

DAWES
NOTHING IS WRONG
(ATO)

A self-described “American rock ‘n’ roll band,” Dawes represent everything pure and true about that fundamental delineation, four talented friends making music together, fueled by a shared belief in the power of their songs. With **Nothing Is Wrong**, the Los Angeles-based band – singer/guitarist Goldsmith, his brother Griffin on drums, keyboardist Toy Strathairn, and bassist Wylie Gelber – continue to master their blend of singer/songwriter reflection with folk, country, and AOR-inspired arrangements, all ringing guitars, soaring harmonies, and heartfelt melodies. After spending much of the past two years on tour, songs like “Coming Back To A Man” and “Time Spent In Los Angeles” have a restless, unsettled quality evocative of life lived on the road. A collection of songs that expertly builds upon the template laid by 2009’s extraordinary debut, *North Hills*, **Nothing Is Wrong** sees Dawes displaying staggering growth and evolution while still manifesting their distinctive, unforgettable voice. While **Nothing Is Wrong** marks a new milestone on this remarkable band’s musical journey, it remains but a single step on all involved see as a long-term trip. For Dawes, the aim is always about turning it up and taking their music even further.



Mixtape

Novemer 2011 Americana Music Awards



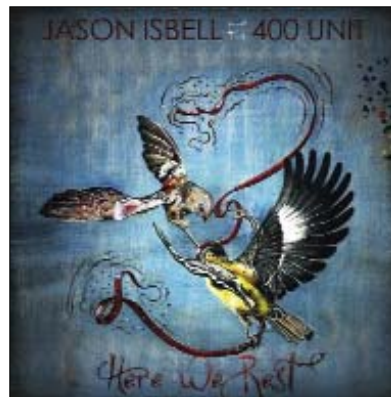
BUDDY MILLER
THE MAJESTIC SILVER STRINGS
(NEW WEST)

Buddy Miller is one of Nashville’s living legends. He has been a singer, and the successful writer and co-writer of songs other people sang, many of them country stars, including the Dixie Chicks, Lee Ann Womack, and Brooks & Dunn. He has been a multi-instrumentalist and harmony singer for a succession of acclaimed performers, beginning with Julie, and then in prompt succession Emmylou Harris, Steve Earle, Lucinda Williams. And, most recently, Alison Krauss and Robert Plant. And he has produced records – in the studio he built in his home – released separately under his name and with his wife Julie. That same living space has produced acclaimed albums by Solomon Burke, Allison Moorer, and Jimmie Dale Gilmore. I could go on and on... **The Majestic Silver Strings** is **Buddy’s** re-imagination of classic country songs with unrestrained guitars, atmosphere and attitude. **Buddy** and the three acclaimed guitarists Bill Frisell, Marc Ribot and Greg Leisz (together they are *The Majestic Silver Strings*) together push each song into a new cosmos warped in reverb. Guest vocalists include Emmylou Harris, Patty Griffin, Shawn Colvin, Lee Ann Womack, Chocolate Genius and Julie Miller. Yeah: You need this.



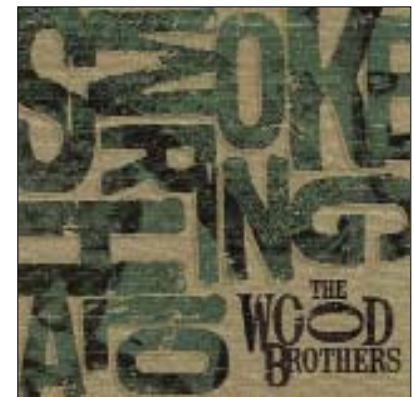
ELIZABETH COOK
WELDER
(30 TIGERS)

“I’m not a **welder**, at least not in the typical sense of the trade. But my daddy is, by way of the 2300 hours of training that certified him, courtesy of the Atlanta Federal penitentiary. I myself couldn’t put a rod in the thingamajig. And heavy equipment makes me nervous. But I do tend to fuse things... The beauty of writing, recording, gigging and the like, to me is, when it’s right, it comes together with a glow in my soul, so intense it pierces a hot afternoon like a hissing firecracker. “Don’t look at it directly...it’ll burn your eyes!” Mama used to yell. I loved watching **Cook’s** Welding at work in our tiny dirt yard. It was so hard not to look. Couldn’t help but look. And the rawness of my new album **Welder** is case and point. Apparently, I still can’t help but look.”



