

## Willie's at the Wheel on New Swing Record

Written by John M. James

Tuesday, 27 January 2009 10:44

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**Willie Nelson** is "on the road again," spending next month touring the East Coast with **Asleep at the Wheel** and their new album of western swing. Austin's own Bismieux Records releases *Willie & the Wheel* this coming Tuesday, an album that the late producer Jerry Wexler had been imagining for 30 years, now fully realized with his hand-picked song list. One selection, the 1927 instrumental favorite "South," features guests

**Vince Gill**

and

**Paul Shaffer**

. A deluxe edition is also available, with bonus postcards and stamps tucked in the digipack CD and vinyl LP.

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Also due next week is *To Willie*, a new album of Nelson covers by **Matthew Houck's** one-man-band

### **Phosphorescent**

on Dead Oceans Records. Selecting deep-album cuts and staying away from the classics, the 11 tracks sound like a hangover's a brewing, with "Reasons to Quit," "I Gotta Get Drunk," "The Last Thing I Needed (First Thing This Morning)" and "Too Sick to Pray."

Speaking of covers, two new CDs due next week take a jazz tilt on some surprising choices. Post-jazz pianist **Marco Benevento** first stunned audiences with his Hammond B-3 and Wurlitzer prowess, and now attacks and caresses piano, Farfisa, and Mellotron on his latest, *Me Not Me*

on Royal Potato Family Records. Opening with a cinematic run at

### **My Morning Jacket**

's "Golden" and

### **Leonard Cohen**

's "Seems So Long Ago Nancy," other sly transformations include

### **Led Zeppelin**

's "Friends,"

### **Beck**

's "Sing It Again,"

### **Deerhoof**

's "Twin Killers," and

### **The Knife**

's "Heartbeats."

Vocalist **Wendy Lewis** joins **The Bad Plus** on their latest, *For All I Care*, on the Do the Math/Heads Up imprint. Mixing classical flourishes and progressive jazz, the result is wickedly smart and creepy cool, guaranteed to perk up your ears as

### **Pink Floyd**

's "Comfortably Numb,"

### **Heart**

's "Barracuda,"

### **Nirvana**

's "Lithium,"

### **Yes**

' "Long Distance Runaround," and the

### **Bee Gees**

' "How Deep Is Your Love" come wafting up in the lush mist.

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### Television Alert

*The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* hosts **Franz Ferdinand** on Thursday; *The Late Show with David Letterman*

presents

**Graham Nash**

on Thursday and

**The Gaslight Anthem**

on Friday;

*Late Night with Conan O'Brien*

boasts

**Cold War Kids**

Wednesday overnight;

*Jimmy Kimmel Live*

features

**Disturbed**

Wednesday and

**Benji Hughes**

on Friday overnight; and

*Austin City Limits*

welcomes

**Nick Lowe**

and

**The Swell Season**

this weekend.

### New Releases Coming Tuesday, February 3

**The BPA** - *I Think We're Gonna Need a Bigger Boat* (Southern Fried Records) Fatboy Slim/Norman Cook's warehouse party tapes see the light of day, created with a who's who of mirthful noisemakers including Pete York, David Byrne, Iggy Pop, Dizzee Rascal, and Olly Hite

**Gene Dante & the Future Starlets** - *The Romantic Lead* (Omnirox Entertainment) glam rock from the former star of stage productions *Beauty & the Beast*

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and

*Hedwig & the Angry Inch*

**Melinda Doolittle** - *Coming Back to You* (Hi-Fi Recordings) new from the *American Idol* season-six finalist

**Fleet Foxes** - *Fleet Foxes* (Bella Union) reissue featuring the six-song *Sun Giant* EP

**Fol Chen** - *Part One: John Shade, Your Fortune's Made* (Asthmatic Kitty) recently composing instrumental music for the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's collaboration of textile designers and Machine Project audio

