

May 17, 2007

Today I offer what should probably and accurately be called an “embarrassment of riches.” When your local CD librarian loses track of time and lets a few months go by without an update, the result is an incredibly varied and lengthy list of 375 items for you to enjoy. The list pretty much speaks for itself – lots of new music, a fair amount of back-stock, a slew of new soundtracks and collections – but there are a few unique titles worth mentioning.

One work that qualifies as a must hear is the collection *These Days* from **Vince Gill**. This 4-CD set is truly a musical event. While preparing songs for a new album, Gill thought about the diversity of his material – acoustic bluegrass, ballads, honky-tonk, and rock – and realized he had enough good songs that he could just go ahead and make four distinct albums. Rather than working on one at a time, however, he called in some famous friends and skilled Nashville musicians to record and release all four albums at once; a kind of portrait of the artist. Vince has always been a highly respected musician and songwriter, but this collection might just be the standard by which his entire career is assessed. Each album is as unique as it was meant to be, and the experience of hearing one man give lyrical voice to so many aspects of American music is something only Gill could provide. Find the time to enjoy this remarkable collection.

We also have *Preludes*, the first “new” posthumous release of **Warren Zevon** material since his untimely death in 2003. Compiled by his son Jordan, these demo recordings offer very different versions of some of his best known songs, while also introducing us to some classic unreleased material. For those of you who miss Warren’s unique spark as much as I do, make sure to check out this terrific addition to an already stellar body of work.

On the jazz front we now have four albums by **Tomasz Stanko**. This Polish trumpeter began recording in the 1970’s, and while all of his work is exceptional, I think his most recent music may be his finest. In albums such as *Suspended Night* and *Soul of Things* you can hear Stanko’s particular form of free jazz, avant-garde stylings through which he originally made his name blend with an open yet melodic ambiance that is deeply emotional and inspirational. I was fortunate enough to hear his music through the “Eric in the Evening” program on WGBH a few years ago, and I hope some of you find his music just as compelling.

Finally, there have been an amazing number of “new” bands (meaning they’ve broken through in the last few years) finding themselves in the spotlight recently, and we now have selections from such groups/performers as **Explosions in the Sky, Lily Allen, Anberlin, Bright Eyes, Amy Winehouse, Regina Spektor, Po’ Girl, Dr. Dog, Infamous Stringdusters, and Brad Shepik**, among others. These performers run the gamut from British and American singer/songwriters, contemporary bluegrass, innovative jazz, and Texas-guitar rock. I’d like to tell you which is which, but that would take the fun out of the discovery process! I’ve always recommended taking a chance with an artist you may not have heard before, and that may never have been more true. So listen, listen, listen. I’ll try to reappear with a few new updates before the year is out, I promise. But as always, thanks for taking the time.

Be well,

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Artist	Title
Abdul, Paula	Greatest Hits: Straight Up!
Allen, Lily	Alright, Still
America	Here & Now
Amos, Tori	American Doll Posse
Anberlin	Cities
And You Will Know Us By the Trail of Dead	So Divided
Anderson, Laurie	Talk Normal: The Laurie Anderson Anthology
Apples in Stereo	New Magnetic Wonder
Aqualung	Memory Man
Arctic Monkeys	Favourite Worst Nightmare
Argerich, Martha	Live from the Lugano Festival 2005: Chamber Music
Armatrading, Joan	Into the Blues
Bach / Ponce / Barrios	Structures
Bad Plus	Prog
Beastie Boys	Paul's Boutique
Bee Gees	Their Greatest Hits: The Record
Bingham, Judith	The Secret Garden; Salt in the Blood; First Light
Bird, Andrew	Armchair Apocrypha
Bjork	Volta
Black Angels	Passover
Black Sabbath	Paranoid
Blige, Mary J.	The Breakthrough
Blige, Mary J.	Reflections (A Retrospective)
Blonde Redhead	23
Bowie, David	Space Oddity
Bowie, David	The Man Who Sold the World
Bowie, David	Hunky Dory
Bowie, David	Aladdin Sane
Bowie, David	Pin Ups
Bowie, David	Young Americans
Bowie, David	Station to Station
Brahms, Johannes	Piano Concerto No. 1; Piano Concerto No. 2
Brecker, Michael	Pilgrimage
Bright Eyes	Cassadaga [Saddle Creek]
Bromberg, Brian	Downright Upright
Brown, James	Live at the Apollo [Deluxe Edition]
Browne, Jackson	Solo Acoustic, Vol. 1
Buble, Michael	Call Me Irresponsible [Bonus Track]
Burton, Gary	Crystal Silence
Carpenter, Mary Chapin	The Calling
Case, Neko	Live from Austin, TX
Celtic Woman	A New Journey
Cherubini / Boston Baroque	Cherubini: Requiem
Chopin / Montero	Oeuvres Pour Piano
Chopin / Rachmaninoff	Gabriela Montero en Concert Montreal
Clap Your Hands Say Yeah	Clap Your Hands Say Yeah

