Band/Artist: Escher’s Enigma
Album: From me and There

Reverbnation: http://www.reverbnation.com/eschersenigma

About the Artist: Escher’s Enigma (Brian Miller) has been writing, recording, and performing since the age of 13. In high school he was the lead guitarist and songwriter for Semi Crazi, an arena rock originals band. At 18 he was discovered by Angelo LoGalbo of Toy Box Heroes in Buffalo, NY and played rhythm/lead guitar with them from 2006-2009 in many of Buffalo’s most popular rock venues. Simultaneously, from 2006-2008 Brian was the lead guitarist and songwriter for Oneonta, NY original rock band Moosen. Since 2008 he has been gigging as a solo acoustic act. In 2012 he returned to his love of audio engineering in order to capture new original music with his father. Their latest EP entitled From me and There was released in 2013. I have to say I was extremely impressed with the opening 3 tracks “Choice”, “Drowning in Time” and “Ideally” All 3 songs made quite the first impression on me as each one possessed my full unadulterated attention. The whole EP is wonderfully conservative yet full of what I would call powerful melodic energy with music that appeals to so many different senses on so many different levels. It reminds me of Death Cab for Cutie, Great Big Sea, Ben Folds, Guster and Justin Coulton. What I really like about Escher’s Enigma is his musical intellect via amazing lyrically simple yet really hit home with the common everyday person. There’s also no attempt to sugar coat the truth or deliver what I call over the top alt rock. Hooky music with a handsome face via top flight sampling, cookie cutter songwriting via a mix that sounds more like a commercial than a piece of music. Weather it’s musically, lyrically, inspirationally, emotionally, spiritually – Escher’s Enigma keeps it real and covers it all. My Favorite track is probably Choice. From me and There by Escher’s Enigma will affirm your faith in Alt-Pop again. The Miller’s (father son duo) are a unique, hard working artist that knows their way around a studio, and a catchy song. They represents all that is good in music and his latest EP “From me and There A Disposable Life” delivers a highly passionate, instinctually zany, and stimulating catalog of music via rock solid musicianship, entertaining songs and music that covers all the bases: Alternative Rock, Punk and Indy Rock.

Final Rating: 4/5 Stars

Purchase Link: https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/from-me-to-there-ep/id691200890

Review comments to: marktheshark972@gmail.com

The Bend – She’s Evil (EP)
Let's be honest for just a second shall we. I get a lot of albums sent my way for review and I mean a lot. Most of them don't do anything for me. They don't always get happily placed in the CD player, but the ones that do usually get a three song stay of execution and generally if they last past that they get my full unadulterated attention. Sometimes I'm hooked from the first track, and that's precisely what happened when I put the latest release by Seattle based band The Bend. The EP bursts to life with the fantastic rocked out sound and follows through with a wonderful sequence of songs, five of them to be exact. It twists and turns the way great albums should with a little bit of rock, a little bit of high octane driven soul and a lot of harmonic goodness. I really like to song line up – the way each song masterfully transitions through to the next creating much in the way of drama. So many bands and record labels get this basic skill so wrong. They fail to listen to the songs at their disposal and seemingly throw the album together without giving it any real thought. I've known people who work to formulas making sure that their best songs start and finish the album with the remaining tracks squeezed between in a slapdash fashion. That's not the case with The Bend and their latest EP “She's Evil” in fact each track could probably survive on its own merits, but the album just flows so well. The Bend could easily heralded as classic sounding rock but there is so much more to them. I hear Tonic, Five for Fighting, The Verve Pipe, and dash of Pearl Jam. I can also hear Masters of Reality, Arctic Monkeys and The Dead Weather. Some pieces stand out like the more appealing to a mass audience “Divider” and “Empress” but there is a deeper and sharper edge to songs like "She’s Evil" which is my favourite track on the EP by the way. The strategic interweaving of systemic melody and impressive vocal performances from Jenkins is a delight, but the solid rhythmical foundation of this band is essential to their artistic and commercial potential. The sound is that of the golden era of popular music in the Eighties and the Nineties when musicianship mattered! But the beauty of this record is the use of all mod-cons forcing The Bend's strong relevance into the modern world. The band should achieve good support from radio and appear to be critical darlings of Seattle, but I am left bemused how they are not yet a household name. It's not a case of all the elements being present but the final product being missing as the songs, the musicianship, the production, and the performance all knit together beautifully—even brilliantly. Maybe I'm lucky enough to be in on the ground floor? Maybe things are just about to kick on for these guys? Whatever it is make sure you get hold of this EP called "She’s Evil" by The Bend is a must have and in the class of al by itself.

