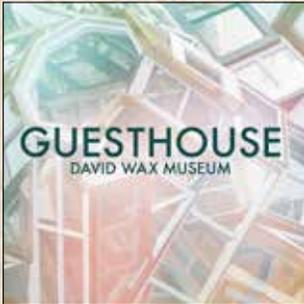




HOMEGROWN



DAVID WAX MUSEUM GUESTHOUSE

MARK OF THE LEOPARD

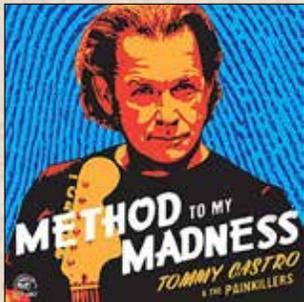
Entering a self-described Technicolor world, **David Wax Museum's** new album, *Guesthouse*, melds the band's strong acoustic sound with synthesizers, layers of percussion, and adventurous sonic processing. *Guesthouse* captures the rock energy of the band's live show, which has topped best of lists at Newport Folk and SXSW. *Guesthouse* showcases frontman David Wax's most direct and personal songwriting to date, which isn't surprising given that since the last album over three years ago, he's married his band's co-creator Suz Slezak and the two have started their own family with the arrival of daughter Calliope (named after the Greek muse of epic poetry). Thematically, the album celebrates the changing circumstances of life and paints a brilliant picture of how the stakes have been raised a sentiment that has had a huge impact on how the band makes decisions.



JASON ISBELL SOMETHING MORE THAN FREE

THIRTY TIGERS

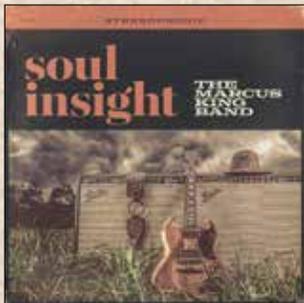
The personal story surrounding **Jason Isbell's** last, breakthrough album, *Southeastern*, is widely known and easily reprised. A troubled young troubadour, newly married, stepped away from the darkness of addiction into a new, uncertain life of clarity and commitment, reflecting ruefully on his hard won victories and the price he paid attaining them. It was an album of aching elegance, marked by the sort of lyrical precision that brought to mind certain literary masters of the melancholy American scene, from Flannery O'Connor to Raymond Carver – an album of memorably infectious empathy. With *Something More Than Free*, he stretches himself further, greatly expanding the boundaries of **Isbell** country, that territory of the heart and mind where people strive against their imperfections, and simultaneously against their circumstances, in a landscape that's often unfriendly to their hopes. The album deepens as it goes along, offering some of the pleasures of a fine novel, including a collection of sharp vignettes that stick in the mind, impossible to shake. This isn't an album of easy certainty, but what makes his songwriting so rich and gripping, besides its observational precision, is the honesty of his inquiries. He doesn't flinch.



TOMMY CASTRO & THE PAINKILLERS METHOD TO MY MADNESS

ALLIGATOR RECORDS

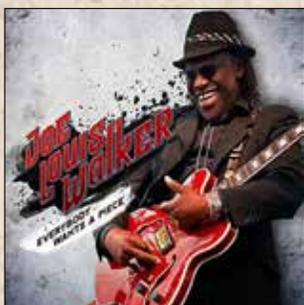
Method To My Madness finds **Tommy Castro And The Painkillers** at their very best. It is instantly a career-defining highlight in a lifetime full of them. From the opening one-two punch of everyman anthems "Common Ground" and "Shine A Light" to the full-tilt energy of the title track to the searing, deep soul ballad "Died And Gone To Heaven," **Tommy** and the band are firing on all cylinders. From the bayou rock of "Got A Lot" and the atmospheric, autobiographical "Ride" to the reinvented version of the Clarence Carter hit "I'm Qualified" and the emotional cover of B.B. King's "Bad Luck," **Tommy Castro And The Painkillers** continue to break new ground while simultaneously having an incredible amount of fun. "With the new album we kept everything raw, capturing the feeling of playing live," he says, summing up. "I'm about being real." Clearly that is the method to his madness.



THE MARCUS KING BAND SOUL INSIGHT

EVIL TEEN

The Marcus King Band's debut album, *Soul Insight*, displays the young songwriter's stunning command of rock, blues, psychedelia, funk, soul and improvisation — all with a distinctly Southern musical accent. It also brings the 19-year-old a step closer to his musical destiny. *Soul Insight* is the explosive result of that dedication, magnified by another dozen years and more than a thousand nights playing in clubs — initially alongside his father, bluesman Marvin King — since the age of 11, just two years before **Marcus** formed his own group and stepped into the role of leader. **King's** talents and trajectory have already led his band across the country, and he's opening shows for the Foo Fighters, Johnny Winter and both Gov't Mule and its leader, Warren Haynes — who loved *Soul Insight* so much that he's released it on his own label. Haynes' influence is certainly apparent, but *Soul Insight* is very much the work of a true original.



