

Cake Offers the Smell of Rarities

Written by John M. James

Wednesday, 14 March 2007 02:22

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Bringing back memories of the warm scent from an Easy Bake Oven, **Cake** is prepping a new CD that features "scratch and sniff" fun in the disc's limited edition. Releasing *B-Sides & Rarities*

on their own at (

<http://www.cakemusic.com>

) and bypassing a record-label deal, the CD features two crazy covers:

Kenny Rogers

' and the

First Edition

's "Ruby, Don't Take Your Love to Town" and

Barry White

's "Never, Never Gonna Give You Up." One more cover is featured on the limited edition's bonus disc: a live stab at

Black Sabbath

's "War Pigs" with guest

Steven Drozd

of the

Flaming Lips

. Budding video directors are encouraged to submit an original visual accompaniment to the

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"War Pigs" cover, with the band ponying up a \$1,000 prize.

Speaking of covers, two new jazz artists lay hands on unimaginable territory in new CDs next week. Blue Note Records artist **Robert Glasper** lets a little hip hop sneak into his classy *In My Element*

set, featuring late producer

J Dilla

in "J Dillatude" and a must-hear mash-up of

Radiohead

's "Everything in Its Right Place" and

Herbie Hancock

's "Maiden Voyage." Another stunning pianist,

Rachel Z

, releases

Dept. of Good & Evil

on the Savoy Jazz imprint, drawn from her 100-date world tour playing new originals and a host of radical interpretations of pop and goth-friendly favorites. Almost unrecognizable in their tumbling melody lines and climbing scales, can you pick out by ear

The Police

's "King of Pain,"

Death Cab for Cutie

's "Soul Meets Body,"

Joy Division

's "Love Will Tear Us Apart," or the

Yeah Yeah Yeahs

' "Maps"?

Television Alert:

The Late Show with David Letterman hosts **Aqualung** tonight, **Joss Stone** on Monday, and **Lucinda Williams** on Tuesday;

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Late Night with Conan O

,

Brien

boasts

The Shins

this evening overnight,

Pete York

on Friday overnight,

Jesse Malin

on Monday overnight, and

Lindsey Buckingham

on Tuesday overnight;

The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson

features

John Mellencamp

on Monday overnight;

Last Call with Carson Daly

talks to the animals with

Grizzly Bear

on Thursday overnight and

Deerhoof

on Friday overnight; and

Saturday Night Live

's musical guest this weekend is

Snow Patrol

.

New Releases Coming Tuesday, March 20:

... and like the winds, young grasshopper, are subject to change.

Bonnie "Prince" Billy - "Strange Form of Life" (Drag City) the fourth CD EP from *The Letting*

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Go album, with bonus Daytrotter sessions recorded in Rock Island and the single's CD-ROM video

Bill Callahan - "Diamond Dancer" (Drag City) stepping out from behind the mask of Smog, this terrific new two-track CD single comes in advance of his upcoming album, *Woke on a Whaleheart*

Nick Cave & the Bad Seeds - *The Abattoir Blues Tour* (Mute) two-CD/two-DVD set from 2004 dates

Cibo Matto - *Pom Pom: The Essential Cibo Matto* (Rhino) featuring a previously unreleased Dan the Automator remix

Cyann & Ben - *Sweet Beliefs* (Ever) third album by the reverent, misty, and trippy Parisian quartet

The Decemberists - *Kill Rock Stars Presents The Decemberists: A Practical Handbook* (Kill Rock Stars) DVD documentary with collected videos

Depeche Mode - *Construction Time Again* and *Black Celebration* (Rhino) expanded CD/DVD reissues

EL-P - *I'll Sleep When You're Dead* (Definitive Jux) with guests Cat Power, Trent Reznor, Aesop Rock, and the Mars Volta

Electric Light Orchestra - *Balance of Power* (Epic Legacy) expanded reissue from 1986 with seven bonus B sides and mixes

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Finger Eleven - *Them Vs. You Vs. Me* (Wind-Up) on tour now with Evanescence

John Frusciante - *Ataxia II* (Record Collection) Greek for "disorder," this second CD follows 2004's release from the Red Hot Chili Peppers guitarist's short-lived band with Joe Lally of Fugazi

