



Music in Review

CDs rated on
a five star
rating system

Autechre *trirepetae:*

The "CD in the Gold Case." That was what I dubbed this CD while I reviewed it... To be honest, I chose to review this CD on a dare... Incidentally, I was able to discern (after careful scrutinising) that the name of the band and album are as written above.

This two CD set was really strange. It was really nothing more than 18 tracks of strange noises and static... it was... weird...

I was amazed at the mental imagery the various noises would provoke in me... strange alien worlds, exotic dancing, bizarre alien ritual, etc... Also, I am under the impression that perhaps this CD contains some form of hypnotic suggestion, or subliminal message... "When you hear the word..." as upon completion of all the tracks, I felt really fazed out... So fazed out in fact, that I was unable to locate the washroom at Empire Theatre (a place I frequent) without much assistance from my girlfriend.

This album I give 2 stars out of a possible 5 -- hey, it made me laugh... I really don't have any advice for Autechre... I'm just going to smile and nod, OK?

- Michael J. Small

Bush X *Razorblade Suitcase* (Trauma/ MCA)

Heavy guitar and brooding songs, all written and sung by Gavin Rossdale are packed into Bush X's latest album, *Razorblade Suitcase*. The album name comes from a line in "Synapse" Razorblade suitcase/ all the tricks of the trade/ favourite ways you can lose/ favourite ways you can hate. All the songs on the album have similar lyrics--dark, cryptic and mysterious, swathed in hard-edged guitar. The most outstanding track on the album is, no doubt, "Swallowed". Unless you live in a cave with no cable, you've caught the video on Muchmusic, as well as the crazy epic video for "Gredy Fly". However, they are not the only good songs on the cd. "Distant Voices" and "Straight No Chaser" are mellow little tunes. "Bonedrive" is a solo Gavin track with very original string backup. A few other songs use unique string accompaniments which add a twist to the sound.

I have heard some say that this album isn't as good as their previous release *Sixteen Stone*. Since the only songs I know really well from that album are "Glycerine" and "Machinehead", I can't adequately compare the two. But if you like Bush X's style, *Razorblade Suitcase* will grow on you, so I'd suggest giving it a try.

Rating: ***1/2

- Emilie Adams

Sara Craig *Miss Rocket* (Attic)

Sara Craig's newest release "Miss Rocket" is an unusual combination of odd percussion effects, interesting vocals and downright bizarre lyrics. These, however, do not detract from the overall appeal of this CD. Beginning with "Mister Right", Sara draws in her audience with a slow dance beat that has a calming effect... great for if you want to have some non-distracting music for while you are studying. The overall "feel" of the song is reminiscent of Alanis Morissette meets Jann Arden. The second track "My Sky Too" has the same feel as the first, but at least its lyrics make sense: "...you think you're better than me / Maybe you're right / ...but your sky is my sky too." The title track "Miss Rocket" has Sara's distinctive lyrics, but with a Pet Shop Boys sound.

The music might not be the greatest asset of this release, however, its saving grace lies in its intriguing multimedia program. Overall, the program was done very well. You can catch a glimpse of Sara's life when she is not on the stage, and you can see parts of her studio life. Take a look at some of her artwork, and find out what those rockets do when you click on them... each one has a story.

For the most part, "Miss Rocket" was a good CD, despite its bizarre qualities. The multimedia program is definitely worth checking out, but as for listening to it... well, Sara's voice can get annoying after the first twenty minutes or so. I give it 3 stars out of 5.

- Crystal D. Crossan

Silverchair *Freak Show* (murmur/ Sony Music)

I was drawn to *Freak show*, Silverchair's follow-up to their debut album *Frogstomp*, because of "Abuse Me" which is a really cool song. Unfortunately, it is probably the only really good track on the disc. *Freak Show* is a very heavy album for the most part, not something you'd listen to to put you in a happy mood, that's for sure. Silverchair are a heavy rock band, but I think they sound best when they get a little tamer. Maybe vocalist Daniel John's voice is too young to get all surly and growly like he tries to. Their music certainly shows influences from heavy metal bands--listening to this disc reminds me of Metallica's heavy handed power chords (I believe palm-muted is actually the correct term).

I liked "Abuse Me" as soon as I heard it because of the outerspace kinda sounds throughout the song. (Oh, the marvel of disortion pedals!) Some other good songs are "The Closing" and "Pop Song for Us Rejects" which are both on the tame side. I also liked "Cemetery". Although the lyrics are depressing, as the title suggests, it's almost pretty because of the string arrangement weaved into the song. For the most part, the album isn't bad, just not what I expected. If you like Silverchair, than you probably already own the CD. If not, well then, you probably don't.

Rating: ***

- Emilie Adams