JOE LOUIS WALKER EVERYBODY WANTS A PIECE

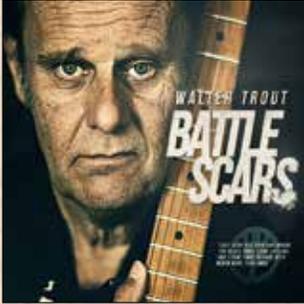
PROVOGUE

A Blues Hall of Fame inductee and four-time Blues Music Award winner, **Joe Louis Walker** celebrates a career that exceeds a half a century with *Everybody Wants A Piece* — cementing his legacy as a prolific torchbearer for the blues. Always an artist deeply expressive lyrically, **Walker** continues to write and sing about themes that are universal. On "Black & Blue" he talks about a love affair that's falling apart, but there's an effort to keep it going. With a deep history and background in gospel, **Walker** looks towards "Wade in the Water" as an instant favorite. He reveals, "The inspirational lyric 'The water is deep, the water is cold, it chills my body, but not my soul' is expressing my belief that the spiritual will carry you through when the physical can't." Indeed. And **Walker's** music will carry you wherever you go.

NOVEMBER 2015



HOMEGROWN



WALTER TROUT BATTLE SCARS

PROVOGUE

With bristling energy and lyrics that cut to the core of human hope and willpower, **Walter Trout's** new album, *Battle Scars*, chronicles his horrific battle with liver failure. But the 12-song set also captures the international guitar hero – who has leant his talents to many a titanic band, including those of John Lee Hooker and Joe Tex, not to mention Canned Heat and John Mayall's Bluesbreakers – playing and singing at the peak of his abilities, infusing even his darkest numbers with creative joy that sweeps like a beacon. Joyful, energized guitar-and-vocal performances frame the dozen original songs that narrate his hard-won, life-or-death struggle waiting for, and ultimately receiving, a life-saving liver transplant. **Trout** is now moving triumphantly forward in his 50th year as a guitarist. **Walter** is back again!



BILLY TALBOT BAND DAKOTA

VAPOR

Nursing a hangover that only a three-year stint in New York City could provide, Ryan Holzer recorded tapes in his parents' basement in South Dakota (and still does). He was tickled to find the great **Billy Talbot**, bassist of the legendary band, Crazy Horse, had a MySpace page. The two met 24 hours later. Six years later, **Billy** is recovering from a mild stroke. Ryan is returning from a 5-year vacation in Oakland. The two reconnect through song, and sculpt their innermost demons into partridges flying over a golden field with their new release, *Dakota*. Talbot and Holzer's alternating live, lead vocals backed by the **Billy Talbot Band** give *Dakota* a barren feeling of earnest timelessness. The three eldest siblings of a neighboring ranch family (the Jerdes) and a songwriter from a nearby town (Liza Blue) joined in, too. The record was captured in a week's time. The band played live.



CICADA RHYTHM CICADA RHYTHM

NORMALTOWN

A Julliard-trained standup bassist and a train-hopping troubadour walk into a bar... Sounds like the lead into a nerdy joke, but it's not. It is the recipe that yielded the elegant and eponymous debut from **Cicada Rhythm**. A diverse and adventurous 12-song collection that slides easily between folk, rock, blues and Americana, each song soars with an authenticity crafted by primary members Andrea Demarcus and David Kirsilis. The album was recorded in a diverse range of environments (including a 200-year-old church) with acclaimed producer Drew Vandenberg (Deerhunter, of Montreal). Says *Creative Loafing*: "Rarely has a band's name fit their music so well. **Cicada Rhythm** conjure up the Southern twilight when the buzz of insects washes in waves through the trees, and that eerie but comforting moment of stasis before the world transforms."



STEVE MARTIN & EDIE BRICKELL SO FAMILIAR

ROUNDER

Steve Martin joins up with his fellow Texas native **Edie Brickell** on this, their second studio album collaboration, entitled *So Familiar*, showcasing an organic, evolving relationship that continues to bring out new creative strengths. This new collection's stirring, sublime set of jointly written compositions match **Martin's** inventive, expressive five-string banjo work with **Brickell's** distinctive vocals and detail-rich lyrics. The songs also benefit from multi award-winning artist and producer Peter Asher, who contributes expansive arrangements, making imaginative use of a wide array of acoustic and orchestral instrumentation, lending a cinematic quality to the songs' intimate character studies. *So Familiar* also features a variety of prominent players from the worlds of bluegrass, folk, pop and rock, including seminal banjo ace Béla Fleck along with session bass legend Leland Sklar, Cobra Starship's Victoria Asher, Mike Einziger of Incubus, Emmy-award winning composer/arranger Geoff Zanelli, and Martin's much-acclaimed longtime bluegrass cohorts the Steep Canyon Rangers.

NOVEMBER 2015