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## VOLUME Control

Music Review V 2.002

Garrison Starr  
*Songs from Take-Off to Landing*  
Virgin/Backporch Records

After listening to the first track on Garrison Starr's second full-length album, *Songs from Take-Off to Landing*, listeners will be well aware that Starr is ready for take-off. Starr, who has been playing in coffeehouses and clubs since high school, makes a great effort to break out of both the country and rock genre. Her music can be described as Roots or Americana, and her sound is one of an amateur transforming into a professional. Starr wrote every song on the album and places her skills in guitar and percussion on a silver platter for listeners.

The third track on the album, "Serves Me Right," could be the tune of anyone who has had his or her heart broken. It highlights Starr's rough and sweet vocals when she sings, "It serves me right, I guess for gladly volunteering for a good kick in my chest... for pretending not to notice I was settling for less." "Madness" is a guitar-drenched song pumped up with good percussion. Country veteran Mary Chapin Carpenter lends her vocals to "Silent Night" and "Hardest Part of Living." Another song on the album, "5 Minutes," has the darkness of a Lucinda Williams or Aimee Mann tune with lyrics such as "It feels like love, is this how you make me pay, branding me with deep cuts that will never go away."

Starr has mastered her songwriting skills in a very short time. In fact, she spent August opening for Melissa Etheridge. True to her name, Starr seems to be headed to the top.

★★★★☆

-Lizette Resendez

Music Review V 2.002

Morcheeba  
*Charango*  
Reprise Records

On Morcheeba's newest album, *Charango*, the first tracks, "Slow Down" and "Otherwise" set the tone for the rest of the album and proudly announces that Morcheeba has returned to its roots.

"Otherwise" continues where Morcheeba left off with the eerie vocals of Skye Edwards and fluid-like music of brothers Ross and Paul Godfrey.

"Aqualung" may have the staccato keyboard sounds found on a Britney Spears track, but Morcheeba produces anything but pop. On the blissful track "Sao Paulo," Edwards lets her vocals glide along to the Godfrey brothers' hip-hop, electronica and tropical beats.

The album seems to take a dive around songs such as "What New York Couples Fight About" and "Women Lose Weight." The latter proves to be a spooky song about a guy willing to kill his wife

because of her weight gain, and features Slick Rick rapping. "Me of the story is desire is important so watch your weight."

"Undress Me Now," "Way Beyond" and "Get Along" returns Morcheeba's early melancholic sounds. One of the last songs on the album, "Public Displays of Affection" features smooth lyrics (i.e. "They're for all to see, self-contained lovers welded orally").

This album is comparable to Morcheeba's first two albums. However, *Charango* must be considered better, as it's a breath of fresh air from the band's affair with R&B on its last album *Fragments of Freedom*. Morcheeba, welcome home.

★★★★☆

-Lizette Resendez

Music Review V 2.002

Cross Canadian Ragweed  
*Purple*  
Universal South Records

While Cross Canadian Ragweed is best known for its live shows, the band is proving it can put together a solid studio album as well. *Purple*, the band's fifth CD, is a solid 12-track offering that will win over Americana music fans' CD changers.

Cody Canada (lead vocals, guitar), Grady Cross (guitar), Jim Plato (bass, vocals) and Randy Ragsdale (drums) come through with a collection of songs which go from loud and fun ("Anytime But Here") to a solemn tribute to the community of Stillwater, Okla. ("On a Cloud"), that Canada wrote after an airplane crash killed 10 people involved with Oklahoma State University's baseball team two years ago.

After independently releasing its first four records, *Purple* is Cross Canadian Ragweed's first album under the Universal South Records label, a deal the band landed after *Live And Loud at Bill Bob's* was released in July 2002.

"17" will be the first single released from *Purple* and is a tune Canada wrote with fellow singer-songwriter Jason Boland. The catchy guitar riffs give the song a mix of Americana and traditional country and has already found a place in Cross Canadian Ragweed live concerts.

"Constantly," another song that has debuted in the band's live performances, is a song Canada penned for his wife and is as poignant a song as the band has ever released.

*Purple* will be released nationwide on Tuesday.

★★★★☆

-True Blue

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