JASON ISBELL & THE 400 UNIT
HERE WE REST
(LIGHTNING ROD/THIRTY TIGERS)

Here We Rest: The first motto of **Jason Isbell’s** home state got changed in the early part of last century to a Latin phrase that translates to “we dare defend our rights”. What starts out as peaceful idyll descends into a defensive posture with the threat of bellicosity just beneath the surface. That’s what tough times will do to a people. **Jason Isbell’s** home is northern Alabama, a region that has been hit especially hard in the recent economic downturn. “The mood here has darkened considerably,” says **Jason**. “There is a real culture around Muscle Shoals, Florence and Sheffield of family, of people taking care of their own. When people lose their ability to do that, their sense of self dissolves. It has a devastating effect on personal relationships, and mine were not immune.” The characters that populate **Here We Rest** are wrung out – and the former Drive-By Trucker’s tells his stories of the downtrodden, those who’ve been torn up by war (a popular subject for **Isbell**), and those who are just waiting from their next move from their perspective rather than imposing a will of his own.



THE WOOD BROTHERS
SMOKE RING HALO
(SOUTHERN GROUND ART)

Oliver and Chris Wood grew up in Boulder, Colorado. Sons of a Poet and a Microbiologist, they both took up music. **Oliver** moved to Atlanta and became a southerner. **Chris** moved to New York City and became a Yankee. Now, after years of musical and geographical separation they have reunited. While in Atlanta, **Oliver** soaked up the roots of blues, the soul of the south, and found he had a talent for writing and singing songs. His band, King Johnson (named after Freddy King and Robert Johnson) toured mostly in the southern states. Meanwhile, **Chris** was living in Manhattan playing everything from free jazz to rock and roll. This is where he met his band mates to form **Medeski, Martin & Wood**. With **Smoke Ring Halo** (not to be confused with the new Kurt Vile album [snark]) **The Wood Brothers** further embark on a collaboration that combines their shared childhood influences with everything they’ve learned since leaving home. Their music has a rootsy feel that blends blues, folk, and rock music in a guitar/bass duo – a lil’ Van Morrison and a lil’ Black Keys. This is music with big soul, tight harmonies, tricky tempos, and just the right amount of grit.



**NORTH MISSISSIPPI ALLSTARS
KEYS TO THE KINGDOM**
(SONGS OF THE SOUTH)

The late, great Jim Dickinson, who squired Luther and Cody Dickinson, always advised in a very no-nonsense way, "Play every note as if it's your last because one of them will be," and that's just what **North Mississippi Allstars** set out to do on **Keys to the Kingdom**. The results are powerfully played and deeply visceral as the best blues music is - spiritual without being god fearing, heavy without being depressing. "In the end," Luther Dickinson says, "We recorded our best country blues and Mississippi rock 'n roll record yet — as if our lives depended on it." Ten years after the release of their debut album, *Shake Hands with Shorty*, bassist Chris Chew sums it up: "This is grown folks music." On **Keys to the Kingdom**, some children are born and others become adults; naïve idealism gets squashed by stark realism, yet there is no choice but to move on, and so they do — the quest for joy, celebration and truth palpable in every note of the mighty **NMA** sound. Guests include Spooner Oldham, Ry Cooder, and Alvin Youngblood Hart.



