

REVIEWS

Morning Put-On, a collection of popular jazz standards, focusing primarily on mid-century staples penned by the likes of Cole Porter, Duke Ellington and songwriting duos like Lerner & Loewe and Rodgers & Hart. The new album even includes a nod to Reinhardt with a cover of John Lewis' "Django," although the album doesn't reach for the frenzy of those early Bowl of Fire records, opting instead to pay tribute to a more subdued, Sunday-morning form of vocal-led jazz that brings to mind icons like Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Nat King Cole and Chet Baker. Bird and company deftly put their own touch on the nine cover tracks but refrain from adding too many frills, letting the classic tunes largely speak for themselves. The group kicks off with a slinky rendition of Rodgers & Hart's "I Didn't Know What Time It Was" before Poor's meticulous drumming launches them into Ellington's "Caravan." Pianist **Larry Goldings** and guitarist **Jeff Parker** also lend their talents to various tracks: Goldings' keys underscore Bird's smooth vocals and violin solo in "I Fall in Love Too Easily," while Parker gets a turn to share the spotlight with the bandleader during improvisational tradeoffs in "I Cover the Waterfront." To close out, Bird presents the sprawling, nine-minute, multi-part instrumental "Ballon de peut-être," which gives the virtuoso ample opportunity to showcase his always-spectacular violin chops.

Matt Inman

Alex Jordan

Queen Kerosene ANDY LOGAN



Queen Kerosene finds Bay Area native **Alex Jordan** traversing the spectrum of American roots music, from

rhythm and blues to piano ballads, horn-heavy soul and over-driven guitar rock. Produced by **Steve Berlin**, who is best known as a 40-plus-year-member of Los Lobos, the album primarily consists of live musical takes that capture the energy and interplay between Jordan and the crack team of Austin, Texas-based players who serve as his backing band. These musicians flesh out Jordan's piano, guitars and organs with lush woodwinds and brass, ethereal lap steel, and rollicking fiddle and accordion—all of which are expertly mixed by **Jim Scott**, the Grammy-winning audio engineer known for his work with Wilco and Tedeschi Trucks Band, as well as his contributions to Tom Petty's *Wildflowers* and Santana's *Supernatural*. The album opens with the title track, an electric guitar-led tale of a whirlwind relationship that left Jordan stranded, yet somehow more at peace than before his failed romance. Next, Jordan and company deliver a crunchier take

on The Jayhawks' "Blue," the set's only cover, which maintains a lyrical through line that continues with the album's second single "Emily," an ode to a kindred spirit. The rest of the set's varied tempos and styles convey a sense of movement that, in many ways, dovetails with Jordan's own evolution as an artist. During the album closer, the bouncy, funky "Saving Grace," Jordan pleads that he's just trying to fit in; with *Queen Kerosene*, he's doing just that.

Matt Hoffman

New Orleans Klezmer All Stars

Tipish SELF-RELEASED



The Yiddish word *tipish* is related to the German *typisch*, meaning typical, a curious choice considering this

group—coming up on their three-decade anniversary of bringing to the world a whole lotta *naches* (happiness)—is as atypical as can be. Klezmer is an ancient, culturally significant song form, a centuries-old style of Jewish folk music that some practitioners choose to play in its traditional, usually instrumental form, and others through the years have sought to update and customize.

New Orleans Klezmer All Stars put their own stamp on it, going the instrumental route but taking it far afield from what one might have encountered in Eastern Europe in the music's formative years. Infused with elements of big-band music, free jazz, Crescent City funk, rock, blues, African rhythms (the nearly 10-minute "King Fela's Chicken Soup" is a standout track) and whatever else falls into the stew pot, *Tipish*, the band's first studio album in nearly a decade, tosses out one surprising twist after another. That in itself is not unexpected, considering these are musicians whose credits tend toward names like Trombone Shorty and Galactic. But where they go with this music, seven of nine songs original compositions, is a sheer delight—from edgy dance music (the back-to-back tracks "The Detox Hora" and "Another Hora for Hartman") to the experimental ("Conference of the Jews") there is nothing typical to be heard.

Jeff Tamarkin

Bat for Lashes

The Dream of Delphi MERCURY XX



There are no shortage of songs about welcoming a son or daughter into the world, but less often is childbirth written about as a manifestation of the spiritual into the physical. And, of the endless voices to illustrate the mystery and the magic of creating life, you couldn't do much better than **Natasha Khan**, who is best known as **Bat for Lashes**. The singer-songwriter-producer has

THE DEBUT ALBUM FROM THE NOW TOO HOT TO HANDLE



"An incredible album. 9.5/10"

Overtone Magazine

"It's everything that modern pop/punk/rock should be. 10/10"

Jace Media Music

"With a debut of this calibre, the band are going places."

Rock Radio UK

"One of the best debuts in the past decade."

Metal Talk

"A vibrant and hugely dynamic debut album.

Predicted to be the next 'big thing' to come out of Wales"

Metaplanet Music

"The 11-track album is a fine collection of riffs, melody, and craft"

ERB Magazine

Available on all digital platforms

Physical Vinyl and CD copies from Amazon, Bandcamp and direct from

thenowuk.com/shop

thenowuk.com

Produced By Oli Jacobs

TREW MUSIC

MATEEL COMMUNITY CENTER & HOT MILK ENT. PRESENT THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY

REGGAE ON THE RIVER

AUGUST 2ND 3RD 4TH 2024 IN HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CA

ANTHONY B **KONSHEN** **CAPLET4N** **COLLIE BUDDZ**
STYLOG **DEMARCO** **L'ENTOURLOOP** **SKAZZA MUCCI** **LIA IKE**
1ST U.S. PERFORMANCE 1ST U.S. PERFORMANCE WOOL SOUND

LUTAN FYAH • **CHUCK FENDA** • **SISTER NANCY** • **CHEZIDEK**
MARLON ASHER • **PRESSURE BUSSPIPE** • **PERFECT GIDDIMANI**
NATTALI RIZE • **BAY-C** • **KYCLONE** • **CHICO** • **BOBBY HUSTLE**
MYSTIC ROOTS BAND • **ARKAINGELLE** • **ISHI DUBE** • **TOPSHELF** • **SOULMEDIC**
KAILASH • **TUFF LIKE IRON** • **REGGAE ANGELS** • **ROCKER-T** • **SOUL SKA BAND**
TROPICALI CREW • **LAKE ANTHONY** • **PAAPA WASTIK** • **SILFE** • **CHECKERED PAST** • **MC RADIOACTIVE**
MISTA CHIEF • **RIISING SIGNS** • **ELI FOWLER** • **MIKASUN** • **BINGHI GHOST** • **COLLECTIVE ELLEMENTS**
BLUE LUKE'S DUB ROCK FT. • **MEAN GENE** • **STEVIE CULTURE** • **MIKE MARSHALL**
DUB PROPULSION ARTIST SHOWCASE FT. • **TANASA RAS** • **PRINCE LEVY** • **RAS GABRIEL**
JOEY ROOTS • **LION ISSACHAR** • **XEDOUS** • **KYLA ROSE** • **KEITH BATLIN**
KING ADDIES • **KILLAMANJARO SOUND** PLUS 35 MORE DJS AND WEST COAST SOUNDS

KINGS & DYNAMO
VS
THE EARTH VS RENAISSANCE
SOUNDCLASH **HEAVY HAMMER**



TICKETS AVAILABLE @ WWW.REGGAEONTRIVER.COM