Clap Your Hands Say Yeah	Some Loud Thunder
Clark, Guy	Best of the Sugar Hill Years
Clarke, Rebecca	Viola Sonata; Dumka; Chinese Puzzle; Passacaglia
Cohen, Avishai [Bass]	As Is...Live at the Blue Note
Cold War Kids	Robbers & Cowards [Downtown]
Condon, Eddie	The Town Hall Concerts, Vol. 6
Connick, Harry Jr.	Chanson Du Vieux Carre
Connick, Harry Jr.	Oh, My Nola
Cooder, Ry	My Name Is Buddy
Copland, Aaron	Copland: Orchestral & Ballet Works, 1936-1948
Corelli / I Musici	Corelli: Complete Concerti Grossi, Op. 6
Crosby, Bing	Bing! His Legendary Years, 1931 to 1957
Crosby, Bing	16 Most Requested Songs
Dameron, Tadd	Mating Call
Daphne Loves Derby	Goodnight, Witness Light
DB's	Christmas Time Again
Defrancesco, Joey	Live: The Authorized Bootleg
Delius / MacKerras / Wno	Delius: Orchestral Works
Denver, John	The Essential John Denver
Diamond, Neil	Hot August Night
Diamond, Neil	Tap Root Manuscript
DJ Shadow	Endtroducing...
Dr. Dog	Easy Beat
Dr. Dog	We All Belong
Douglas, Jerry	Best of the Sugar Hill Years
Down to the Bone	The Best of Down to the Bone
Drew, Kenny	Undercurrent
Duff, Hilary	Dignity
Dylan, Bob	Time Out of Mind
Dylan, Bob	Highway 61 Revisited [Remastered]
Echo & the Bunnymen	Very Best of: More Songs to Learn and Sing
Elgar / Previn / Royal Po	Complete Symphonies
Elling, Kurt	Nightmoves
Emerson, Lake & Palmer	The Essential Emerson, Lake & Palmer
Eric B. & Rakim	Paid in Full [Bonus Tracks]
Ervin, Booker	Freedom Book [Bonus Track]
Esmerine	Aurora
Explosions in the Sky	Those Who Tell the Truth Shall Die...
Explosions in the Sky	How Strange, Innocence
Explosions in the Sky	All of a Sudden I Miss Everyone
Explosions in the Sky	The Earth Is Not a Cold Dead Place
Fall Out Boy	Fall Out Boy's Evening Out with Your Girl
Ferrer, Ibrahim	Mi Sueno
Four Seasons	The Definitive Pop Collection
Franklin, Aretha	Lady Soul
Franklin, Aretha	I Never Loved a Man the Way I Love You
French, Bob	Maraslis Music Honors Bob French
Getz, Stan	Stan Getz/Antonio Carlos Jobim: Their Greatest Hits

