

MUSIC  GAVIN MARTIN

**ALBUMS**



**BUDDY MILLER**  
**The Majestic Silver Strings** ★★★★★  
Nashville heavyweight and recent Robert Plant guitarist Miller corrals expert axemen Marc Ribot and Bill

Frisell and a host of female vocalists for an album of gleeful invention. Saddle up.

**THE UNTHANKS**

**Last** ★★★★★  
These Northumberland treasures were Mercury nominated last year where loud and rude bankers drowned out their live performance. A few weeks later the banks crashed, but The Unthanks went from strength to strength. This beautifully layered, mysterious and beguiling fourth album should pay dividends.



**J MASCIS**

**Several Shades Of Why** ★★★★★  
There's charm to spare in the Dinosaur Jr man's acoustic debut. The absence of the piledriving electric riffs for which his band are famous allows Mr Mascis's curious but captivating voice and tender, ruminative songs to roll wide and free. Lovely.

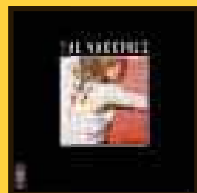


**THE  
NAKED AND  
FAMOUS****Passive Me, Aggressive You ★★**

The synth and bover beat-boosted Kiwis' debut is a mixed blessing. It's impressive when expanding on the day-glo pulsating passion plays of MGMT, but blunderbuss guitar overload and ill-advised techno noodling often upends their candy-coloured pop. As they no doubt intended, sadly.

**Noodle doodle****OSH T  
PEARSON****Last Of The Country  
Gentlemen ★★★★★**

After a decade in the wilderness, JT's solo debut is a bleak, chilled-to-the-marrow break-up album documenting a heart and soul in torment. The acoustic guitar and violin settings ensure the emotionally unbounded songs attain real depth. Compelling.

**THE  
VACCINES  
What Did You  
Expect From The  
Vaccines? ★★★**

Meet this year's rock band most likely to secure an advanced diploma in reverberating Jesus And Mary Chain-style production. A drizzle of Morrissey meets The Strokes melancholia completes a comprehensive but glumly unoriginal gameplan.