**The Fray** - *The Fray* (Epic) follow-up to the 2005 smash "How to Save a Life";

**Hatcham Social** - *Postcard in Colours* (TBD/ATO Records) six songs from the London trio, produced by Tim Burgess of The Charlatans UK and Faris Badwan of The Horrors

*He's Just Not Into You* - original motion picture soundtrack (New Line) with music by R.E.M., The Replacements, Corinne Bailey Rae, The Cure, and Talking Heads

**Heartless Bastards** - *The Mountain* (Fat Possum) newly transplanted to Texas from Dayton, Ohio, singer/songwriter Erika Wennerstrom recruited a new hometown bassist and drummer to join her

**Ben Kweller** - *Changing Horses* (ATO) old-school analog recording with a country feel

**The Loved Ones** - *Distractions* (Fat Wreck) CD EP of covers of songs by Joe Strummer,

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Billy Bragg, and Bruce Springsteen

**Roger Joseph Manning Jr.** - *Catnip Dynamite* (Oglio) new solo album from the Jellyfish and Imperial Drag popsmith, with bonus covers of Thomas Dolby's "Europa & the Pirate Twins"; and Elton John's "Love Lies Bleeding"; on the stateside issue

**Graham Nash** - *Reflections* (Rhino) three-CD box set collecting 40 years of solo material and time spent with The Hollies and CSNY, featuring an acoustic demo of "Right Between the Eyes";

**The Nighthawks** - *American Landscape* (Powerhouse Records) featuring the band's take on Tom Waits' "Down in the Hole"; Bob Dylan's "She Belongs to Me"; Marvin Gaye's "Try It Baby"; and *The Andy Griffith Show* theme, "Fishin' Hole";

**Nous Non Plus** - *Menagerie* (Aeronaut) wild ride from a fun New York City band that sings in French, featuring former members of Les Sans Culottes and vocalist Céline Dion

**Mary Kate O'Neil** - *Underground* (71/Nettwerk) third solo album of easy-beat indie pop from the former Piewackit vocalist, with songs co-written and co-produced with Jill Sobule

**Pine Leaf Boys** - *Fomage Au Passe* (Lionsgate) Grammy-nominated Cajan quintet featuring an English-to-French reinterpretation of Webb Pierce's "I'll Always Take Care of You";

**P.O.S.** - *Never Better, February* (Rhymesayers) featuring clever packaging with a variety of solid and transparent inserts that let you create your own layer CD cover

**The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus** - *Lonely Road* (Virgin) featuring an alternative cover gracing

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the vinyl edition

**Josh Reichmann Oracle Band** - *Life Is Legal EP* (Paper Bag) five-song CD EP from the former Tangiers vocalist, backed by funky drums, sax, and flute and channeling the soul of Marc Bolan

**Rhythm Devils** - *The Rhythm Devils Concert Experience* (StarCity/MRI) two-disc live DVD set from Mike Gordon of Phish and Mickey Hart and Bill Kreutzmann of the Grateful Dead on their 2006 tour

**Simply Red** - *Simply Red 25: The Greatest Hits* (Razor & Tie) with a new cover of the Moody Blues' "Go Now";

**Sole & the Skyriider Band** - *Remix LP* (Black Canyon) with mix merchants Andrew Broder, Odd Nosdam, Bit Tuner, Thavius Beck, and Electric President

**The Veronicas** - "Untouched"; *Lost Tracks* (digital-only) five-song EP with an unplugged spin on the single and three previously unreleased songs

**The Von Bondies** - *Love, Hate, & Then There's You* (Majordomo/Shout! Factory) with guest Nico Vega

**Watch Out! Theres Ghosts** - *Ghost Town* (Rise Records) two-man band on tour now with Cash Cash

**The Whip** - *X Marks Destination* (Razor & Tie) featuring four bonus remixes on the stateside pressing

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various artists - *Rough Trade Shops: Counter Culture 08* (Rough Trade) two-CD set released annually collecting the year's best indie releases, this year featuring Department of Eagles, Crystal Stilts, Indian Jewelry, Mark Stewart, Headless Heroes, and 39 other hand-picked gems

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