

N O M U S I C - N O L I F E

# the ALBUM SHOW

RECOMMENDED ALBUMS 2015



## Welcome

*Was that 2015? How quick was that? Another year and hundreds of more incredible album releases digitally making their way to your mp3 player via your computer, or being played from Vinyl with the opening crackle from that stylus. Some of us are still buying CD's. No matter, it's the quality that counts and here I invite you to read some of my Recommended releases of 2015...*

Pat Kearney



## ✧ Music Sales ✧

*Yes, CD sales are down again this year. According to the RIAA's mid-year shipping and revenue statistics, vinyl sales have soared so far this year, up 52.1 % bringing in over \$221 million in revenue.*

Continued over.....

## THE ALBUM SHOW @ 20

This year on August 25th 'The Album Show' along with nearfm celebrated 20 year's on air. In that 20 years the programme invited local music fans in to play s selection form their own music collection. We had a 'Rough Guide Series' where local fans told the story of their favourite bands. We had a music quiz called 'MusicViva'. The last 20 years have come and gone but the music is as diverse as ever. The programme has a simple ethos which is to play music from a diverse mix of artists giving the listener an idea of the music before they part with

their hard earned. Over the following few pages you'll see how diverse the music gets. As usual each year there are so many great records released and it's impossible to pick a definitive list. So here's a selection. Enjoy!!



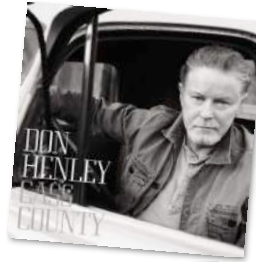
## Cover Albums

*Sufjan Stevens released a very personal album about his Mother & Stepfather. Called 'Carrie & Lowell' it was another classic.*

*Above right, the cover of the latest and probably most accessible Steven Wilson album to date. 'Hand Cannot Erase' is a prog. rock delight.*

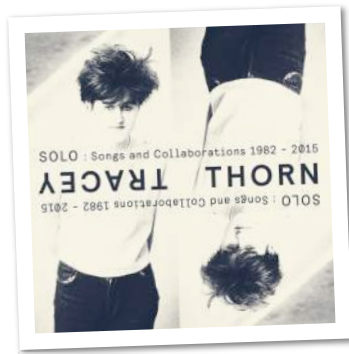


Toto reformed with Dave Hungate and Steve Porcaro. The resulting album 'XIV' was vintage.



## Musgrave's worth a buy...

Casey Musgrave's has released two great albums in the last two years. 'Pageant Material' is the follow up to 'Same Trailer Different Park'. It's a great mix of country music. A large portion of the songs were written around the same time as the previous album. Don Henley came back after a hiatus of 15 years with a country album named after his home town in Texas. 'Cass County' featured Mick Jagger, Martina Mc Bride and Dolly Parton! From singing on the streets of Paris to Mercury Music Prize Winner, Benjamin Clementine's 'At least for Now' is well worth bending your ear toward. The Maccabees may have released their best album to date and here are the 'Marks to Prove It'.



### Re-Issues

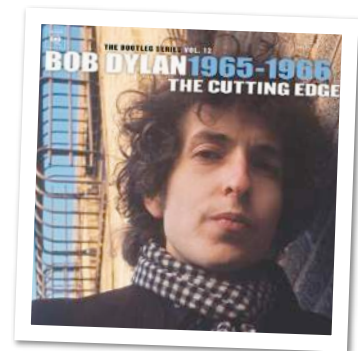
And there were many. 'The River' is 35 years old. A brilliantly packaged box set celebrating that famous album that preceded 'Born in The USA' comes with a high price tag. Elsewhere a mention for two other re-issues of sorts. I say of sorts because Bob Dylan's 'The Cutting Edge - The Bootleg Series Vol 12 1965-1966' hasn't been issued in this format before but is fantastic. It also comes at a fantastic price. Tracey Thorn Solo : Songs and Collaborations is a double album of great moments between 1982

and 2015.

### Music Sales

... Continued from page 1

On these pages over the last number of years I've written about the rise of vinyl as well as the popularity of downloading music. Another favourite is streaming. In the United States Subscription streaming services have jumped again, from \$382.7 million to \$477.9 million, a near 25 percent increase up to the middle of 2015. CD sales are going the other way as they have been for the last number of years, however, CD's are still the most popular purchasing format in the United States according to the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). Whichever way you purchase your music, so long as the quality is there, music will be around for a very long time to come.





# A Diverse Collection

## Ana Brun

On her 8th album in 14 years Ana Brun (who sang with Peter Gabriel a couple of years ago) has released an

incredible album called 'When I'm Free'.

## New Order

The arguments continue, but minus Peter Hook, this, the

bands 10th album is a top drawer release. 'Music Complete' see's the return of 'Gillian Gilbert' and the riffs well out do the riffs.

## Shinedown

North Florida's 'Shinedown' released 'Threat to Survival' in November. The usual mix of rock with plenty of great build up's.

THE ALBUM SHOW

20 YEARS ON NEARFM

A DIVERSE MIX OF MUSIC

SUNDAY'S 18.30 - 20.00

NO MUSIC - NO LIFE

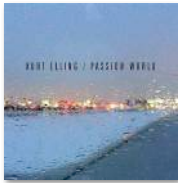
## Father John Misty

The ex 'Fox' Joshua Tillman graced us with a tongue 'n' cheek album that the late 'Warren Zevon' would be proud of. 'I love You Honeybear' also came well packaged.



