

Want a New Record? Ante Up

Written by John James

Wednesday, 04 July 2001 18:00

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• Never underestimate the value of your fan base. Two bands from the UK are taking a unique stance on the production of their new albums, with their fans directly involved in footing the bill. Fans of Marillion set the stage for things to come back in 1997, when the band's fan base was informed that a proposed North American tour wasn't financially feasible. Without the group's knowledge, fans raised more than \$75,000 dollars to bring the band to the States. Now powered by the fan-friendly Internet, Marillion has gone to the mountain again and asked fans to buy its new record in advance. Within three weeks, more than \$175,000 was raised to finance the recording of Anoraknophobia. This nifty arrangement keeps the record company's "advance money" out of the loop and allows the band to retain the rights to the material. This new album, the band's 12th studio set in almost 20 years, is available on store shelves now bearing the Sanctuary imprint. Also getting into the fan-financed route is Shriekback, the highly influential British art-school alt-funk band that featured former members of XTC and Gang of Four. The band's official Web site has its hat out, asking for a \$50 pre-order to fund an independent recording of a new reunion album outside the traditional involvement of a record label. In the end, the pre-ordering fan will receive an autographed copy of the CD and will be personally mentioned in the album sleeve.

• This Tuesday the Koch records label is issuing a new collection from Ringo Starr & His All Starr Band entitled The Anthology So Far, featuring guests Dr. John, Joe Walsh, Jack Bruce, Todd Rundgren, Dave Edmunds, and more. Look for Starr to take his big band on the road this summer with Greg Lake of ELP, Roger Hodgson of Supertramp, Ian Hunter of Mott the Hoople, Howard Jones, and Shelia E.

• Tortoise has just released a love letter to fans who missed the group's recent American tour. Originally only available at shows, the EP Gently Cupping the Chin of the Ape is out on the Thrill Jockey label and only to be found on mom-and-pop record-retail counters. The limited-edition CD features two new songs, a CD-ROM video of the single "Seneca," and other live and rehearsal video footage.

• A wet dream of stellar bass-guitar giants has converged on the recording of the upcoming Gov't Mule album, as Warren Haynes and Matt Abts have assembled an insanely impressive list of guest bass talent. Nineteen tracks have been recorded so far, featuring Les Claypool of

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Primus, Tony Levin of King Crimson, Phil Lesh of The Grateful Dead, Jack Bruce of Cream, Larry Graham of Sly & The Family Stone, Chris Wood of Medeski Martin & Wood, Mike Watt of The Minutemen, Chris Squire of Yes, Bootsy Collins of p Funk, John Paul Jones of Led Zeppelin, John Entwistle of The Who, Mike Gordon of Phish, Roger Glover of Deep Purple, and – whew! – Me’shell Ndegeocello!

Television Alert:

The Tonight Show with Jay Leno welcomes City High on Friday, Deftones on Monday, and Train on Tuesday; and The Late Show with David Letterman hosts David Gray on Thursday, Green Day on Friday, Jonatha Brooke & The Story on Monday, and Travis on Tuesday.

New Releases Coming Tuesday, July 10:

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

59 Times the Pain – Calling the Public (Epitaph)

Jann Arden – Blood Red Cherry (Zoe/Rounder) new from the Canadian singer songwriter

Randall Bramblett – No More Mr. Lucky (New West) Athens, Georgia singer songwriter formerly of Sea Level

Michelle Branch – The Spirit Room (Maverick) debut from this 17-year-old

The Business – No Mercy for You (Burning Heart/Epitaph) see them live this summer on the Warped and the Spirit of the Street tours

Darkest Hour – So Sedated (Victory)

Dimitri from Paris – Monsieur Dimitri’s De-Luxe House of Funk (Razor & Tie)

Gordon Downie – Coke Machine Flow (Zoe/Rounder) solo album from the lead singer of The Tragically Hip

Dream Street – Dream Street (Edel America) new young teen sensation

Dry Kill Logic – The Darker Side of Nonsense (Roadrunner) formerly known as Hinge

Melissa Etheridge – Skin (Island) with guests Laura Dern and Meg Ryan on “Heal Me”

Faithless – Outrospective (Arista) with guest Dido

Fatboy Slim – A Break from the Norm (Restless) compilation of sampled material

Firewater – Psychopharmacology (Jetset)

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Paula Frazer – Indoor Universe (Birdman) new from the angelic vocalist of Tarnation

Gangsta Boo – Both Worlds: 69 (Loud)

Good Riddance – Symptoms of a Leveling Spirit (Fat Wreck Chords) with new drummer Dave Wagenschutz of Lifetime

David Gray – Flesh, A Century Ends, and The EP 92-94 (Caroline) long-out-of-print re-issues from the early 1990s and a new EP collection

Ivy – Long Distance (Nettwerk) featuring Smashing Pumpkins guitarist James Iha

Krystal – Me & My Piano (Geffen) with guests Kevin and Howie of the Backstreet Boys

Legally Blonde – original motion picture soundtrack (A&M) with Hoku, Black Eyed Peas, and Lisa Loeb

Love Seed Mama Jump – Love Seed Mama Jump (Plump/Artemis)

Made – original motion picture soundtrack (Artisan/Redline) with music from Dean Martin, Monster Magnet, De La Soul, Nightmares on Wax, and Tribe Called Quest

Moke – Carnival (Ultimatum/Artemis)

Thelonious Monk – Live at the Jazz Workshop: Complete (Columbia Legacy) two-CD set with lots of bonus material

OC – Bon Appetit (Jcor)

Robert Pollard & The Soft Rock Renegades – Choreographed Man of War (Recordhead) new from the Guided By Voices commander

Spike Priggen – The Very Thing That You Treasure (Volare)

Smartbomb – Yeah, Well Already (Razor & Tie)

Sole – Fly Away (Dreamworks)

Thumb – 3 (Victory) German hard rock with a hip-hop edge

Tricky – Blowback (Hollywood) featuring guests Anthony Kiedis, Flea, and John Frusciante of the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Cyndi Lauper, Alanis Morissette, and Ed Kowalczyk of Live

Überzone – Faith in the Future (Astralwerks) new from American breaks producer Q

various artists – Freedom: A Tribute to Rage Against the Machine (Vitamin) an interesting

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variety of interpretive styles from acoustic crooning to electronica

various artists – Punta Del Este Sunset (Ark 21) featuring tracks from the Beta Band and Luscious Jackson

Robert Berry – The Wheel of Time: A Soundtrack (Magna Carta) Berry performed, produced, and wrote this to accompany the fantasy-novel series

Bob Wills & His Texas Playboys – Boot Heel Drag: The MGM Years (Mercury) 50 tracks over two CDs

Youngstown – Down for the Get Down (Hollywood)