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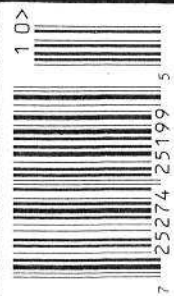
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AND ROLL

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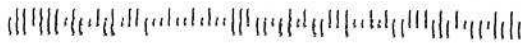
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GENTLEMEN

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13 years will go to funding these in-demand, job creating areas. So while you are sitting there listening to the pitch-perfect balance of AM radio shimmer and punk rock prickle the BFF provides on key tracks like "Erase Me," "Draw A Crowd" and "Hold That Thought," you can be satisfied knowing that you've helped contribute to society while appreciating this much-missed threesome's best LP yet.

Ron Hart

Yoko Ono, Kim Gordon and Thurston Moore

YOKOKIMTHURSTON CHIMERA



Much to the dismay of the drama mongers looking for some kind of squirm factor to the separation of

Kim Gordon and Thurston Moore, the king and queen of the rock underground remain as exemplary a model in divorce as they were in matrimony. Check how in-tune they stay in each others' space as they reunite to collaborate with their heroine Yoko Ono for this wonderfully weird album on her son Sean's Chimera Music label. Recorded at New York's Sear Sound, the melding of Yoko's avant whispers and wails and the discordant intertwining of guitars by Moore and Gordon recall, in a sense, the singer's *Unfinished Music* series with John Lennon. That is, of course, if it were recorded in the Sonie Youth art ghetto instead of a room in a London hospital. Ron Hart

Black Prairie

A Tear in the Eye Is a Wound in the Heart SUGAR HILL



Even the name of Portland, Ore.'s Black Prairie asserts a bleak, sparse image of American folk traditions, and their sophomore album delivers that precise aesthetic. The five-piece acoustic ensemble—which includes three members of The Decembrists—incorporates sounds from throughout our nation's musical history, drawing from bluegrass, old-time country, vaudeville and Celtic traditions while adding enough modern flair to keep listeners engaged. Although about half of the album is instrumental, the most effective tracks feature Annalisa Tomfelt's elegant vocals, which are even beautiful when drowned in haunting reverb on "Winter Wind." Darkness infects the lyrics as well, with morbid lines like "The Band is swinging...just like me" on "Richard Manuel," which offers a discomfoting

account of The Band keyboard player's suicide by hanging. Their sound is gorgeous, but not for the faint of heart. Jack McManus

Bright Moments

Natives LUAKA BOP



If the music of Bright Moments sounds familiar, then it's probably because you've

heard it before. Kelly Pratt—the multi-instrumentalist and mastermind behind Bright Moments—previously played the young-gun-for-hire for such indie royalty as Beirut, Arcade Fire and LCD Soundsystem, lending his distinctive horn sound and harmonic vocals. On Pratt's debut LP, *Natives*, he steps into the limelight with his own indie-pop playground creations. His songs weave together rich textures not only from his massive arsenal of wind instruments, but also from captured field recordings that include audio from live bats on "Milwaukee Protocol" and the sound of splashing water on "Traveling Light." With his awe-inspiring soundscape architectures punctuated by beautiful brass fanfares, Pratt proves that he is more than capable as a solo artist on *Natives*. Tiffany Camhi

Jimmy Cliff

Rebirth UME

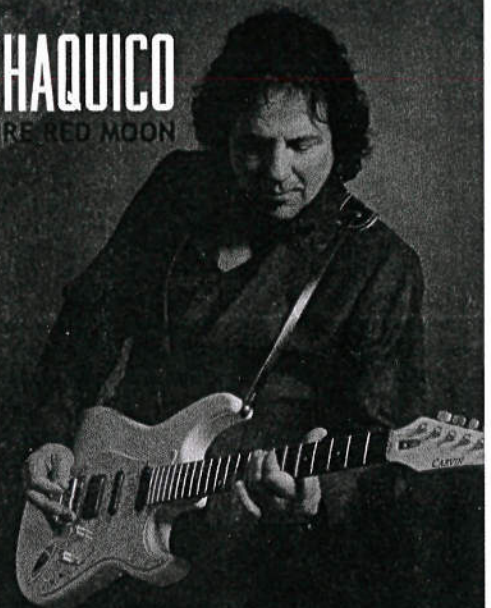


Blink and you might have missed Jimmy Cliff's rousing set at Coachella earlier this year, but given

the reggae icon's near invisibility for the past ten years, that's understandable. Sometimes it takes a producer with a passion to spark a flagging lion's career (think Rick Rubin and Johnny Cash); in Cliff's case, Rancid's Tim Armstrong was the perfect match. Bringing his ska-punk roots and love of Jamaica's vintage rocksteady style to bear, Armstrong lends an old-school Studio One sound to the backing tracks on *Rebirth*, but he records Cliff upfront and strong, which makes for compelling resistance theater on the Marley-esque "One More" and the stripped-down acoustic cover of The Clash's "Guns of Brixton." But what's truly amazing is how at age 64, Cliff hasn't lost much of his upper range; on the loping skank "Rebel Rebel" and the uptempo Rancid cover "Ruby Soho," his voice rings as clear as a distant bell or with a silky falsetto that can still melt the hardest of hearts. Bill Murphy

CRAIG CHAQUICO

FIRE RED MOON



Craig Chaquico, platinum-selling lead guitarist and songwriter with Jefferson Starship and chart-topping smooth jazz solo artist, explores the thoroughfares and back alleys where rock and blues intersect with the release of his Blind Pig debut, *Fire Red Moon*.



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(TO END THE ILLUSION OF SEPARATION)

album release tour

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PAPADOSIO T.E.T.I.O.S. album release tour

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