Rating — 8.5/10

RHAPSODY – [Link to Rhapsody](http://www.rhapsody.com/#artist/the-bend/album/shes-evil/track/shes-evil)

Jennifer Hertzler edited by Michael Rand
Send review comments to — therandbrand@gmail.com
Love Jupiter is a single member band from Quebec Canada. This might just be the perfect locale to explore the witty realm of musical expression. Their latest self titled album is a somewhat bright-witty-melancholy but danceable collection of melodic rock that reveals all the a-typical conventions of alt-rock, creating a solid yet catchy album. Jupiter in Velvet is comprised of one singer/guitarist who calls himself just that: His sound is one that embraces the passion and feral energy of such post-punk heavies as Sonic Youth, Fugazi and The Afghan Whigs while looking into the Heavens and hitching their rockets to such ethereal bodies as Cocteau Twins and My Bloody Valentine. In this way, they tell their stories of love, loss, favor and fury against an epic, cosmic backdrop. The result is both Heavy and Beautiful; rock and roll, re-imagined, and reinvigorated. On this you’ll hear Jupiter in Velvet’s impressive writing and singing that lets it all hang out. He’s a very impressive talent, and also grants one rare access to peer into the tormented soul of a quintessential artist – from his dynamic perspective. He is a marquee talent from North of the border. The first title track is an explosive/impressive kickoff statement. It does a great job of starting things off and gets one amped up for that’s ahead. Which in itself presents a stunning 14 track line-up. As the CD slowly runs the gamut it has much to offer in the way of melodic music, hard hitting guitars and captivating vocal. The off the wall messages are brilliant. Musical comparables include bands like The Mindless Self Indulgence, Sum 41, Electric Six, and Beck. I can also hear Modest Mouse, Foals, Alex Turner and Cage the Elephant. One cannot help but admire artists with strong songwriting skills and truthful conviction all the while demonstrating a strong a level of creativity. One senses a growing ambition as this album advances. Jupiter in Velvet’s appealing sound, hot to the touch playing and writing style hit the mark with intellectually stimulating lyrics providing a very real and powerful source of inspiration. This is one of those bands not afraid to put his toe into the Psychedelic side of the pool and really push the limits. Just listen to “Ice Queen”, “Drops of Love” and “Make Out” to see what I’m talking about. The musicianship pulls out all the stops, and the overall production value tows the line. All in all a great set of songs. This guy is a capable writer and player. Notable standout songs for me include: “The Deeper Side” “Ice Queen” and the title track. If you want a zany-eccentric-shock to the system via a hard rocking staple there’s something on this record for you. Obviously many out there will identify with Jupiter in Velvet. Some of this plays into favorable marketability. If these guys have a great live they show that would be a deadly combination. Some pieces present more modern sounding overtones but despite the flavor there are still traditional Alternative Rock textures from earlier eras. If The White Stripes would have collaborated with The Strokes it may have sounded a lot like this. This is a compliment of the highest order. This is really what makes Jupiter in velvet so enticing to me personally. In this aspect this guy deliver 14 tantalizing performances with a rocked out energy that is electrifying.

