

Music Corner

Stabbing Westward
Darkest Days
(Columbia)

Well folks, we definitely have some heavy alternative music going on here. Brace yourself 'cause the lively songs featured on this album will leave your worries far behind. Trust me, a Stabbing Westward experience is just

what you need to get out of those school days worries. The album has 16 tunes, each supposedly telling a story, combined to make a musical book. The lyrics are so abnormal and distorted, I didn't catch any of the stories let alone make out what they are trying to say.

This Illinois based band says that when they recorded this album in Los Angeles, they

tried to make their sound a little different from their past two albums. Although they are trying to sound original from other heavy alternative bands. The arrangements on this album sound very similar to that of Nine Inch Nails. The songs are for the most part up beat and sound like they would be excellent live performers.

Some of the better songs on this album include, "Sometimes it Hurts," "Haunting Me," just to mention a few. The best though is "Save Yourself." I caught myself singing the chorus over and over. If you like this genre of music or if you are the adventurous type looking for a change, this CD is definitely for you.

The Rankins
Uprooted
(EMI Music Canada)

Every one living in Atlantic Canada must have heard of the Rankins. If not, they are contemporary Celtic slash country western Cape Breton, Nova Scotia family band. Most of the musical talent of the

band comes from one of the Rankin siblings, including singing, writing, arrangements, piano and guitar playing. This very talented family has once again put out a very impressive album, this their seventh, in nine years. With six very successful albums behind them, I am sure that this one will not break their very im-

pressive trend. Way to go Atlantic Canada.

With already popular tunes such as "Movin' On," and "Maybe You're Right," you are guaranteed to find the album enjoyable. Some of my other favourite songs on this disc include "Lit it go" and "Long Way to Go." The album

also contains traditional Celtic songs written and sung in the traditional language...forgive, I know not what that language is, but I can tell you that it looks and sounds cool. If you are looking to add to your Celtic music collection, give the Rankins a try. Believe me, you will not be disappointed.

Lorraine Segato
Luminous City
(Get Off my Dress Productions)

This is Lorraine's debut album, in which she does a lot of the duties herself. She is the executive producer, singer, songwriter and co-musical composer for this here album. You

guessed it, she likes to do everything herself. I must say though, that she has got a hand for writing, but composing...well, that's another story.

I would describe this as an alternative album, but it starts out as adult contemporary for the first two tracks. The photo on the cover of the

album makes an attempt at making the album appear to be seductive. This is totally not the case. The first time you hear her manly voice it will surprise you, as it did for me, and tell you that there is nothing seductive about her or this album.

One thing I can give this album is that there are a couple

of songs one might find entertaining. The first two songs, "Don't Give it Away" and "Heaven & Earth" has good harmony, and gives you a chance to forget about her manly voice. I'll leave you on that note and let you determine if you really want to add this album to your collection.

Garbage
Version 2.0
(Almo Sounds)

This album is Garbage's second release since its self-titled 1995 debut. Since the release of the first single off of *Version 2.0*, "Push It", it seems that Garbage has dropped out of view. This is

unfortunate, since this album proves that practice does make perfect. The even though *Version 2.0* debuted here in Canada in the Top 10, this album is quite easily an improvement over Garbage's original debut, which sounded a bit unfinished in places. The more organic and polished sound of *Version 2.0* reflects

Garbage's two years of touring and British singer Shirley Manson's full acceptance into the group as an equal. The result is a fantastic pop album, with Manson's great voice and sly lyrics complemented by her colleague's compositions and the snippets of lyrics taken from musicians as varied at

Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys and Chrissie Hynde of the Pretenders. "Special" and "The Trick is to Keep Breathing" are probably the two best tracks on this album, but the other ten songs aren't far behind. *Version 2.0* is quite easily one of the best pop records of 1998. 4.5 stars out of 5.



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