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Punk Hardcore Emo Ska news by Robert Molnar

PUNK IN BRIEF

As this year draws to a close, it's great to look forward to the New Year, with a heap of bands currently in the studio putting the final touches together for releases early next year. One such band is **The Get Up Kids** who are recording the follow up to 2002's *On A Wire*. Last month's Album Of The Month recipients **Fairweather** have announced that they are breaking up after completing their upcoming tour. The official statement can be read on their official website: www.fairweatherv.com. **Get Up Records** have recently signed a new band to their roster - **Tricity** - and have just released their debut EP. There will be an underage launch for the EP at Melbourne's Arthouse Hotel on 6th December, and also an 18+ GetUp Party @ Switch Nightclub in Melbourne on the same date. **Asian Man Records** present **Mike Park's** solo acoustic album *For The Love Of Music*. It is co-released with **SubCity Records**, and is an incredible album of well-written songs dealing with racism, politics and everyday life. **Lookout Records** will be releasing a new and insanely awesome version of **Green Day's** first album *39/Smooth* in January. This version has been re-mastered so it sounds better than ever. It also includes over 20 minutes of video, a live on air performance on a radio show, and original photos, flyers and lyrics sheets never before available. Well, that's all the punknews for 2003. Have a great new years eve, and don't forget to catch **Pennywise** on tour early next year!

DVD REVIEW

Vagrant Records: Another Year On The Screen

This is an excellent collection of music video clips of Vagrant bands, especially for fans of emo-pop. Bands like **The Get Up Kids**, **Alkaline Trio**, **Saves The Day** and **Dashboard Confessional** all have great clips on the DVD, and also an extra bonus is the behind the scenes footage of the "making of" each clip. A must have for Vagrant fans!



Album Of The Month

ANTI-FLAG
The Terror State
(Fat Wreck Chords/Shock)

At the forefront of political punkrock Anti-flag return with their 6th album, not even a year since their last release - making them one of the more prolific bands of the scene - and that's probably because their voice is so relevant to the war-torn times in which we exist. Almost in direct response to the war-on-terror and the Bush administration's handling of this issue, Anti-flag hit the mark with their anti-war anthems, and also bring to light a handful of related issues in their lyrics and liner notes. Also included is an artwork stencil of "One-Term President" Bush for dissemination in the form of flyer or poster.



New Punk Releases

THE BRONX
Self Titled (White Drugs/Shock)

The newest buzz on the LA rock scene, The Bronx are making it onto the hot lists in all the right places - including rock bible Rolling Stone - all barely within a year since their first show. On their debut album expect some filthy rock riffs, coarse vocals and blazing rhythm section - all recorded the way it would sound live. Think *Rocket From The Crypt* meets *Turbonegro* and you're heading in the right direction.

TAKING BACK SUNDAY

You're So Last Summer (Victory/Stomp)
Already doing huge things with their first album, Victory choose one of the best songs from it for the latest single. A deep bass line, sprinkles of guitar melodies, then exploding into a huge distortion drenched chorus, Taking Back Sunday are at the forefront of the emo-punk movement.

SAVES THE DAY
In Reverie (Vagrant/FMR)

Early in their formation Saves The Day were the quintessential emo-punk band - built on speedy emotional charged songs that formed the perfect blend of emo and pop-punk. But slowly the band

has been finding their own sound, and it is a sound seeped in musical reference to the classic pop songwriting of The Beatles, The Byrds, The Beach Boys - and the introduction of a variety of instrumentation: piano, organ, mellotron. STD have taken a whole new direction, one that is miles from their punk/emo roots.

MATCHBOOK ROMANCE
Stories And Alibis (Epitaph/Shock)

Somewhere inbetween a pop-punk-emo-hardcore aesthetic, Matchbox Romance blend these styles to form their own, and it's very much an assortment of songs and sounds. Discovered over the internet by Epitaph's Brett Gurewitz, their debut album follows the *West For Wishing* EP, and it contains everything from acoustic tracks to searing screamo anthems.

GLASSEATER
Everything Is Beautiful When You Don't Look Down (Victory/Stomp)

Glasseater's new album is more melodic than on previous outings, particularly on opener *Greetings... Goodbye*, but as always, there's a darker, harder edge looming just around the corner. A nice compromise between the genre's of punk, metal and emo.