Final Rating: 8/10


Review comments: johnmccall964@gmail.com
Wooden Hez – The Hez Garage
Rating – 2/5 Stars
URL: http://www.woodenhez.com/

As a music fans aficionado who’s strictly a voyeur, a writer who’s never played a lick or tried to fit different musical components together into a cohesive whole, I’m intrigued by the idea of a centerpiece band member like Dave Pitone playing in a 3 piece band called Wooden Hez. This surging Philadelphia based band is somewhat of a musical force. As if releasing a double CD (both a music and video) isn’t enough, Timmay Stevens (Drums), Alan Lee (Bass), and Dave Pitone (Guitar) prove persistence pays off. Wooden Hez has managed to hit a home run with this, their latest release. The Hez Garage is a masterpiece of simplicity proving again that good Alternative Rock need not be taken too seriously – but never to be taken to lightly. Wooden Hez achieves their own distinctive voice in significant part by featuring the unique guitar/voice combination at the core of all these songs. At the same time with all of the expanded tonal ranges and expressiveness that 3 instruments can dish out – making for a unique sonic experience altogether. The ultimate beauty of this collection, though, is in the way Pitone so weaves his ever lamenting battle cry in and out of the foreground of these tracks, playing a mostly supporting role on numbers like “Reckoning” and somewhat brilliant “Rock Star”. Then taking the spotlight on more straight forward “Punk Rock Jack (demo) and more explosive “Just Sacrifices”. Wooden Hez clearly feels equally as comfortable powering through the modern alt-rock grooves of the former as tiptoeing through the more contemplative, sonic alternative punk contrails of the latter. On Track 5 “Take Them There” Wooden Hez finds the seam between the two approaches, delivering a steady interlude of music in the midst of musical chaos making for a sizzling little number. Much of the songs unfold in similar fashion as Wooden Hez alternates solo/duo meditative moments with deftly executed, often-challenging rocked out syncopation. They are all quite the writers and players. Wooden Hez reminds me of: Dirty Pretty Things, Oasis, Editors, The Kooks, The Black Keys, Muse, Interpol and White Lies. Vocally Pitone has a Billy Corgan tonality. The common thread throughout all of these pieces is Pitone and his adventurous playing and open microphone musical vision. Via this angle “The Hez Garage” courageously explores the boundaries between modern alt-rock and clever high energy punk with uncommon subtlety and fumbled grace.

Review comments: indiemindymccall@gmail.com
Love Jupiter – releases debut CD
URL: http://www.lovejupiter.com

5 member Brooklyn based band Love Jupiter just dropped their latest CD entitled “Love Jupiter” in 2013. Band consists of: Matt Adamec – Vocals, Bass, Michael “Chickie” Ciulla – Vocals, Guitar, Bob DeRienzo – Drums and Mark Goetz – Vocals, Guitar. To say the least the music on this CD is as unique as the band itself. Love Jupiter is a sensational, eccentric and great sounding CD. I like the way things kick off. Immediately with Track 1 “Everything is All Right.” It delivers a really psychedelic guitars and overall sound with some amazing vocals and superfluous melodic touches here and there that really bring a special touch to the song. Right away I can hear bands like The Vines, Velvet Underground, The Hives, Klaxons, The Subways and even The Killers. Track 2 and 3 “I Told you so” and “History” really give you the impression as if you’re listening to a 70’s band with a more modern-day twist. The musical flow of both tracks are eccentric, bold and will push you hard. Not just musically but also lyrically. I get the impression these lads are real risk takers with their music. Despite this they manage to somehow stay within the fairway of marketability but definitely push boundaries. These are compliments by the way. The musicianship follows down the same path offering up much in the way of a 5 piece rock band. Built on frenzious, harmonic notes that are plucked from the heavens, and as passionate, provocative narratives unfold. Telling ordinary tales of extraordinary things, Love Jupiter connects us to the universal power and emotional rawness of love, loss, favor and fury. The result is potent and mesmerizing. Heavy, Beautiful. Playing live, Love Jupiter unleashes its cosmic fury and induces the same in their audience. From beginning to end this CD keeps the same party mood while maintaining a mysterious funked-out feel. As for Adamec vocally he delivers emotionally invigorating performance that will reminds you of a modern day David Bowie or even Tom Waits. His high pitch, sexy vocals blends with the great guitar riffs and musical ambience well. Criticism: I wouldn’t recommend all tracks on their next release be this exotic and over the top. In conclusion, this is one release that will bring back memories of a not so distant age where good rock music rocked the airwaves and possessed a more organic and simplistic feel. All the while inspiring people with amazing artistic energy to get people thinking, singing, dancing and even helped them forget their troubles. To me Love Jupiter was a drug. It’s hard, it’s heavy, it’s rock and roll, re-imagined and reinvigorated. It’s Love Jupiter.

