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GUY CLARK GUY CLARK: THE BEST OF THE DUALTONE YEARS DUALTONE

Guy Clark, channeler of the human condition, plainspoken poet, master luthier, seasoned painter and damn fine guitar player, was above all a man. Probably the closest thing to Hemingway Nashville - or the Lone Star State - would ever see: lean prose, gut strings ringing and a hard-won dignity that embraced tenderness as the ultimate manifest of toughness. By the time he arrived at Dualtone, he was already a legend for his exacting song craft that elixired truth tempered with compassion, grounded by vivid detail. Workbench Songs, Somedays the Song Writes You, Songs and Stories and My Favorite Picture of You measured the life, the heart, the humanity that defined **Clark's** writing, especially having fully lived well into his seventh decade. *Guy Clark: The Best of the Dualtone Years* is double-disc compilation celebrating Guy Clark's Dualtone years, and includes several live cuts and three never-before-released demo tracks. Also available on viny!

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BOMBADIL FENCES

RAMSEUR RECORDS

Two years ago, **Bombadil** lost a longtime bandmate and breaking up seemed inevitable. But after a period of exploration that forced them to step out of their comfort zone, **Bombadil** has returned as a band reborn. Their new album *Fences* – produced by John Vanderslice (Spoon, The Mountain Goats) – is their most remarkable work to date: meticulously crafted, yet accessible and unadorned. Pure, simple, beautiful. "It's more than just an album," says **Bombadil** drummer and vocalist James Phillips. "It is a new path, a reset after several challenging years." *Fences* features eleven new, original songs composed by the Durham, NC-based trio - Phillips (drums, vox), Daniel Michalak (bass, vox) and Stacy Harden (guitar, vox). Recorded at Vanderslice's Tiny Telephone Recording in San Francisco, CA, the album is influenced by early Paul Simon and steeped in shades of Cat Stevens and The Incredible String Band. First takes; recorded to analog tape. Real.

THE REVEREND PEYTON'S BIG DAMN BAND FRONT PORCH SESSIONS

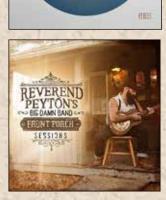
Southern Indiana-bred singer-guitarist **Reverend Peyton** is the bigger-than-life frontman of **Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band**. He has earned a reputation as both a singularly compelling performer and a persuasive evangelist for the rootsy country blues styles that captured his imagination early in life and inspired him and his band to make pilgrimages to Clarksdale, Mississippi to study under such blues masters as T-Model Ford, Robert Belfour and David "Honeyboy" Edwards. With **the Front Porch Sessions, Peyton's** dazzling guitar mastery is equaled here by his knack for vivid, emotionally impactful songwriting, and his originals are matched in their authenticity by the deeply felt vintage blues tunes that he covers, including a memorable reading of Furry Lewis' "When My Baby Left Me." **The Front Porch Sessions** maintains a potent level of intensity throughout, from the upbeat optimism of the album-opener "We Deserve a Happy Ending" to the blunt slice-of-life rural reality of "One More Thing."

ELVIN BISHOP ELVIN BISHOP'S BIG FUN TRIO ALLIGATOR RECORDS

A lot has happened since guitar legend **Elvin Bishop** released his last album, 2014's Grammy-nominated *Can't Even Do Wrong Right*. He was inducted into both the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Blues Hall of Fame. He won the Living Blues Award for Best Blues Album Of 2014 and three 2014 Blues Music Awards. His new album – *Elvin Bishop's Big Fun Trio* – is among his very best musical ideas ever. **The Big Fun Trio** (Elvin on guitar and vocals, Willy Jordan on cajon and vocals, and Bob Welsh on guitar and piano) forges a new blues and R&B sensibility, colored by the distinctive, stripped-down instrumentation and shot through with **Elvin's** exuberant, down home vibe. There are seven **Bishop** originals here, plus Lightnin' Hopkin's "Honey Babe," Fats Domino's "Let the Four Winds Blow," Sunnyland Slim's "It's You, Baby," and Bobby Womack's "It's All Over Now." Charlie Musselwhite, Rick Estrin and Kim Wilson guest.

