

COALITION
INDEPENDENT
MUSIC
STORES

HOMEGROWN



1 WILLIE NELSON REMEMBER ME, VOL. 1

R&J RECORDS

"Through all kinds of weather, you'll find I'll never change..." sings **Nelson** on the first track of this collection of some of the finest, most memorable moments in country music. They are songs made famous by some of Willie's great peers in the genre, ranging from the title track's Ernest Tubb to Merle Haggard's rendition of "Ramblin' Fever." As he did on *Stardust* so many years ago, **Willie Nelson** thoughtfully puts his own immortal voice to work while his band of top tier Nashville musicians provide a tasteful backdrop for each tune. "I'm Movin' On" is wistfully sung, with honky tonk pianos and fiddles providing the appropriate fills. **Nelson** performs "Satisfied Mind" as though he penned the tune himself. Even tunes like "Sixteen Tons" and "Smoke! Smoke! Smoke! (That Cigarette)" receive fresh, fun character out of **Willie Nelson's** mouth. Iconic songs sung by an iconic musician make for a poignant, nostalgic volume of timeless music.



2 SAVOY BROWN VOODOO MOON

RUF RECORDS

Savoy Brown has a long running record of making the kind of music perfect for sultry summer evenings spent in the backyard, drinking domestic brew. Maybe we owe that in part for the fact that bandleader **Kim Simmonds** spends much of his time in his own backyard studio writing and recording songs for the band. The classic energy of the band, founded in 1960s England, is ever present on *Voodoo Moon*, so much so, in fact, that it seems to transcend the band's last forty something years of releases. Longtime fans will gravitate to tracks like "Natural Man" and "Look At The Sun" for their familiar grooves, while tracks like "Round and Round" and "Too Much Money" are as fresh and new as they are standard blues. The best track off the album may be the title track, a moody, alluring tune that conjures the essence and spirit of a New Orleans night.



3 CHRIS ISAAK BEYOND THE SUN

VANGUARD

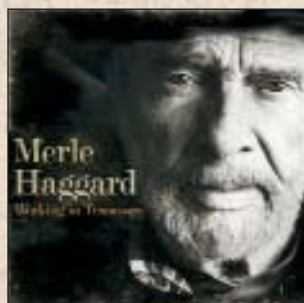
For years, **Chris Isaak** has melted hearts with his crooning voice and perfectly styled pompadour. Now, he and his long-time band have rounded out the sound with a session in the legendary Sun Studios in Memphis. The album both tributes the music that Isaak grew up on as a kid as well as shows his range as a musician. While many may shy away from Isaak covering the songs that have so obviously influenced his own music, his sincerity is undeniable as he sings songs made famous by Elvis Presley or Roy Orbison, as seen in "It's Now or Never" and "So Long I'm Gone." Not entirely an album of covers, an **Isaak** original is *Beyond the Sun's* first single. "Live It Up" is a feisty rocker that fits right in with the cover songs, somehow neither derivative or pandering. Other standout tracks on *Beyond the Sun* include the wildly sexy "Trying to Get to You" and the album's sweet closer, "My Happiness." Rather than jumping the proverbial shark with a recording of songs by his heroes, **Chris Isaak** seems to have delivered a long awaited consummation between the era he lives in and the era he comes from.



4 THE BARR BROTHERS THE BARR BROTHERS

SECRET CITY

The Barr Brothers navigate between a soft melancholy and an exalted fervor, demonstrating the lack of limitations felt by a young band. This can be both a gift and a curse, the curse being that the album sounds bi-polar, as though there are two voices and not one. The gift is, of course, that the album shows breadth and range. If these boys' creative path started in a homemade boxing ring as their bio states, their music was certainly born of that spirit. Compare and contrast the dazzling, dizzy beauty of "Held My Head" to the enchanted, driving "Give the Devil Back His Heart." Both are pleasing yet are far afield from one another. "The Devil's Harp" and "Let There Be Horses" may be the common ground on which these two beings stand. The production and lovely instrumentation ties the songs together on what turns out to be a hazy, storied debut album.



5 MERLE HAGGARD WORKING IN TENNESSEE

VANGUARD

When you find **Haggard's** road-worn face staring at you from the bins, don't shy away in fear of a sobbing, end of the road unloading baggage from his rowdy life. Instead of drowning his sorrows and staggering into the sunset, **Haggard** is more apt to get in a few good punches at the honchos in Nashville, as he does on "Too Much Boogie Woogie." The album rolls out with the title track, playful, strong, and grounded in the traditions from which **Haggard** sprang. As with his 2010 recording, *Working in Tennessee* was produced by **Haggard** alongside Lou Hadley, allowing him to give intimate touches to a couple of sobering Johnny Cash songs, "Cocaine Blues" and "Jackson," the latter of which features a growling Lucinda-like appearance by **Haggard's** wife, Theresa. **Haggard's** fifty plus years in music have only fortified his spirit, as reflected in this energetic, bold romp.

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