Final Score: 9/10 Stars

LAST FM: http://www.last.fm/music/Love+Jupiter

Review comments: johnmccall964@gmail.com

The Como Brothers Band – Baby Steps
Albums: Reviews // 0 Comments
Baby Steps is only the second full length album from New York based duo The Como Brothers Band, but Andrew and Matt Como sound like they've been at it for far longer than the few short years they've been alive. Although growing up in a family who adores music and has a rich history of jamming at parties with friends and brethren alike can have a profound effect on the children who bear witness and can either steer the impressionable mind headlong into further creation or further away from it. Thank goodness the Como brothers went the way of music because the stuff they have in them is excellent and Baby Steps is a testament to the influence that surrounded them as well as an honest to God love of what they do.

Sound wise The Como Brothers Band are not only well and able to touch upon a contemporary vibe but they also hit up bluesy folk along with some rock to keep things edgy. I'm even willing to bet that they could pen a damned fine Christmas album if they wanted to, and it is this reaching out to a ton of genres with a classy and respectful nod that makes this album a cool little package.

"Gotta Be True" kicks off the album in tight fashion, showcasing a bit of a bluesy vibe with some bright horns and a backing organ that adds a warm fuzzy quality. "Only Me" and "Make a Move" are gems that show just how good these guys are at writing and performing punchy pop songs that I could easily see catching radio play while pristine smokey tunes like “Late Nights” will have you reeling and rocking and wondering where this duo came from.

That answer is quite simple, straight from the heart. With a diversity that rings of sheer talent the Como Brothers Band undeniably have put a little class back into the musical landscape with Baby Steps, and this is a very welcome gift in this day and age.

~ Nathan Pike

Video for Late Nights: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYGZwuLIEE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYGZwuLIEE)

Bandcamp/purchase: [http://comobrothersband.bandcamp.com/album/baby-steps](http://comobrothersband.bandcamp.com/album/baby-steps)

Website: [http://www.comobrothersband.com/](http://www.comobrothersband.com/)

David Gelman “Undertow”

Artist: David Gelman
CD: Undertow
Genre: Jam Band, Blues-Rock, Pop, Singer-Songwriter

URL: [http://gelmanmusic.com/](http://gelmanmusic.com/)

From the big apple comes Alternative Singer/Songwriter David Gelman who just released his latest effort (Undertow) in 2013. Many of you are already aware how fickle this industry is. Right from the start it might be easy to just categorize Gelman as some straight ahead old school pop rocker, and write him off as the newest trending thing up in New York. It wouldn’t be wise, though. Sure, if you listen to some of his more catchy tunes within this 12 song line-up (Undertow), (Sail Away with Me) and (Silver Dollar) that’s the impression one might get. However there is a method to his madness. There are some really good songs on “Undertow” that not only have substance but step outside the traditional “flash in the pan” modern-day pop musical boundaries as well. Listen to “Take me to Babylon” for example to you will see exactly what I’m talking about. First: Gelman can play and sing like nobody’s business. His voice has an amazing warm and likebility factor. Second he recruited some really good musicians and production folk for this project as well. Thirdly Gelman has many years of experience and 2 albums to his credit. All of the above sure go against the grain of modern
“flash in the pan” pop and as a result really open up this fully loaded album. This is not Jason Mraz of Maroon 5 folks, it’s more like classic Harry Chapin, Ash Grunwald, Xavier Rudd, John Butler trio and Blue King Brown. The CD goes full circle covering a wide range of emotional subject matter as well. This enhances the listening experience rather than limit it for me. Gelman is obviously experienced at performing and writing powerful music, but it’s the combination of all of the above that makes him so deadly. I mean, there is nothing here that really seems all that original or fresh, or that’s already been done before. Perhaps that is why Gelman is in our players in the first place. Forgive me if I’m talking in circles – but some bands and artists can deliver music that’s pretty straight forward, conservative and painfully simple yet brilliant in scope. Bottom line: they make it look so easy. Furthermore in lieu of the amazing string of songs Gelman has delivered on “Undertow” it almost feels as if he’s on to something, well special. This latest release from Gelman is a one of a kind CD from a one of a kind artist that’s closely tied to classic pop, blues-rock-soul, but has a more modern light rock sound to it. Criticism: I love this CD but perhaps Gelman should put 5 or 6 more extremely positive, jumpy “shiny happy people” type tracks on here. CD sounds a bit sad, dreary and grey. Perhaps that’s his claim to fame, as some artists have made a name for themselves being this way. regardless David Gelman will please a wide range of musical personalities in the process. When this album runs its course over one walks away telling David Gelman is truly something special. After doing my research I highly recommend seeing this guy play live as well.