Gilberto, Bebel	Momento
Gill, Vince	These Days
Grateful Dead	American Beauty
Green Day	Kerplunk
Green Day	1,039/Smoothed Out Slappy Hours
Green, Al	Call Me
Greenberg, Jay	Symphony No. 5; Quintet for Strings
Greencards	Viridian
Hammond, John Jr.	Push Comes to Shove
Hancock, Herbie	Thrust
Handel / Dessay / Haim	Delirio: Handel's Italian Cantatas
Handel / St. Martin in the Fields	Complete Wind Sonatas
Hardwood, Richard	Cello Recital
Harman, Katie	Soul of Love
Harmony and Balance: Reiki	Harmony and Balance: Reiki
Harmony and Balance: Zen	Harmony and Balance: Zen
Haskil, Clara	Philips Recordings 1951-1960
Hay, Colin	Are You Lookin' at Me?
Haydn / Musica Antiqua	Complete Harpsichord Concertos
Haynes, Roy	We Three
Hersh, Kristin	Learn to Sing Like a Star
Hicks, Taylor	Taylor Hicks
Hiromi	Time Control
Hole	Live Through This
Hooker, John Lee	Hooker [Box Set]
Il Divo	Siempre
Il Divo	Ancora
Il Divo	Il Divo
Infamous Stringdusters	Fork in the Road
Jackson, Milt	Plenty, Plenty Soul
Jackson, Milt	The Big 3
Jethro Tull	War Child [Bonus Tracks]
Jethro Tull	Minstrel in the Gallery [Bonus Tracks]
Jethro Tull	Songs from the Wood [Bonus Tracks]
Jethro Tull	Heavy Horses [Bonus Tracks]
Jethro Tull	Aqualung [Bonus Tracks]
John, Elton	Goodbye Yellow Brick Road
Johnston / Kepler Quartet	Ben Johnston String Quartets Nos. 2 - 4, 9
Jones, Norah	Not Too Late
Jones, Rickie Lee	Sermon on Exposition Boulevard
Kaye, Danny	The Great 3 CD's
Kenton, Stan	West Side Story
Khechog, Nawang	Tibetan Meditation Music
Kidjo, Angélique	Djin Djin
King, Carole	Tapestry [Bonus Tracks]
King's Singers	Madrigal History Tour
Kirk, Rahsaan Roland	Kirk's Work
Kiss	Rock and Roll Over

Kiss	Love Gun
Kiss	Kiss
Kiss	Hotter Than Hell
Kiss	Dressed to Kill
Kiss	Love Gun
Krauss, Alison	Hundred Miles or More: A Collection
Kreviazuk, Chantal	Ghost Stories
Kunzel, Erich / Cincinnati Pops	Russian Nights
Lambert, Miranda	Crazy Ex-Girlfriend
Lang, Lang	Dragon Songs
Lauridsen / Britten Sinfonia	Lux Aeterna
Lavigne, Avril	The Best Damn Thing
Levin, Tony [Bass]	Double Espresso
Lewis, Jerry Lee	Last Man Standing: Live [CD/DVD]
Lewis, Jerry Lee	The London Sessions 1973
Lieberson, Lorraine Hunt	Peter Lieberson: Neruda Songs
Lindberg, Magnus	Clarinet Concerto; Gran Duo; Chorale
Locke, Kimberley	Based on a True Story
Lullaby Renditions of Bjork	Rockabye Baby! Lullaby Renditions of Bjork
Lynyrd Skynyrd	20th Century Masters: The Best of Lynyrd Skynyrd
Ma, Yo-Yo	Appassionato
Madlib	The Other Side: Los Angeles
Mahadevan, Shankar	The Voice of India Today
Mahler / Bpo / Abbado	Symphony No. 6
Manilow, Barry	The Greatest Songs of the Sixties
Mann, Aimee	One More Drifter in the Snow
Marley, Bob	Legend [Bonus Tracks]
Marsalis, Wynton	From the Plantation to the Penitentiary
Martino, Pat	El Hombre [RVG Remaster]
Mathis, Johnny	Gold: A 50th Anniversary Christmas Celebration
Mathis, Johnny	Gold: A 50th Anniversary Celebration
Matisyahu	No Place to Be
McBride, Martina	Waking Up Laughing
McGraw, Tim	Let It Go
McKennitt, Loreena	An Ancient Muse
McPhee, Katharine	Katharine McPhee
Metallica	Master of Puppets
Mitchell, Anais	The Brightness
Mitchell, Joni	Court and Spark
Modern Jazz Quartet	European Concert
Modern Jazz Quartet	Three Windows/For Ellington
Modern Jazz Quartet	Celebration
Modest Mouse	We Were Dead Before the Ship Even Sank
Monk, Thelonious	Thelonious Monk [Prestige/Ojc]
Monkees	Music Box
Montero, Gabriela	Gabriela Montero Plays Chopin, Falla, Ginestera, Etc
Montero, Gabriela	Bach and Beyond
Mozart / Bach / Hyunah / Sato	Arias & Cantatas