Merle Haggard, Willie Nelson, & Ray Price - *Last of the Breed* (Lost Highway) 22 songs over two CDs from these Country Music Hall of Famers, on tour now with Asleep at the Wheel backing the trio live

Hail Social - *Modern Love & Death* (hailsocial.com) fresh yet nostalgic indie pop for sunshine rollerskating and strobe-light suburban cruising

Hot Rod Circuit - *The Underground Is a Dying Breed* (Immortal) on tour next month with Limebeck, and all summer on the Vans Warped Tour

I'm From Barcelona - *Let Me Introduce My Friends* (Mute) 29-piece collective from Sweden

The Innocence Mission - *We Walked in Song* (Badman) 11 new haunting, fragile, ice-melting songs from Karen Peris

The Jerky Boys - *Sol's Rusty Trombone* (Laugh.com) get yer Jerky ringtones, numb nuts!

Mary Karlsen - *The Wanderlust Diaries* (Dualtone) with guest Robert Reynolds of the Mavericks

Killing Joke - *Inside Extremities Mixes, Rehearsals, & Live* (Candlelight) two-CD set featuring a complete concert from 1991

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LCD Soundsystem - *Sound of Silver* (DFA/Capitol) featuring the song "North American Scum"

Ted Leo & the Pharmacists - *Living with the Living* (Touch & Go) featuring a bonus CD EP in the first pressing

Low - *Drums & Guns* (Sub Pop) back with producer Dave Fridmann, stretching their slow-core wings and slipping deep inside the machine with wicked loops and splintered, shuffling beats

Luna Halo - *Luna Halo* (American) Nashville rockers with a Brit-pop feel, featuring the punchy single "Kings & Queens"

Jesse Malin - *Glitter in the Gutter* (Adeline/Warner Bros.) with guests Ryan Adams, Bruce Springsteen, and Josh Homme

Stephen Marley - *Mind Control* (Tuff Gong/Universal) with guests Ben Harper and Mos Def

Maylene & the Sons of Disaster - *II* (Ferret Music) heavy metal meets history, as the songs are inspired by the Prohibition-era mayhem of Ma Barker and her boys

Jimmy McIntosh - *Orleans to London* (Arizona Club) with guests Ronnie Wood and Ivan Neville

Stephanie McKay - *Tell It Like It Is* (Astralwerks) anticipated new CD from the Bronx vocalist, with producer Geoff Barrow of Portishead

Modest Mouse - *We Were Dead Before the Ship Even Sank* (Epic) with new guitarist Johnny

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Marr of The Smiths

OTEP - *The Ascension* (Capitol) featuring a cover of Nirvana's "Breed"

Panda Bear - *Person Pitch* (Paw Tracks) fantastic third album from Noah Lennox of Animal Collective, utilizing new layers of samplers and other electronica to craft enigmatic indie "hymns"

Lee "Scratch" Perry - *The Upsetter Selection: A Lee Perry Jukebox* (Trojan) 45 tracks over two CDs

The Poison Arrows - *Straight Into the Drift* (File 13 Records) CD EP from Justin Sinkovich of Atombombpocketknife

Radical Face - *Ghost* (Morr Music) home-grown solo project from Ben Cooper, jumping off from the idea that houses hold memories and crafting songs that reveal imaginary residents

Secretary Bird - *Secretary Bird* (In De Goot/Seaward Records) new from Mike Semple of the Friends of Dean Martinez and Giant Sand, with guest Eric Avery of Jane's Addiction

Sister Vanilla - *Little Pop Rock* (Chemikal Underground) it's a family affair with Jim and William Reid of Jesus & Mary Chain, with sister Linda on vocals

Sterling - *Cursed* (File 13 Records) low rolling thunderstorm for the mind in these three instrumental tracks, two of which clock in at 13 minutes

Joss Stone - *Introducing Joss Stone* (Virgin) her third album; featuring Lauryn Hill, Common, and Raphael Saadig

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Tracy Thorn - *Out of the Woods* (Astralwerks) all new from the Everything but the Girl vocalist, with guest Massive Attack

The Tossers - *Agony* (Victory) Irish revelry from Chicago's South Side, whipping fiddle and tin whistle into a mosh frenzy

The Zincs - *Black Pompadour* (Thrill Jockey)