Rating: 3.5/5 Stars


Review comments: joshuabeach9@gmail.com

Jaded Mary drop EP

JADED MARY – Xposition (EP)

URL – http://jadedmary.com/


Overall Rating: 4/5

Jaded Mary is a musical project that hails from Seattle, WA. This 4 piece Alternative Hard Rock band have been making quite a name for themselves regionally. They have received critical acclaim from many music critics so far this year and are known for their amazing live performances. This “Xposition” EP is their latest (2012) and the result though far from a self-indulgent ego trip, rather a moving and elegiac artistic statement from start to finish. This is not your overly predictable Ramon Noodle Corporate Rock band folks. Instead Jaded Mary who are: Leif Wagner (drums), Jamal (bass), Tim Bertsch (guitar), David James (vocals) deliver a unique signature sound and could even be classed as a 3 genera band: Alternative Rock, Hard Rock and Progressive Melodic Rock. This is one Seattle band that can swim in the deep end of the pool with say Pearl Jam, Alice in Chains or even Soundgarden. Jaded Mary has way too much precision and clarity to live in the shadows of overly-predictable corporate Rock like Nekelback. Indeed this is clearly evident in songs like “Lines”, “Flood” and Bo Peep” which methodically ups the ante to a very respectable level of catchy musical craftsmanship and addictive hard rock that transcends typical pigeonholing. Maybe there’s a reason why this band is on our radar screen? The music is also commercially viable with that vintage soulful Seattle sound that we all love. The music is also fresh and not dated sounding via a hard-rocking vibe that holds the attention span of the listener perfectly. In a nutshell this is Temple of the Dog meets Pearl Jam. The 5 song line-up appeals to many listeners with a wide variety of musical styles – but it one hell of a ride with a powerful voice for Rock n Rollers out there who have had enough of the musical status quo. My Favorite track is probably: Flood. The strength of Jaded Mary is the fact that they uphold the amazing Seattle standard 100%. I would imagine in time we will hear more from this surging band in the near future via full length release. Seems a bit overdue seeing how this EP
was released in 2012. No doubt Jaded Mary have carved a marketable niche for themselves thus setting them up for even more marketable success as 2013 wraps up – beyond Seattle. I wouldn’t be surprised to hear them headlining the Warp Tour many years to come. But for now I can honestly say this is one artist that clearly gives you a musical snapshot that is highly original, and represents all the best Seattle rock has to offer.