Mussorgsky / Pao / Ashkenazy	Pictures at An Exhibition
Mussorgsky / Ravel / Maazel	Pictures at An Exhibition; Night on Bald Mountain
Netrebko, Anna / Otm / Gergiev	Russian Album
Nine Inch Nails	Year Zero
Ojays	Beautiful Ballads
Ono, Yoko	Yes, I'm a Witch
Oriordan, Dolores	Are You Listening
Osbourne, Ozzy	Black Rain
Osmond, Donny	Decades, Vol. 1: Love Songs of the 70's
Palacio, Andy	Watina
Parton, Dolly	Coat of Many Colors [American Milestones]
Peterson, Oscar	What's Up?: The Very Tall Band
Phonograph	Phonograph
Po Girl	Po' Girl
Po Girl	Home to You
Polyphonic Spree	Wait Ep
Presley, Elvis	Sunrise
Prince	The Rainbow Children
Prince	Purple Rain
Prince	Around the World in a Day
Prince	Diamonds and Pearls
Prince	Parade
Prince	Prince
Prince	Dirty Mind
Prince	Controversy
Prince	Come
Prine, John	Standard Songs for Average People
Psychedelic Furs	Greatest Hits
Public Enemy	It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back
Putumayo	A New Groove
Putumayo	Women of Africa
Putumayo	Women of the World - Acoustic
Rachmaninoff	Concerto No. 2; Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini
Rachmaninoff / Haydn / Bruch	Velitchka Yotcheva: Cello
Radiohead	Ok Computer
Redding, Otis	Otis Blue: Otis Redding Sings Soul
Reed, Lou	Hudson River Wind Meditations
REM	Murmur
REM	Reckoning
REM	And I Feel Fine...: Best of the I.R.S. Years 1982-1987
REM	Eponymous
REM	Lifes Rich Pageant
REM	Fables of the Reconstruction
REM	Document
Rhiannon	In My Prime
Rishell, Paul	Goin' Home
Rodrigo y Gabriela	Rodrigo y Gabriela
Rollins, Sonny	Sonny, Please

Ross, Diana	I Love You
Run DMC	Raising Hell [Deluxe Edition]
Rush	Snakes & Arrows
Rutter, John	Brother Sun, Sister Moon
Scaggs, Boz	Boz Scaggs
Scaggs, Boz	Slow Dancer
Scaggs, Boz	Silk Degrees [Bonus Tracks]
Scaggs, Boz	Fade Into Light
Scanlan, Martha	The West Was Burning
Beaux Arts Trio / Grimaux Trio	Franz Schubert: Complete Trios
Schubert / Brendel	Schubert: The Complete Impromptus
Scott, Jill	Collaborations
Sexton, Martin	Seeds
Shaw, Artie	The Essential Artie Shaw
Shaw, Artie	The Complete Gramercy Five Sessions
Sheik, Duncan	Brighter: A Duncan Sheik Collection
Shepik, Brad	The Loan
Shepik, Brad	The Well
Shins	Wincing the Night Away
Short, Martin	Fame Becomes Me
Sill, Judee	Heart Food
Sill, Judee	Judee Sill
Simon, Carly	Into White
Sinatra, Frank	Sinatra at the Sands
Sixteen / Christophers	Renaissance: Music for Inner Peace
Skaggs, Ricky	Ricky Skaggs & Bruce Hornsby
Smith, Patti	Twelve
Smithereens	Blown to Smithereens: The Best of the Smithereens
Smithereens	Meet the Smithereens: Tribute to the Beatles
Sneakers	Nonsequitur of Silence
Sondheim, Stephen	Company...In Jazz
Soundtrack	Notes on a Scandal
Soundtrack	Shrek
Soundtrack	300
Soundtrack	Alpha Dog
Soundtrack	Borat
Soundtrack	Born Into Brothels
Soundtrack	Broken Bridges
Soundtrack	Bye Bye Birdie (Broadway cast)
Soundtrack	Bye Bye Birdie
Soundtrack	Casino Royale
Soundtrack	Catch and Release
Soundtrack	Children of Men
Soundtrack	Eragon
Soundtrack	Eraserhead
Soundtrack	Finian's Rainbow
Soundtrack	The Fountain
Soundtrack	The Good German

