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Carlos Guedes Toda America

Heads Up Records

It is unfortunate the average American mall rat reflexively sputters out "Ricky Martin" when the subject of good Latin music comes up in conversation.

These same people would probably not give a second listen to Carlos Guedes or his brand of Latin jazz, which blends the best of American jazz improvisation and Afro-Venezuelan percussion.

From the opening screams on "Halloween" to the final cover of a 50-year-old classic "Toda America," Guedes leads the listener through a series of grooves that never get tiring because each bar of each piece is performed with a subtly different flavor.

This is home-cooked fajitas, not Taco Bell.

This is music designed to be mellow and intoxicating — the complex tapestries woven by Guedes and his cadre of elite musicians provoke thought and inspire the listener to drift off into lucid daydreams

At the same time, the album leads listeners into a no-man's land crafted masterfully for the sole purpose of learning how to enjoy the real Latin music, not the one stop pop singles lined up like so many CD cases at Sam Goody. (Grade: A)

-Stephen Wells



Various Artists Music From the Motion Picture Go Sony Music

If you have seen the movie Go and you like it, then chances are that you will like the music from the movie as well. The word

best describing the soundtrack is. diverse. With bands ranging from the popular No Doubt and underground faves BT and DJ Rap to the kitschy sounds of Jimmy Luxury, this is a compilation heavy on diversity.

By now everyone has probably heard No Doubt's "New," but it is far from being the best cut on the soundtrack.

Philip Steir's remix of "Magic Carpet Ride" by Steppenwolf is notable because it mixes in hints of new music while still staying true to the original.

Len's "Steal My Sunshine" has also been making the rounds on modern rock stations with it's catchy hook

While the movie leans heavily on techno and dance tracks, there are only a few songs like this on the album, most notably "Good To Be Alive" by DJ Rap and

"Gangster Tripping" by club favorite Fatboy Slim. Both are appropriate for the central themes of the movie

One of the pleasant surprises is Lionrock's "Fire Up The Shoe-saw" which recalls the opening scenes of the movie.

This CD is good for everyone who enjoys going to clubs and hearing different types of music that can make you want to shake your rump. (Grade: B+)

— Mike Maddux



Various Artists

Millenium Hip-Hop Party

Rhino Entertainment

To steal a line from Saturday Night Live's Goat Boy, "Hey, remember the eighties?" No one will have this problem after being taken back to 1989 with Millennium Hip-Hop Party, a solid compilation of late eighties rap and dance hits. With artists ranging from House Of Pain to Arrested Development to PM Dawn, no one should have trouble finding a song that they once grooved to if they were a hip-hop fan.

There are a few tracks that don't really fit the mold here, most notably "What's My Name" by Snoop Dogg and "Nuthin' But A 'G' Thang" by Dr. Dre. But the album still reaches it goal of taking you back to the still developing stages of hip-hop with classic cuts like Run-DMCs "Walk This Way" and Grandmaster Flash's 'White Lines (Don't Do It)," perhaps one of the groundbreaking early tracks in hip-hop.

The best thing about the album may be what it does not have on it — no Vanilla Ice anywhere to be found.

Junior high will come quickly to mind with songs like Digital Underground's "The Humpty Dance," "Baby Got Back," from Sir Mix-A-Lot, and the ever-fresh 'Bust A Move," by Young MC.

For any true hip-hop fan, this is a definite must have. It is easy to throw a party, pop in this CD, and watch people bust out with the Cabbage Patch or the Electric Slide. It's almost certainly guaranteed to have everybody keeping it real. (Grade: A-)

- Mike Maddux



Elliott Smith XO

Dreamworks Records

On his fourth solo album, Elliott Smith has established himself as a melodic genius while at the same time entrancing his listeners with the vulnerability of his voice and his brilliantly introspective lyrics.

"Sweet Adeline" is about heartache in a world where people are too afraid to show their true selves. Lyrics like "Make it over/Make it stav away/Or hate will make the ending/Love started to say" drive his point home rather effortlessly.

The beautiful "Waltz #2" is based along the same lines, dealing with a man who sounds like he has lost his true love.

This album is perfect for someone who likes poetry and likes to delve into their own soul to reflect on their true feelings.

There are a few lighter songs, like "Baby Britain" and "Bled White" that, while they are not exactly cheery, do seem to make foot tapping a possibility.

For a perfect example of what this album is all about, listen to "Pisteleh.

This song captures the essence of Elliott Smith and his songwriting style brilliantly. (Grade: A)

— Mike Maddux

Bomb scare stops

Rogers concert

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A bomb threat forced the evacuation of more than 3,000 people at a Kenny Rogers concert at Royal Albert Hall in London, his publicist said Monday.

No bomb was found and no injuries were reported Sunday night, publicist Cheryl Kagan

The concert was supposed to be the last for the country singer during a 10-nation tour, but it will be rescheduled.

"I'm extremely disappointed," Rogers said, who was about to take the stage when police recommended the evacuation.

"I don't understand who benefits from this. It's an unpolitical gathering of people who are out for a night of good fun."