Purchase Link: https://www.cdbaby.com/cd/jadedmary

by Michael Rand edited by Cyrus Rhodes
review comments: therandbrand@gmail.com

E Lafuentes releases E Magic

E Lafuentes release E Magic
URL: http://www.elafuentesmagic.com

Bronx based Heavy Metal rocker E Lafuentes seems to making all the right moves. Working with dozens of bands, artists and producers such as Pantheon and the Cannables, Laz Pina (Ill Nino, Shang Hi Fye, Broom Hellida) Dennis Bell(U2, Lenny Cravits) Johnny pyro Lafuentes (Eng, Ill Nino Sound Wars and Sound Method studios) to name a few. EF has cast his musical spell upon the world, inspired by all it’s music’s and peoples EF has forged forth in the world and continued to do what he does best...HEAVY METAL. Make no mistake about it: becoming a household name, for a guy like E Lafuentes is not about them as much it’s about launching a metal revolution. Being on a global platform would allow him to do so much good for the genera – and New York is the perfect launching pad. Straight away it’s clear this 12 track album called “E Magic” is an imaginative return to passion filled Classic Hard Rock fused with the better musical touches of today Progressive Heavy Metal and Electronica. E Lafuentes reminds me of Days of the New, Downface, Kyuss, and even Lamb of God. I can also hear Static-X, Marilyn Manson, John 5 and Wednesday 13. Today music has many people feeling of bit of soullessness – how appropriate I get a CD by a guy like E Lafuentes? This guys is a one man band kind of artist are clearly showcases experienced playing, writing and performing. The album begins in dark fashion with the magnificent ‘The Sun” which is a crisp raid on the senses, laden with hooks and impressive vocal front. The only surprise is that it wasn’t featured in a major motion picture. ‘Breath of God” follows and is a tripped out musical journey that with thunderous guitar solidifying what is in fact the best track on the CD. It’s a classic E Lafuentes number. ‘ENU” makes a great impression and is an exceptional Hard Rock piece showcasing E Fuentes exceptional playing styles as a tight knit single unit. I really like “EA Missions” priceless chorus and lyrics via a compelling vocal feel. In the end E Lafuentes is a real breath of fresh air and a shock to everyday musical system presently in place. In summary ‘E Lafuentes” unleashes everything on “E Magic” and is in itself a great album. Out of the whole album, a few songs are in the category of brilliant, 2 of them are good, and there are only 1 I’d find myself wanting to skip in rotation. I wouldn’t be surprised is E Fuentes continue to get more popular up in New York. New York is one of the best places for this style of music. It’s also one of the best locales to springboard a musical career from especially live. Need I day more – let get the revolution started.

Rating 8.5/10 Stars

Clay Burton edited by Heather Savage, Approved by Michael Rand.
Review comments – heathresavage5@gmail.com
Joe Farren
Open Skies (2013)

URL: http://www.joefarren.com/

Score – 9.5/10 Stars

This CD “Open Skies” by Florida based Joe Farren is sure to one day be remembered as one of the classic good timing Americana CD’s of recent time. Its pure rocking Americana-Country music the way it used to be, full of cautionary tales, whiskey drinkin’ and a passion for life on the road. All of this describes AMercana to a “T”, So who is Farren anyway? The Portland Press Herald declared him “a solid songwriter who draws on life experiences from both the interior and exterior vantage point.” His narrative lyrics and sincere performances offer an unobstructed view into the heart of an artist who embraces each moment. Farren grew up in Portland, Maine moved by the harmonies and rhythms of country, folk, rock and R&B luminaries like Hank Williams, Jr., Elton John, Jerry Lee Lewis and Bruce Springsteen. “Open Skies” will take you back to a simpler time, before people started airing their dirty laundry out on the Radio to dry. From beginning to end “Open Skies” lets it all hang out with catchy vibe, fun musical landscape full of power and happy go luck overtones. One thing that impressed me the most about this album/band is the sheer “good time rag” vibe one gets. There’s an Americana ambience that really sucks in the listener into Farren’s musical world – very professional. The instrumentation and tones give you that genuine feel of good music and writing from a generation ago. It also has a solid feel reminiscent of Country music popular in the early nineties as well. Farren reminds me of a modern day version of Whiskeytown, Jesse Malin, Justin Townes Earle, Wilco, Neal Casal, and Jason Isbell. All members in Farren’s band are solid musically. Kudos goes out to the amazing songwriting from Farren. I always said you can sell what you don’t believe in, here Farren captures Lighting in a Bottle that will ring true not only for older more experienced listeners but new ones as well. My favorite tracks are: “Who’s that Standing in My Shoes, American Dream, 21 Days and Get Ready. “Open Skies” wraps up a well rounded 11 track set that delivers an interesting cross section of classic Americana Folk-Rock, and Classic Country. Despite this it is accessible to modern day listeners as well. How is this possible? Only an experienced artist armed with an honest, genuine, sincere approach can pull it off, Farren is also backed up by some solid players, a solid production instinct via his brilliant musical mastermind. Need I say more?

REVERBNATION – http://www.reverbnation.com/joefarren

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