Soundtrack	The Good Shepherd
Soundtrack	Jesus Christ Superstar
Soundtrack	The Last Kiss
Soundtrack	Letters from Iwo Jima
Soundtrack	Miss Potter
Soundtrack	Music and Lyrics
Soundtrack	Night at the Museum
Soundtrack	The Prestige
Soundtrack	Pretty Woman
Soundtrack	Project Runway
Soundtrack	The Protector
Soundtrack	Rocky Balboa: The Best of Rocky
Soundtrack	Waking Ned Devine
Soundtrack	We Are Marshall
Soundtrack	West Side Story (Broadway cast)
Soundtrack	West Side Story
Soundtrack	Shrek the Third
Soundtrack	High Fidelity [Original Cast]
Soundtrack	The Namesake [Original Score]
Soundtrack	Evil Dead: The Musical [Original Cast Recording]
Soundtrack	Spider-Man 3: Music from and Inspired By
Spanish Harlem Orchestra	United We Swing
Spektor, Regina	Soviet Kitsch
Spektor, Regina	Begin to Hope
Stanford / BBC National Chorus	The Revenge; Songs of the Sea; Songs of the Fleet
Stanko, Tomasz	Soul of Things
Stanko, Tomasz	From the Green Hill
Stanko, Tomasz	Suspended Night
Stanko, Tomasz	Lontano
Stefani, Gwen	The Sweet Escape
Stevens, Sufjan	Songs for Christmas
Stone, Joss	Introducing Joss Stone
Strummer, Joe	The Future Is Unwritten
Tallis Scholars / Phillips	Renaissance Giants
Taneyev / Repin / Harrell	Taneyev: Chamber Music
Time	What Time Is It?
Time	Ice Cream Castle
Time	The Time
Tisdale, Wayman	The Very Best of Wayman Tisdale
Travis	The Boy with No Name
Tribe Called Quest	The Low End Theory
Various Artists	We All Love Ennio Morricone
Various Artists	2007 Grammy Nominees
Various Artists	Songs of Revolutionary Times & the Civil War Era
Various Artists	Billy Strayhorn: Lush Life
Various Artists	Blowing the Fuse: 29 Classics from 1955
Various Artists	Endless Highway: The Music of the Band
Various Artists	Fan Jams: A Collection of Stadium Fight Songs

Various Artists	Forever Changing: The Golden Age of Elektra 1963-1973
Various Artists	Friends of Old Time Music: The Folk Arrival
Various Artists	Greatest College Fight Songs: Fight on
Various Artists	Harry Smith Project: Anthology of American Folk Music
Various Artists	Now, Vol. 24
Various Artists	Totally Country, Vol. 6
Various Artists	The Ultimate Wedding Album
Various Artists	A Tribute to Joni Mitchell
Various Artists	Putumayo Presents: World Party
Various Artists	Windows: Windham Hill 25 Years of Piano
Various Artists	The Rough Guide to Bellydance Cafe
Various Artists	The Rough Guide to African Blues
Various Artists	Rough Guide to the Music of Canada
Vaughan Williams	The Wasps; the Lark Ascending; Delius: Florida Suite
Vaughan, Sarah	Music for Lovers
Vietnam	Vietnam
Vincent, Rhonda	Beautiful Star: The Christmas Collection
Voices of Ascension / Keene	Beyond Chant: Mysteries of the Renaissance
Vollenweider, Andreas	Cosmopoly [Bonus Disc]
Waite, John	Downtown - Journey of a Heart
Waits, Tom	Orphans: Brawlers, Bawlers & Bastards
Waters, John [Director]	A Date with John Waters
Wayne / Wallinger String Quartet	5 Dances for Cello & Piano; Piano Quintet No. 1
Weir / Tynan	On Buying a Horse: The Songs of Judith Weir
Weiss, Chuck E.	23rd & Stout
West, Kanye	The College Dropout
White, Lenny	Venusian Summer
Who	Endless Wire
Wilco	Sky Blue Sky
Williams, Joe	Music for Lovers
Williams, Lucinda	West
Wilson, Gretchen	One of the Boys
Winehouse, Amy	Back to Black
Wonder, Stevie	Natural Wonder
Yellowjackets	The Best of Yellowjackets
Young, Neil	Living with War - "In the Beginning"
Young, Neil	After the Gold Rush
Young, Neil	Live at Massey Hall
Zevon, Warren	Preludes