PAINT IT BLACK
CVA (Jade Tree/Shock)

Cementing hardcore history with their previous outfits Lifetime and Kid Dynamite, Dan Yemin and Dave Wagenshutz (Good Riddance) are back together in Paint It Black. Carving the hardcore sounds as uncompromising as ever, PIB deliver their first full length with the aggression you'd expect by now.

THINK TANK
Rules For Revolution (Architecture Label)

This Adelaide emo-punk band just gets better with each release. Snappy emo-pop songs with guitar melodies a-plenty, complemented by Darren Thompson's uplifting vocals. Recently having toured the UK, Think Tank are a band to catch next time they tour your area.

STRIKE ANYWHERE
Exit English (Jade Tree/Shock)

Recent visitors to our shores, Strike Anywhere put together a sonically charged second full-length, full of socio-political and also personal penned tunes with the compulsion they are known for.

BEST OF PUNK 2003

Best Punk Album: RUFIO - 1985
Best Punk EP: FOR AMUSEMENT ONLY - One For The Team
Best Political Punk Album: ANTI-FLAG - The Terror State
Best Emo Album: DASHBOARD CONFESSIONAL - A Mark, A Mission...
Best Hardcore Album: BETWEEN THE BURIED & ME - The Silent Circus
Best Live Show: JIMMY EAT WORLD - HiFi Bar, Melbourne
Best Punk DVD: VAGRANT RECORDS - Another Year On The Screen

And Thanks...

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Progressive Music and Beyond

A discussion with Ivan Bertolla

Lead Guitar Techniques "Economical Sequences in Minor Pentatonic"

Here is the start of some lead guitar techniques that I have been promising for a while now. I would say that out of all the adventurous guitar solo techniques of the 80s the technique of playing "sequences" are still the most fresh sounding and come across as being less dated. If you hear people doing right hand tapping or playing those classical arpeggios it sounds very dated. But guitarists like me will always love to play them. But using sequences in a variety of ways still remain fresh sounding. The term "sequence" in music of course is nothing new it dates back to early classical music. If you play a repetitive pattern whether its 3, 4, or 5 notes it is defined as a sequence. Of course the possibilities are endless on how to make sequences sound interesting. If you slightly palm mute the right hand as you play the sequence pattern below then it can sound rather venomous and staccato. The sound is completely different if you play this pattern more loosely in a legato way. The below is a modal sequence in G minor pentatonic.

Musical notation for a lead guitar sequence in G minor pentatonic. It includes a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, a tempo marking of =120, and a guitar tablature below with fret numbers (12, 10, 12, 10, 12, 10, 12, 10, 15, 12, 15, 12, 15, 12, 15, 12). Picking motions are indicated by symbols like 'v' and '^'.

So lets look at a few economical ways of playing this. As you all know I have always tried to tell you to play in the most efficient way possible. Always try and use "strum" techniques when playing to eliminate extra work for the right hand. The great thing about playing sequences in the minor pentatonic scales is that you virtually strum up and down. In this 4 note sequence the picking is down/up/up/down for each group of 4 notes. When you play the sequences in succession you will realise that what you are doing is a simple strum down and a strum up. Try it and see, you will be amazed. How easy does that sound??

For you players who just do alternate picking it will take a lot getting used to but then you will be shocked to see how easy it gets. It does involve a lot of practice and control. But becomes easy after a while just like sweep picking arpeggios.

Remember with your left hand your fingers would be best played this way. Beats 1 and 2 of bar ie (12-10) = ring and index fingers. Beats 3 and 4 of bar ie (15-12) = pinky and index fingers

Some exotic scales for you to play with

Below are some scales I like to play around with. If you do not understand the spelling and numbering system of the scales look back at previous articles of mine. In summary the major scale is (1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8). I would suggest playing this in C Major. Then you will have no sharps or flats. This should help you understanding the scales below. These fantastic ethnic scales might give you ideas on writing your own music whether it is a simple melody for a singer or part of some metal riff.

Algerian	12b34#45b67
Egyptian	1245b7
Hungarian Gypsy	12b3#45b67
Japanese	1b245b6
Javaneese	1b2b3456b7
Arabian	12b34#4#567

Until next month ..Have fun with this. Stay progressive!

Ivan Bertolla is a Melbourne based composer/producer/guitar instructor who has released his debut CD worldwide of cinematic music "Beyond The Skies Eternity". He runs Mastermind Productions and Macleod Guitar School and can be contacted at his web site www.bertolla.com