

# Winston says: throw these in your tape deck

**Coheed and Cambria - Good Apollo I'm Burning Star IV, Vol. 1: From Fear Through the Eyes of Madness**

Coheed have been known for their devotion to serve the best in progressive rock, but they seem to be following a trend with their past few releases. There are so many D&D-styled narratives that I'm sure I'm not the only one who expresses concern about the comprehension of this CD. I truly enjoy Coheed's earlier releases, so I'd highly suggest that they maybe kick back on the prog-rock devotion and get back to some quality old-school Coheed.

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• Michèle Legendre

## My Morning Jacket - Z

They're trying to become the American Radiohead, but they can't seem to get rid of their bluegrass roots. With too much emphasis on the addition of keyboards and the hint of electronics, I'm wondering what these kids are trying to pull – no one needs another Thom Yorke. As crippling as this CD was for my listening pleasure, I fulfilled my duty as a good Samaritan and donated this CD to the local Salvation Army.

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• Michèle Legendre

## Sigur Ros - Takk

Just when I thought I'd had enough of their piano-driven ballads accompanied by those Icelandic moans and incomprehensible grunts, they released *Takk*. After being so abstract and employing complex compositional structures in their music, Sigur Ros seem to have settled for a more abstract Chris Martin impression, but with horns and awkwardly catchy electronics. I must personally thank them for releasing something that I can truly appreciate on a more technical basis without the grand amounts of male grunting.

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• Michèle Legendre

## Yngwie Malmsteen's Rising Force - Unleash the Fury

Yngwie (pronounced ing-vey) Malmsteen has placed himself in some very prestigious company over the course of his musical career. Sweden's most well-known metal guitarist has played with members of Black Sabbath, Deep Purple, Metalium, Hammerfall, and many other well-known and highly renowned heavy metal artists over the course of his career. In his latest release, *Unleash the Fury*, Malmsteen has yet again gone the extra mile to produce top quality music for his fans as well as those for whom this is their introduction to this extraordinary musician.

*Unleash the Fury* is excellent musically, and Dougie White's vocals combine with that to create an album sure to please the senses of most any rock fan. Malmsteen is the star of the show, however, and his technical guitar playing is among the best I've ever heard. He has the ability to bring phenomenal amounts of noise out of his guitar, and he makes it sound damned good.

As good as this album is on its own, Malmsteen's guitar work makes it truly great, and Malmsteen himself is a guitarist for the ages. I can either continue writing for another 500 words, trying to explain just how great this album is, or I can tell you to go out, buy it, and hear it for yourself – believe me, it's well worth it.

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• Jason Tucker

## 30 Seconds to Mars - A Beautiful Lie

Is there anything more pointless than when actors become singers? This is just another classic case. Mr. Leto, may I offer you one piece of advice? Just because you have a lovely face, wear eyeliner and had a big ass studio budget doesn't mean this is worthy for anyone's attention. Oh, and please spare me your silly attempts to scream like Bert McCracken. It's been done and done, doll.

• Michèle Legendre

## From Autumn to Ashes - Abandon Your Friends

After hearing the first three tracks, I imagine your fans will be the ones abandoning you. As much as I've heard of bands applying a meticulously planned formula to achieve today's 'hardcore' sound, I wouldn't have thought FATA would've taken the leap. From the barely comprehensible screams to cheerful sing-alongs such as 'Long to Go,' I beg of you Benjamin Perri: please go back to your demonically possessed, growling ways.

• Michèle Legendre

## Switchfoot - Nothing Is Sound

Thinking of a band coming out of California, the word "wild" comes to mind - Red Hot Chili Peppers, anyone? Switchfoot, however, seems to be at the opposite end of the spectrum. The San Diego band has a sanity about them that has been missing from the rock scene for a long time now.

Their new CD *Nothing is Sound* is their best and most mature album to date. After their 2004 release *The Beautiful Letdown*, Switchfoot has delivered another unique album. I use the word "unique" because that is precisely what it is.

From the energy of 'Stars' and 'Easier Than Love' to the deliberated nonchalance of 'The Blues,' they make themselves right at home on the disc.

Jon Foreman's vocals are a big reason this band sounds the way it does. The normality of his voice almost makes it sound deficient in some areas, but it is just what makes up Switchfoot's identity. The lyrics are meaningful and the music is good. If I had to say something negative about them, it would be that sometimes they go too close to the line separating sane rock from boring rock. I would not say that this CD is a must-have, but it is worth a buy. My favourite track would be a toss up between 'Lonely Nation' and 'Stars.' Switchfoot are definitely a band on the up.

Not bad for a bunch of surfers, huh dude?

• Ameya Bhandarkhar

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