DAN HICKS GREATEST LICKS - I FEEL LIKE SINGIN' SURFDOG

Dan Hicks and his music is revered by some of music's beloved legends including Tom Waits, Willie Nelson, Steven Tyler, Jimmy Buffett, Rickie Lee Jones, Brian Setzer, Bette Midler and so many others. Called "An American Treasure," by Elvis Costello, the late, great **Hicks** created an iconic blend of hipster jazz, gypsy swing and country that still resonates as strongly today as it did when **Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks** came roaring onto the scene with their unique, gener-bending sound in the late 1960's. *Greatest Licks* celebrates the best of man and his music, including a never-before-released version of "I Don't Want Love." All tracks on *Greatest Licks* were re-mastered for vinyl from the original analog tapes. In other **Hicks** news, his memoir, *I Scare Myself*, is out on April 18th. It includes a heartfelt forward by life-long fan, Elvis Costello and afterword by friend and former record label boss, Tommy LiPuma.











SCOTT H. BIRAM THE BAD TESTAMENT BLOODSHOT RECORDS

With the heart of a genuine Texas bluesman, the head (banging) of a Zappa and Lemmy disciple, and boots resting in the dust outside of town at sunrise, **Scott H. Biram** journeys through the harrowing human condition like no one else. **The Bad Testament** lands somewhere west of the Old Testament and south of an AA handbook. It's a record of hard-grinding lost love, blues and deep, dark Americana. **Biram's** brand of unvarnished and unhinged aggro-roots remains as exciting as ever. "Trainwrecker" blasts down the two-laner with the breathless fervor of a redneck metal "(I'm Not Your) Stepping Stone" (Try NOT singing along in the best Nordic Doom Metal voice). Yet the stark acoustic guitar country blues is updated and self-aware - a profane reboot of personal heroes Leadbelly and Mississippi Fred McDowell. And instrumental "Hit the River" is a *throw the devil horns* slide guitar boogie right in that sweet **Biram** groove.

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DANNY WORSNOP THE LONG ROAD HOME EARACHE

Danny Worsnop, the newly returned frontman for U.K. metalcore pioneers Asking Alexandria, has gone country. The Long Road Home, Danny's first solo release sees a slight musical departure from his previous work with Asking Alexandria, now forging a deeper and often darker path through the British-born, Nashville-based musician's mind and displaying a truly stunning singing voice only hinted at in his previous work. Longtime fans will see a much more personal and reflective side of Danny's, with brutally honest lyrical themes ranging from loss and heartache to Danny's past (and often public) struggles with drugs and alcohol. Backed by authentic, blues-soaked outlaw country, The Long Road Home is also interspersed with a few more upbeat tracks, showing that Danny's ability to craft catchy melodies which will have listeners singing along in no time is still very much alive and well. Besides, it's hard to argue with a song titled "Don't Overdrink It."

TROPHY



SUNNY SWEENEY

AUNT DADDY RECORDS

The success of artists including Margo Price, Brandy Clark, Kacey Musgraves, Miranda Lambert, and others make it seem like the world is more open now than ever before to smart women singing smart country. It's about time. **Sunny Sweeney** is a veteran of the trade, and has logged her miles the old-school way. "I've grown up doing the bar scenes, and you have to have drinking and partying songs," **Sweeney** says. "Now, my songs are still about the same things, but I feel like they're more mature versions." **Sweeney's** salty wisdom and Texas-hewn soprano have never sounded stronger than they do on **Trophy** – -the album we all suspected she was capable of. The wit and honesty that have always defined her stone-cold country have blossomed into confessional, complex songwriting for grown-ups, still whiskey-drenched and honk-tonk-ready. Drugs, death, the ex-wife, drinking, devotion, and longing for a child: it's all here, raw and real.



Fierce Mercy is an epic, cinematic step forward from singer-songwriter Colin Hay, most beloved for his intimate, confessional live shows but most widely known for being an influential and celebrated frontman of Men at Work. The range of artists who have chosen to cite him as a muse or who have found themselves on stage with him in the past year spans the genre landscape from heavy metal, to Americana, to Cuban rhythms and beyond. Fierce Mercy explores themes of love and loss, mortality, and even the odd UFO sighting, but always with the singular perspective and insightful wit that define Hay's work. Fierce Mercy is animated by its pensive, honest, and impassioned lyrics, and, Hay adds, by a sense of urgency / mortality. Now finding himself in the unprecedented place of having both '80s fame and indie credibility, it's possible that Hay has delivered the defining album of his solo career.