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**TRAMPLED BY TURTLES
PALOMINO**
(BANJODAD RECORDS)

Hailing from Duluth, Minnesota and formed in 2003, **Trampled By Turtles** are making a name for themselves throughout the country. When you first hear or see the band, you can't help but want to describe them as a type of new-grass/bluegrass outfit. Once you dive deeper into the repertoire and live presentation this quintet delivers, you quickly realize these five musicians have taken their initial rock band mentality, and have brilliantly transformed it into a true unique musical orchestration. They possess a style, when trying to classify, is a lesson in futility. A unique style that truly breaks the barrier of what music lovers tend to expect out of bands of this nature. The band's latest album, **Palomino**, is bracing hybrid of classic American songwriting, bluegrass and folk delivered at breakneck pace with the fervor of religion. Listen close — **Trampled By Turtles** are one of this year's great discoveries.



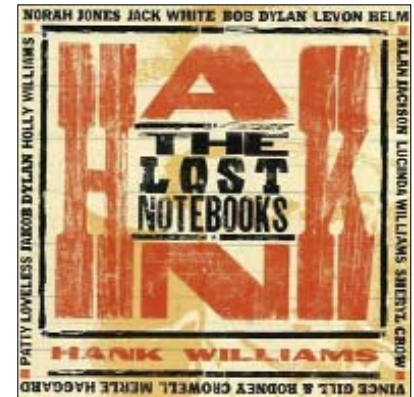
**CAROLYN WONDERLAND
PEACE MEAL**
(BISMEAUX RECORDS)

On **Peace Meal** blues guitar goddess **Carolyn Wonderland** reaches into the depths of the Texas blues tradition with the wit of a poet and the grit of a survivor. Best known for her astounding vocal energy and musicianship, **Wonderland** is a true legend in her time, equipped with the soulful vocals of Janis Joplin and the guitar slinging skills of Stevie Ray Vaughan. **Peace Meal** is a career benchmark for **Wonderland**. She collaborated with expert producers Larry Campbell, Ray Benson and famed musical impresario Michael Nesmith of The Monkees. Not one to take comparisons to Joplin Joplin lightly, **Wonderland** dug deep into Joplin's vault to find a rare, bootleg recorded in Austin of the little-known gem "What Good Can Drinkin' Do." Additional stand-out tracks include the Vince Welnick / Robert Hunter composition "Golden Stairs" as an epic goose-bump-inducing ride, "Two Trains," a tribute to **Wonderland's** Houston mentors like Little Screamin' Kenny and **Wonderland's** fresh take on Bob Dylan's "Meet Me In The Morning."



**JOHNNY WINTER
ROOTS**
(MEGAFORCE)

When you talk about **Johnny Winter**, you are talking about a person who walked with the originators of the art form. A man who played Woodstock, jammed with everyone from Muddy Waters to Jimi Hendrix to Willie Dixon to Ibert Collins to John Lee Hooker to Janis Joplin to Steve Ray Vaughan - the list is full of endless icons. **Johnny Winter** has been the unofficial torch-bearer for the blues, championing and aiding the careers of his idols like Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker. Now the legend is back with a new studio album entitled **Roots**. This album returns **Johnny** to his roots by paying homage to the iconic blues heroes whose pioneering music influenced **Winter's** own signature sound. **Roots** is the follow up to his Grammy-nominated *I'm a Blues Man*, and includes a host of special guests join **Winter** trading licks in honoring his idols.



**HANK WILLIAMS
THE LOST NOTEBOOKS OF
HANK WILLIAMS**
(COLUMBIA RECORDS)

Created from writings left behind by country music's "lovesick blues boy," **The Lost Notebooks of Hank Williams** premieres the first-ever performances of 12 previously unheard **Hank Williams** lyric compositions newly set to music by 13 artists whose own sensibilities have been profoundly shaped by **Williams**. **The Lost Notebooks of Hank Williams** project began with the idea of finding a well-known artist, one who felt **Hank's** inspiration and influence, to record an album's worth of the unheard songs. After veteran music industry manager/A&R executive Mary Martin approached **Bob Dylan**, a natural first choice for the endeavor, the project evolved into a multi-artist tribute providing a variety of sympathetic approaches to this rich mysterious material. Other artists appearing on the album include **Jack White**, **Norah Jones**, **Lucinda Williams**, **Alan Jackson** and many more. The odyssey of **Hank Williams'** notebooks is recounted in the album's liner notes, penned by Michael McCall from the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum.