

# MUSIC REVIEWS

**The Jesus and Mary Chain  
Stoned and Dethroned (American)**  
Stoned and Dethroned is a very entertaining collection of grunge/punk music. With seventeen very pleasing tracks, this is a very worthwhile purchase.

(3.5)

-- Dana Dennis

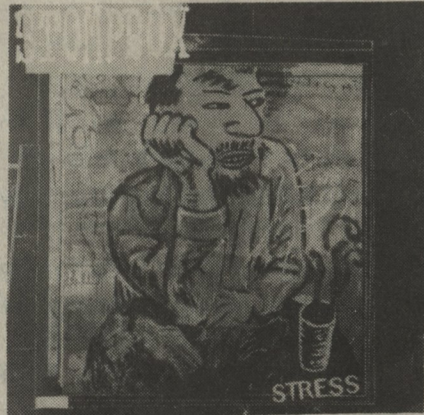
**Sinead O'Connor  
Universal Mother (EMI)**

Sinead O'Connor is one of those artists who grows and expands as a musician from album to album. This newest release is no exception. It opens with a message from one of Germaine Greer's speeches on women in politics, a theme expressed throughout the album.

There is a lot of anger expressed in the lyrics. This becomes especially visible in such pieces as "Red Football" and "Famine", which are about wife abuse and the potato famine respectively. As is stated in the little book that comes with the CD, "...this album can be best appreciated when listened to on headphones." Though it is still a worthwhile experience without them, the further intimacy added by them truly makes the album. This is by far the best of Sinead O'Connor's works to date.

(5)

-- Cate Hamus



**Stompbox  
STRESS (Columbia)**

The moments of silence between songs are the best parts of this album. They were also the most well-produced parts of this album. The songs are pointless and hopeless. The instruments are dissonant and poorly played. The vocalist is so far out of tune that he actually seems to be singing the wrong song (not that it matters much). On the up side, I managed to use the CD jewel box to replace a broken one of my own, and the disc makes a very durable frisbee. Apart from this, STRESS is a waste of time and money.

(1)

-- Mike Beagan

**Marc Shaiman  
North Original Motion Picture  
Soundtrack (Sony)**

"If you've heard one instrumental movie soundtrack, you've heard them all." That is the feeling this CD evokes in me. It's not a problem for me because I love movie soundtracks, but if you are looking for something original, this is not the soundtrack for you.

The CD has some fun pieces on it, such as the themes from Dallas and Bonanza, and some Hawaiian music. There are also two beautiful instru-

mental pieces: "Winter Wonderland" and a gorgeous rendition of "Amazing Grace." Unfortunately, there is too much unoriginal movie theme music along with it.

(2)

-- Rebecca Moore



**Roy Johnstone  
Stark Ravin' (Fiddle Head)**

Roy Johnstone is a classically trained violinist, and this shows clearly in his fiddling. He adds a smoothness to the usually rough Celtic style of fiddling that makes him sound almost like one of the old-time fiddlers from the prairies. He has a sound which is all his own.

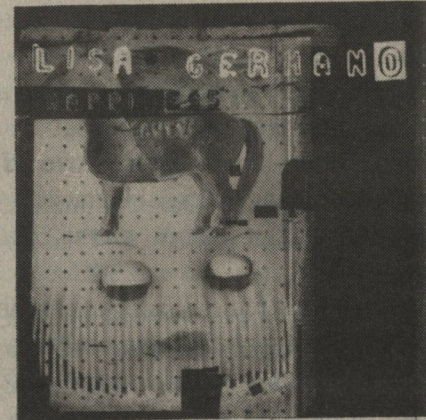
As always, Roy adds a special touch to the ballads that no other fiddler in the Maritimes can match. "Ashokan Farewell" is one which he has been performing for many years. No one else can play it quite the way he does. It's about time he finally recorded it!

Roy has a tendency to double bow, and although this is a relatively unused technique in Celtic fiddling, it adds a lot to the music.

Lennie Gallant's mastery of the bodhran and Chris Corrigan's of the guitar add the final touches to an already artful album that is well worth a listen.

(5)

-- Cate Hamus



**Lisa Germano  
Happiness (Polygram)**

When I first began listening to this CD, I thought Lisa Germano was just an Edie Brickell clone who couldn't sing. As I got further into her repertoire, I realized that Lisa Germano is more than just another breathy, sensuous voice. She is an extremely talented songstress.

Germano is heavily influenced by other artists, and displays a diverse collection of styles and moods both in her music and her lyrics. Lisa's instrumentation ranges from a simple piano or celtic fiddle, to a full-fledged grunge band of mammoth proportions. Her lyrics are intelligently written and describe experiences common to every person as well as those that are exclusive to women. "Happiness" is a must for any serious music collector.

(4.5)

-- Steve Ellis

**Various artists**

**Kiss My Ass: Classic Kiss  
Regrooved (Polygram)**

Kiss's greatest hits, covered by a few of the music industry's finest artists: most of the tracks seem to work well but there are a few losers. The flow of the album could cause whiplash; Garth Brooks and Anthrax are not

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