

# SOUND BITES

# Music Reviews

**Various Artists**

*A Tribute To Rosa Parks*  
(BMG/Zomba)

Some of the more recognizable gospel voices in the music industry have come together on a new CD to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott. *A Tribute To Rosa Parks* features artists such as The Sounds of Blackness, Bishop Paul Morton and Rosa Parks herself, who adds some narrations on parts of her life. I would recommend this CD to anyone who can appreciate the sounds of beautiful music.

**La Bouche**

*Sweet Dreams*  
(BMG/RCA)

After two gold hits in Germany, the duo of Melanie Thornton and Lane McCray that make up La Bouche have finally released their debut CD. From dance hits such as "Be My Lover" and "Le Click," to slower ballads such as "Fallin' In Love", the duo proves they can do more than just put out the standard dance tracks found on other similar CDs. With a good mix of pop, R&B and dance, this is a definite must for any collection.

**Goodie Mob**

*Soulfood*  
(BMG/LaFace)

Organized Noize, the production group behind TLC and Outkast, appear to have yet another hit group on their hands. Goodie Mob's debut CD features powerful lyrics laid over some strong beats, creating an overall good hip hop effect. *Soulfood* is not the most incredible CD on the market, but it's still worth looking out for.

**DET^RI^MENTAL**

*Xenophobia*  
(True North Records)

Melody Maker described this group's live show as probably the best rap performance since Public Enemy. Well, they must put on one helluva live show because I actually had to suppress the gag impulse while listening to the debut CD. What starts out as a bad Apache Indian impression quickly takes a turn for the worse into something I can't describe without the use of multiple four letter words. Please, for the sake of music lovers everywhere, don't buy this CD.

**Annie Lennox**

*Medusa+Live In Central Park*  
(BMG/RCA)

I'm always amazed by record companies and their ability to find new ways to make money. In this two CD set the original *Medusa* CD is joined by a nine-track bonus CD featuring performances from her Central Park concert. The nine extra tracks don't actually make much of a bonus, however, as she takes the excitement out of previous Eurythmics hits and most of the other cuts are available on her first solo effort. The *Medusa* CD is worth investing in, but save yourself some money and avoid the copies with the extra disc.

**Damhnait Doyle**

*Shadows Wake Me*  
(EMI/Latitude)

After last year's success at the East Coast Music Awards, this St. John's native is capitalizing on the exposure with the release of her debut CD. Fans of the Cranberries and Rebecca Timmons will love the folkish sounds and singing quality present on this offering. This one won't disappoint, so be sure to check it out.

**Stabbing Westward**

*Whither, Blister, Burn And Peel*  
(Sony/Columbia)

The title really gives away what style this music is -- pissed off songs with an edge. Stabbing Westward managed to include a good mix of ballads and fast songs without distracting the listener too much. Those who enjoyed the music from the Crow soundtrack will probably want to check these guys out.

**Remy Zero**

*Self-titled*  
(MCA/Geffen)

For a second I actually thought I had put U2's Joshua Tree CD in my player but after double checking I realized it was indeed Remy Zero's debut CD. It doesn't quite capture the same Top 40 feel that U2 managed to capitalize on, but they do a pretty good imitation. They lose something when they make the transition from ballads to fast songs. Fortunately, they put plenty of ballads on the CD.

**Gypsy Kings**

*Estrellas*  
(Sony/Columbia)

Throw off your sombrero and grab a margarita -- that was my first inclination after listening to the Gypsy Kings CD. If you're a fan of the music they play at Pat & Willy's, then you might want to pick this CD up. I can't say that it really moved me in any special way, but to each his own.

**Wedding Present**

*Mini Plus*  
(True North/Cooking Vinyl)

The Wedding Present describe themselves as lo-fi pop but when I first heard them I thought the Proclaimers had tried to cut an alternative CD, or pop, or whatever. The lead singer actually sounds a lot like Sid Vicious and on the whole the CD is not really that bad. Unfortunately, it's not that good either.

**Newsboys**

*Take Me To Your Leader*  
(Star Song)

The art on the CD and the case might be fifties style, but there's nothing fifties about the music. The sound is louder, stronger, and closer to alternative than their previous releases, with fewer soft songs. They continue their pattern of cleverly written lyrics, and the Christian message is subtle, but clear. Although it remains to be seen if this disc will have a monster hit in the tradition of "Shine", *Take Me To Your Leader* is a sure to be popular follow-up to their '94 disc *Going Public*.

-- Marko Peric

**George Michael**

*Jesus to a Child*

*Jesus to a Child* is an extremely mellow CD. Containing only the title track and two other selections, it is also very short, toting out at 17 minutes and 29 seconds. This is a very relaxing CD and it is likely to put you to sleep if you are at all tired. Overall, except for its short length, this is an excellent CD.

-- Coralie Gill

## Poem

Water Closet  
by Mark Amarandos

Here I am again  
Almost everyday,  
to sit and ponder,  
The same pattern,  
On the wall again,  
The same pattern,  
scattering and,  
Divided in squares.

Some prefer it to drape over but I like  
it to hang behind just a few squares,  
The only thing constant is it turns,  
Clockwise in the Northern hemisphere  
And counter clockwise in the,  
Southern hemisphere. After  
The first exhaust the,  
awful filth

BY  
LORNE CABORN