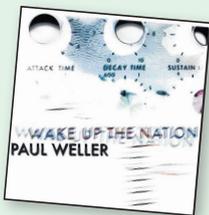


**PAUL WELLER**  
Wake Up The Nation (Island)

**MODFATHER** Paul Weller returned to the fore with his Brit winning album 22 Dreams two years ago and is back on familiar ground with Wake Up The Nation, his tenth solo studio album. Moonshine kicks things off with a bluesy riff, followed by the raw title track, both powered by the drums of our own Bev Bevan. Producer Simon Dine keeps the sound stripped and tight throughout, with the 16 tracks coming in just under 40 minutes. The album offers plenty to suggest that Weller's five-night residency at the Royal Albert Hall at the end of May should be a resounding success. JD



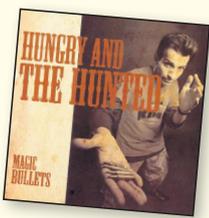
## album of the week

**HUNGRY AND THE HUNTED** Magic Bullets (Hunted)

**BORN** in Pakistan and raised on the tough streets of London's East End, Azam Khan has all the right rock'n'roll credentials. He's lean, mean and hungry for recognition.

He picked up plaudits as guitarist-singer of blues band Midnight Special, opening for Clapton, Weller & Co, but that wasn't enough. In the fallout from the 7/7 Tube bombings, like many moderate British Muslims, he felt like an outcast.

Khan's response was to channel his anger



and frustration into incendiary hard rock power trio Hungry And The Hunted, and the results are sensational.

Take no prisoner tracks such as This Time, Laughing At The Hurricane and Night Comes Crawling are The Clash by way of George Thorogood, blues-rock infused with post-punk energy and in your face attitude.

When Khan & Co slow things down, Stole My Breath is a song Rod Stewart would die for, and Heaven's Gate sounds like Squeeze on steroids.

Throughout, the lyrics speak of alienation rather than overt racism, anthems of the downtrodden who find themselves strangers on their own streets.

Out tomorrow, this is an essential buy. PC

**JOE BONAMASSA**  
Black Rock (Provogue)

**BLUES** rocker Joe Bonamassa showcases his skills on an eclectic set on which he pushes boundaries further than ever. Quarryman's Lament marries blues roots with Far Eastern instrumentation and a spine-tingling cover of Tim Hardin's Bird On A Wire opens with wailing Greek clarino before building guitar crunch. There's a joyous duet with BB King on Willie Nelson's Night Life, a stomp through Otis Rush standard Three Times A Fool, while Blue And Evil boasts the most pulverising riff since Led Zeppelin broke that levee. Catch him live at the NIA on May 31. PC



# Duke's DIY is extra special



**WHEN** you're a successful songwriter, how do you escape the unreasonable demands of record company bosses?

Belfast troubadour Peter Wilson, (or Duke Special as he's known to a growing army of followers) has come up with the answer.

Go it alone, and get the fans to pay for your next release – by pledging cash for goodies ranging from downloads to a personal gig.

"I offered a range of experiences, from writing one-off poems for people up to the most expensive thing – doing a gig at a fan's house," explains Wilson. "In the end we raised more than £52,000!"

The result: Not one, not two, but THREE albums released tomorrow

on the Duke's own record label.

A sublime set titled The Stage, A Book & The Silver Screen contains a trio of albums that chart-fixated major labels wouldn't have touched with a bargepole.

There's **Mother Courage And Her Children**, Wilson's music for the recent National Theatre production of the Brecht play inspired by Hitler's invasion of Poland.

There's the first airing ever of songs written by Kurt Weil for unfinished work **Huckleberry Finn**, about the adventures of the Mark Twain character.

But best is **The Silent World Of Hector Mann**, a remarkable album inspired by Paul Auster novel The Book Of Illusions.

"I first encountered actor Hector

Mann while reading the book," says Wilson. "I was immediately transported to an old world of train tracks, tramps, violins and films without dialogue.

"I was struck by the fact that he made only 12 silent movies which were brilliant but obscure. I took the titles of films, wrote a song called Mister Nobody based on one of them, and asked 11 of my favourite writers to co-write."

Among those who answered the call were Neil Hannon, Ed Harcourt, Ben Castle, Paul Pilot, Thomas Truax, and Rea Curran.

Musically set in the 1920s and 30s, the songs will appeal to everyone who has already fallen in love with Wilson's pop albums.