Royal Albert Hall confirmed the concert was canceled because of a security alert. They wouldn't say whether anyone claimed responsibility for the

Lipinsky hosts skating camp

TROY, Mich. (AP) - Tara Lipinski knows a thing or two about figure skating doesn't and

sharing mind her secrets. The Olympic gold medalist helped with a

jumps Sunday at a skating clinic attended by about 300 skaters of all ages.



"There're tons of kids (here)," Lipinski said, who turns 17 on June 10. "Without them, I would n't be able to do what I love.

"For them to be able to meet me makes me feel happy that they're happy about it.

Ms. Lipinski turned pro after winning the gold in Japan.

Kravitz collapses during concert

HOLMDEL, N.J. (AP) - Lenny Kravitz collapsed back stage during a concert, allegedly from heat exhaustion.

Kravitz played four songs Sunday night, then walked off stage and collapsed while the band

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

continued to play at the PNC Bank Arts Center. The show was cut short, and

an announcement said the cause of the collapse was heat exhaustion.

Kravitz, who has been touring with the Black Crowes and Everlast, was the final act in the first concert held at the arts center

Messages left Monday with the arts center and Kravitz's publicist weren't immediately re-

Mathison plays in golf tournament

BERMUDA RUN, N.C. (AP) -Cameron Mathison has some reassuring words for fans of his character Ryan Lavery on "All My

"I would love to move into prime time and films," Mathison said. "That's a long-term goal for

"However, I consider myself very lucky to be working as an actor and on 'All My Children.'

"If I had a long career in daytime, I would consider myself

very lucky." Mathison was in town to play in a golf tournament that also attracted actor M. Emmett Walsh, figure skater Scott Hamilton and "Entertainment Tonight" co-host Bob Goen.

Mathison said he hadn't expected to fulfill his dream of becoming an actor.

"I come from a professional family," Mathison said. "Being an actor wasn't in the cards. But I would go to the movies and think, 'I could do that.'

Eight months after his first audition, he landed the role on "All My Children.

Wonder receives music award

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) -Three years ago, Stevie Wonder sang "Happy Birthday" to Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf for his

On Monday, the king gave Wonder the Polar Music Prize and a check for \$125,000.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Music picked Wonder and composer lannis Xenakis as this

year's winners. The prize is endowed by the late Stikkan Andersson, whose

record company release songs of Swedish sup ABBA

It is awarded annually popular and one classica

Xenakis, a Roman Greek who lives in Paris. able to attend the cere Berwald concert hall beca illness. His daughter accept prize check

Former winners inclu McCartney, Ravi Shank Dizzie Gillespie.

Country singer reflects on care

NASHVILLE, Tenn. Mark Wills, fresh from the new male vocalist awa the Academy of Countr says his love of country gan with a Conway Twit and a Fisher-Price reco

He was 3 at the t played the record over on his multicolored plas 'Mom and Dad final me other (country) recor quit playing that one,

Country Weekly magazin

June 8 issue. Wills is known for his bust 'Wish You Were Here."

Races benefit the ! Jovner charitie with

LAGUNA HILLS, Calif. Three-thousand runners road Monday to remember Florence Griffith Joyner, including the late sprinter's husband and daughter.

The 13-mile and 5K races, named for the Olympic medalist who died Sept. 21, raise than \$100,000 for the Memorial Community En ment Foundation and Satt Memorial Medical Center

"It was breathtaking-Florence was," Joyner's h said. "I wish she was here the love the people have her.

Joyner, who also is an gold medalist, ran the 5K The couple's 8-year-old do Mary, ran in the 1K Mary Children's Race.

Friends and family pay last respects to Ho

CALGARY, Canada (AP) — Politicians and singers joined professional wrestlers and fans at a funeral Monday for wrestler Owen Hart.

Hart, 34, known as the Blue Blazer, plunged 70 feet to his death last Sunday during a dramatic entrance for a match in Kansas City, Mo

Some 1,300 mourners packed the invitation-only service Monday. Among them were pro wrestlers Hulk Hogan, Road Dogg, Gorilla Monsoon, Paul Bearer, Sgt. Slaughter and Stone Cold Steve Austin, who arrived on buses bearing a banner reading "Owen You Will Always Be In Our Hearts.

Alberta Premier Ralph Klein and his wife, Colleen, also attended the funeral.

Singer Collin Raye opened the service singing "One Boy, One Girl," Hart's favorite song, and

"Amazing Grace." Hart's six brothers were to serve as pallbearers.

Hart's wife, Martha, told mourners she h nearly half her life with the wrestler.

'I didn't sleep at all last night because I do how to say goodbye," she said. "I don't wa him go.

Outside, some 1,000 fans stood listening vice over loudspeakers in a drizzling rain. Bonnie Carpenter, 16, and a few of her

skipped school for the funeral. We lost a great man — he was a great m for me and a great Canadian who spoke his m

Hart, the son of former Olympic wrestlers launched his career with the World Wrestlin tion in 1989. Police said Hart's death appeared acciden

may have inadvertently unhooked a harness ing lowered from the arena rafters, police sal

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