

Volume Control



The Other Ones
The Strange Remain
Grateful Dead Records

When the Grateful Dead disbanded after the death of Jerry Garcia, the question on the mind of the musical community was "who will carry the torch?" Many groups, from Phish to Widespread Panic, were touted as the new king of the jam bands.

Fear not, Deadheads — the true next generation has arrived. The Other Ones, formed from the ashes of the Dead by Bob Weir, Phil Lesh and Mickey Hart, have brought the music back to the people.

The Strange Remain, a double disc culled from the Other One's headlining performances during the 1998 Further Festival, is a true testament to the original spirit of the Grateful Dead. Many Dead standards make appearances, including "St. Stephen," "Jack Straw," "Sugaree" and

"China Cat Sunflower," all performed with an energy that was at times missing from the Dead's later concerts.

Special attention should also be given to Bruce Hornsby, whose keyboards and vocals add a new dimension to several Grateful Dead masterpieces.

In the album's liner notes, the band says it hopes to "have a chance to see you 'out there' sometime very soon." In the case of The Other Ones, that time can't come fast enough. (Grade: A)

—Riley LaGrone



Asylum Street Spankers
Hot Lunch
CD Courtesy of Cold Spring Records

Hot Lunch, the third release from the Austin-based band Asylum Street Spankers, has a bit of something for everyone.

Whether one prefers jazz, folk, salt grass, swing or blues, Hot Lunch satisfies even the pickiest of appetites.

All acoustic, "the way God intended, without the aid of demon electricity," the Spankers are a mix of vaudeville and religious revival.

Substituting the ukulele, slide whistle, bongos and kazoo for amplifiers and a mix of household repair items for other, more traditional instruments, the Spankers strum, play and bang out highly entertaining and very funny music.

Hot Lunch showcases the wide variety of talent in the band, mixing the humor of Mysterious John with the sexuality of Christina Marrs' powerful vocals.

The Spanker's matriarch, Marrs, showcases her voice on "Cake-walk" and "If I Were You," a song that every guy should listen to before getting involved with a woman.

Mysterious John and Pops Bayless, both veteran Austin musicians, bring the kazoo, humor and a few off-color jokes to Hot Lunch in such tracks as "UFO Attack" and "Fanny."

Wammo's deep baritone and true-to-life lyrics make "Smells Like Thirty-Something" a sure hit with the swing crowd, and his country spoof, "Sad Bomber," is enough to make any cowboy smile — at himself. Without a doubt, this hot lunch will fill you up and leave you asking for dessert. (Grade: A)

—Susan Overcash



Laurie Marks
Selfish
CD Courtesy of Plazma Records

Laurie Marks is a good singer to listen to as long as she is not singing her own music.

Unfortunately, on her latest release, Selfish, Marks has written six of the ten offerings, which makes for an ear-jangling sound.

Her jazzy, sultry voice is a joy to listen to on the other four songs, especially "Sun's Gonna Rise," which terrifically showcases her style and talent. Marks is not a good songwriter, though, and the incredible guitar riffs her band introduces on the original songs cannot make up for her boring lyrics and obnoxious vocal lines.

Marks should definitely stay in the business and record another album — she just needs to sing someone else's music. (Grade: C-)

—Manisha Parekh

People In The News

Queen Latifah writes new revealing book

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Queen Latifah takes on sex, drugs and her cigarette habit in her new book.

"If you see me on the streets with a cigarette, step to me," writes the 28-year-old rap star and actress. "I figure if the whole world gets on my ... I'll have to quit."

The book, Ladies First: Revelations of a Strong Woman, is part autobiography and part advice column. She describes her rough, inner-city childhood, stint as a drug dealer and a series of one-night stands where she exchanged sex for money.

"Basically, there's some things in the book that I felt I shouldn't discuss with people," she said. "But at the end of the day it was like, 'what are we trying to accomplish here?' Do we want to feed somebody a fairy-tale story about how you were poor and then became rich?"

Wonder Wins Polar Music

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Stevie Wonder won this year's Polar Music Prize.

The prize, announced by the Swedish Academy of Music, is endowed by the Swedish government and released the song "I Wanna Take You Home" awarded to one of the world's most innovative composers.

He once composed electronic work whose source was another charcoal.

Lasorda spots on heart attack

VALPARAISO, Ind. — Tommy Lasorda has been getting and giving explanations how to play.

Lasorda, known to as manager of the Dodgers, had a heart attack in 1996. He quit his diet and became for the American Heart Association.

Exercise and helped, too. "I feel great," he said. "I don't feel anywhere near what I used to feel."

Lasorda helped Northwest Indiana's Heart Attack Center to help people walking around of this country that what's wrong with the world," she said. "I'm a head of state's therapist. Currently, I'm doing surgery for cancer and cancer that I radiated treatment cervical cancer nearby, and

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