In his so far short career 'Sturgill Simpson' on his short enough album 'Metamodern Sounds In Country Music' explains why he picked up the best new artist award in the recent Americana Music Awards.

The Wainwright Sisters, Martha along with her half Sister Anna sang the songs they sang when they were growing up. Mercifully, they were recorded on 'Songs In The Dark'. Not forgetting our Jazz Listeners who probably already have 'Passion



World' by Kurt Elling. A little Gem. Boz Scaggs, below, followed one great album with another. 'A Fool to Care' finds Scaggs digging deep into the roots of American music






# Elder Lemons...

Apart from the brilliantly crafted music on 'Cradle to The Grave' The album cover on the latest Squeeze album must be a contender for album sleeve of the year. Brian Wilson set out to record a new Beachboys album. But it being the


Beachboys, it didn't materialize. Instead he salvaged what he could with the help of Al Jardine and a couple of other Beachboys and although the critics were not too positive there were some great moments on 'Pier Pressure'

ALSO WORTH INVESTIGATING




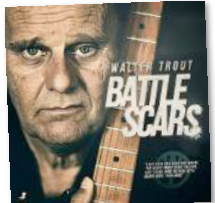
**RICHARD HAWLEY**  
Hallow Meadows

**BEACH HOUSE**  
Depression  
Cherry



**LIANNE LA HAVAS**  
Blood

**DIANA KRALL**  
Wallflower

## TROUT FISHING

Walter Trout just doesn't give in. Following a liver transplant he stormed back with 'Battle Scars' which could turn out to be up there with his best.



## J.D. SOUTHER

The smooth silky, in parts hard worn voice of the ex-Eagle

released an album of all new songs this year. 'Tenderness' was produced by Larry Klein - nuff said.

Prying Mantis, the English heavy rock band have been



recording since 1973. This year they released 'Legacy'. melodicrock.com gave it 92% but don't take their word for it.... take ours.

## JAMES TAYLOR

Hard to believe how a real troubadour like James Taylor can keep up with the demands of writing great songs. We know a lot of his big hits were written from the pen of others but he himself can write some great songs. Here on 'Before This World' he put's down his first album of originals in over 10 years. Try 'Angels Of Fenway' and 'Montana' for starters....





## Soul R&B/80's Legends/Folk Rock/Indie Pop

From Sweden/Gambia Seinabo Say released one of The Album Shows favourite R&B Soul albums in 2015 called 'Pretend'. It's incredible (in my opinion). Not enough space to talk

about pledgemusic.com here but if you don't already know the great work they do check out their website. China Crisis through pledgemusic.com released a fantastic vintage album called

'Autumn in The Neighbourhood. 'All of Your Favourite Bands' was the June issue from Dawes. A stellar release. If you like 80's retro dance/disco you'll enjoy

'Recreational love' by The Bird and the Bee. It's the fourth studio album by the indie pop duo who hail from California.



### Wheel In The Sky

Journey once sang "Wheel in the sky keeps on turning". Well that was back in 1978 funny



enough on the album called Infinity. Music too continues to turn and never ceases to

amaze our ears no matter what genre we listen too.

### West Coast

Two albums worth a mention are from 'Cool Uncle' and 'CWF'. You may remember Bobby Caldwell best known for his 1978 hit single "What You Won't Do for Love".



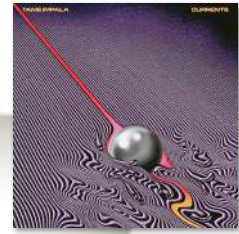
He teamed up with Jack Splash (Kendrick Lamar, John Legend, Jennifer Hudson) to release a truly great West Coast album under the name 'Cool Uncle'.

CWF TOTO Fan's will know Joseph Williams as one of their best vocalists. Chicago vocalist Bill Champlin

and Swedish guitarist Peter Friestedt in October released 'CWF' and it sniffed of TOTO. Indeed Steve



Porcaro and Randy Goodrum also feature. Just like a fine biscuit.



# My Back Page...

## Simmering in the Pan...

- Tame Impala - Currents
- Belle & Sebastian - Girls In Peacetime Want To Dance
- Suzanne Sondheim - Ten Love Songs
- Alabama Shakes - Sound & Color
- Richard Thompson - Still
- Kamasi Washington - The Epic
- Sun Kil Moon - Universal Themes
- Julia Holter - Have you in My Wilderness



So there we are. Just some of the Album Shows Recommended Albums of 2015. But as I always say.... Don't take our word for it. Let your ears do the buying. Thank you for reading, and listening throughout our 20 years on air.

The year ahead looks as diverse as ever - David Bowie - Tindersticks - Lucinda Williams - My Morning Jacket - Radiohead - Villagers - Bob Seger - U2 - are all releasing new albums in 2016 and yes, The Album Show will have tracks from them all...

We also tip the hat to some of the musicians who headed for The Great Gig In The Sky throughout 2015 - Blues legend BB. King - Motorhead drummer Phil Taylor - Gary Richrath, lead guitarist and songwriter for REO Speedwagon - Prog rock bassist with Yes Chris Squire - Hot Chocolate lead singer Errol Brown - Visage lead singer Steve Strange - Legendary New Orleans musician and composer Allen Toussaint - And finally 'Lemmy' of Motorhead "Born to Loose, Lived To Win".

I can imagine the Supergroup those fellas have lined up beyond the clouds.

Have a great musical 2016,

Pat Kearney  
 Producer / Presenter  
 The Album Show

