



WACO BROTHERS

Going Down In History

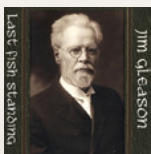
The bros supply a much-needed shot of adrenaline and life to rock and roll. Their blistering mix of punk and country sounds so refreshing amidst the other sounds in the rock world that it shouldn't be missed. Loud guitars, raucous vocals, and irresistible beats all add up to make a great album. – **JH**



JOE STUMP

The Dark Lord Rises

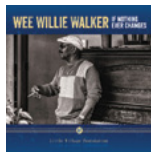
Stratmaster Stump unleashes his own unique brand of neo-classical rape and pillage with his finest album. These tracks of diabolical, scorched-earth shred pay homage to Ritchie Blackmore and Gary Moore. Stump's cache is saturated with effortless technique, melody, and feel. Highlights include "The Black Knight Returns," "Hostile Takeover," and "Tortured Soul." – **OJ**



JIM GLEASON

Last Fish Standing

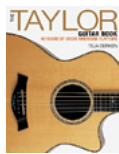
Lexington, Kentucky-based Gleason offers a diverse set of songs that are charming and funny while still managing to kick out some jams on occasion. Clever lyrical work on the title cut and "Worldwide Nobody" show off his writing skills. Guitar picking, whether electric or acoustic, shines throughout, and the vocals are plain, but sincere. – **JH**



WEE WILLIE WALKER

If Nothing Ever Changes

In his mid seventies, Walker's soul singing is in a league with the greatest ever. Rick Estrin produced this comeback at guitarist Kid Andersen's studio, with label head Jim Pugh (Etta James, Robert Cray) on keys and guitarists Rusty Zinn and Bob Welsh. The Beatles' "Help," transformed into a ballad with Curtis Salgado dueting, is worth the price of admission. – **DF**



TEJA GERKEN

The Taylor Guitar Book

Bob Taylor and Kurt Ludwig's guitars have a devoted following and now finally get their due in this colorful history. From the founding in '74 in El Cajon, California, through today's masterful models, it's all here. – **MD**



BUCK OWENS

Buck 'Em, Volume Two

This follow-up to Omnivore's 1955-'67 volume has more killer guitar on a given cut than is contained in most country box sets. And there are 50 tracks! Don Rich might've been the best country guitarist ever – on Tele, acoustic, and even fuzz ("Who's Gonna Mow Your Grass"). Add Tom Brumley's steel, and Bakersfield's Buckaroos rule! – **DF**



BOBBY RUSH

Chicken Heads

If you're a fan of modern-day deep blues, you've got to check out this 4-CD set of Rush classics from his early '67 singles "Someday" and "Sock Boo Ga Loo" on. There are 74 tracks here chronicling 50 years of getting down and dirty – which he's still doing to this day. – **MD**



FRANCIS ALFRED MOERMAN

Un Infini Voyage

Gypsy-jazz guitarist Moerman played with Sarane and Matelo Ferret among many others and was key to keeping the music alive in the decades after Django's death. This sensitive documentary film features rare performance footage highlighting the simple beauty of his compositions. – **MD**



KING CURTIS

The Complete Atco Singles

Aimed at the Curtis Ousley completist, more than a third of the 66 instrumentals by the late saxophonist, from soupy country to hip soul, never appeared on LP. Some personnel credits aren't available, but Cornell Dupree provides most of the impressive guitar.

Duane Allman, Reggie Young, and Eric Clapton also appear, while Chuck Rainey or Jerry Jemmott is typically on bass. – **DF**



MAGIC SAM

Black Magic Deluxe Edition

Sam Maghett's classic 1968 album was released just days before his untimely death at age 32. This expanded version offers more of his trademark West Side soul with three additional tracks, four alternate takes, and a 16-page liner booklet chock full of photos. – **MD**



STRYPER

Fallen

Stryper's 16th album retains the band's classic sound of chunky guitars and smokin' riffs, adding ominous heaviosity. Vocalist Michael Sweet embeds his operatic tenor within memorable hooks and inventive guitar playing that's absolutely killin'. He joins with Oz Fox for wicked harmonies and guitar solos within a set that includes a cover of Black Sabbath's "After Forever." – **OJ**



ANDY BABIUK

Beatles Gear: The Ultimate Edition

This new edition of BabiuK's masterpiece includes more than 650 additional images and new historical discoveries added to an already incredible book. – **MD**