This is Duke Extra-Special. PC

## THE CHARTS TOP 10 ALBUMS

1. **SLASH** : Slash
2. **LADY GAGA** : The Fame
3. **BOYZONE** : Brother
4. **JUSTIN BIEBER** : My World
5. **GLEE CAST** : The Music Vol 2
6. **PAOLO NUTINI** : Sunny Side Up
7. **FLORENCE + THE MACHINE** : Lungs
8. **MUMFORD & SONS** : Sigh No More
9. **GLEE CAST** : The Music Vol 1
10. **DOVES** : The Places Between

## TOP 10 SINGLES

1. **SCOUTING FOR GIRLS** : This Ain't A Love Song
2. **LADY GAGA** : Telephone
3. **PLAN B** : She Said
4. **USHER** : OMG
5. **TINIE TEMPAH** : Pass Out
6. **JUSTIN BIEBER** : Baby
7. **RIHANNA** : Rude Boy
8. **TIMBALAND** : Carry Out
9. **INNA** : Hot
10. **JASON DERULO** : In My Head

● Chart compiled by HMV Birmingham

## bevan's heaven

**BBC WM**  
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**BARB JUNGR**

The Men I Love (Naim)

I HAVE been an admirer of jazz-folk singer Barb Jungr for some time now and have in my CD collection her albums Waterloo Sunset, Just Like A Woman (her tribute to Nina Simone) and her album of Bob Dylan songs, Every Grain Of Sand.

This new CD is essentially an American songbook collection of fine compositions from the 1960s and 70s. There are unique, moody and stylised versions of Neil Diamond's Red Red Wine and I'm A Believer.

There's Jim Webb's Wichita Lineman, Bruce Springsteen's The River, Todd Rundgren's I Saw The Light, Paul Simon's My Little Town, Bob Dylan's You Ain't Going Nowhere, David Byrne's Once In A Lifetime, Leonard Cohen's Night Comes On and David Gates Everything I Own.

There are also slowed down takes on old soul favourites Breaking Down The Walls Of Heartache and This Old Heart Of Mine.

Barb Jungr, with pianist Simon Wallace, is currently on tour together promoting this new album and received rave reviews from a three-week season at New York's premier cabaret room The Café Carlyle last year.

Catch her at the Lichfield Garrick theatre on Thursday July 1.

**LAURA LEE**

Women's Love Rights (Edsel)

THIS double-CD from Chicago soul singer and women's rights campaigner Lee includes three albums: Women's Love Rights, I Can't Make It Alone and The Two Sides Of.

They include her early 70s US hits Women's Love Rights, Love And Liberty, Since I Fell For You, Rip Off and If You Can Beat My Rockin' You Can Have My Chair, and bonus cuts.

● Read my blog at [www.sundaymercury.net](http://www.sundaymercury.net) and tune to WM from 2pm to 4pm Sundays.

**RUFUS WAINWRIGHT**  
All Days Are Nights (Polydor)

**RUFUS'** sixth studio set is a real solo effort – just singer and piano – but textured compositions of a near-theatrical quality make the absence of a full band almost unnoticeable. Tainted by sadness (it deals with the loss of his mother to cancer earlier this year) the resulting record is overbearingly dark. In fact, the sombre tone is only broken once by the punchy piano chords and upbeat lyrics of Give Me What I Want And Give It To Me Now! Still the stripped-back quality shines a light on the huge range of Wainwright's vocal and will no doubt be a hit with loyal fans. JD



**JOHN BUTLER TRIO**  
April Uprising (Because)

**DON'T** be misled by the name. A jazzier John Butler is certainly not. Huge down under but little known in the UK, his new album is packed with contrasting styles. There's radio rock (One Way Road), roots (Ragged Mile), Jack Johnson-style folk-pop (Gonna Be A Long Time), a Police clone (To Look Like You), old school rock and roll (C'mon Now) and singer-songwriter sensibilities (A Star Is Born). It's all perfectly played but you can have too much of a good thing and, at 17 songs long, it turns into a marathon. If you like Maroon 5, then OK, but be wary. PC



**SPARROW AND THE WORKSHOP**  
Crystals Fall (Distiller)

**THUNDEROUS** percussion opens this debut but dark folk-rock melodies turn stale as the tracks progress. The Glasgow trio show great promise with the feral welcome and creepy rhythm of eerie opener Into The Wild. Harmonies soar on the following songs and Jill O'Sullivan's skyward vocal can be startling at times. But the entire effort falls short of other folk exponents such as Fleet Foxes and Mumford & Sons. Delicate moments inspired by country waltzes and cowboy-style laments swoon, but the bafflingly named band fail to capture a masterful sound. JD



**JOSHUA RADIN**  
Simple Times (14th Floor)

**AMERICAN** singer Joshua Radin belatedly releases his second album in the UK, hoping to achieve the same recognition he enjoys back home. Fans of Jack Johnson will find Radin's whimsical pop appealing, while comparisons to James Taylor and Paul Simon, especially on We Are Okay, can also be drawn. It's not hard to see why Radin's songs have featured on TV shows such as 90210 and One Tree Hill, however, as it can get a bit schmaltzy. Sky (with a gentle nod to Ruby Tuesday) and You Got Growin' Up To Do are the stand-out tracks here. JD

