea as ever, but what with this and a new Chickenfoot album hot off the presses, he's a busy boy indeed. Stadium Arcadium (2006) was their last studio album and this definitely makes the wait worthwhile.

### CHICKENFOOT CHICKENFOOT III

ear Music ★★★★★

It seems only a moment ago when Chickenfoot were formed, and here we are with Chickenfoot III - how time flies! Well, not really, as Sammy Hagar explains: "We're calling the album Chickenfoot III because it's so good, the songs are so tight - it's like we jumped right past having to make a second record". Actually we know what he means, as in so many cases it's the 'difficult' second album that is often the stumbling block for new acts, as having to get another album's worth of material together in a relatively short time often leads to a drop in standard. But not here! This is another confident and



powerful album that does nothing to tarnish what has gone before. Last Temptation is a cracking opener, Big Foot is riffy and full of hooks, whilst the slower and more vocal intense Come Closer is a real standout. There's certainly no evidence of this being a 'difficult' album at all, so top marks all round. Touring the album, however, will be interesting as drummer Chad Smith is already committed to dates with The Chilis. Rumor has it that he will do as many of the gigs as possible and a stand-in will be used for the rest. The 3D package includes specs and band photos!

### STUART MCCALLUM DISTILLED

NAIM ★★★★★

In case you're unaware, Stuart McCallum is best known for his