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Punk Hardcore Emo Ska news by Robert Molnar

PUNK IN BRIEF

Welcome to another big year of punk tours and releases! Big Day Out punters will be treated to a handsome dose of emo-core with a huge performance expected from Thursday later this month, along with side shows along the way. And, on the subject of touring festivals warpedtour.com has begun announcing bands that are being confirmed for the tour's 10-year anniversary trek – for those lucky enough to head over to the States for this awesome tour. Already on the bill are New Found Glory, Taking Back Sunday, Coheed and Cambria, Rise Against with many more to come. Blink 182 are to release a feature documentary DVD *Riding In Vans With Boys* following the exploits of an unknown band thrown onto to their 46-date Pop Disaster Tour. The DVD will include backstage footage and live performances. Guttermouth has left Epitaph and are currently considering Hopeless Records and Kung Fu Records as their new home. Guttermouth's new record is already done but now they are just looking for a label to release it on. At this point the album is still untitled and will have 16 songs. After nearly 13 years, 6 albums, and countless tours of the US and abroad, Face To Face is calling it quits. Although Face To Face has endured their share of lineup changes, the decision to split has nothing to do with creative or personal differences.



The (International) Noise Conspiracy have signed to American Recordings. American is part of Island / Def Jam and a member of the Universal Music Group. In the meantime, check out Dennis Lyxzen's semi-solo work in the form of *The Lost Patrol* and the new album *Songs About Running Away*.

Hot on the heels of their Australian tour Reel Big Fish have released a new DVD titled *Reel Big Fish - The Show Must Go Off! Volume 8 - Live At The House Of Blues*. It features extras like a band commentary, bonus footage, photo gallery and multi-angle options.



The Ataris are hoping to release the follow-up to their major-label debut *So Long, Astoria* later in the year. The band has written the music to twelve songs so far, and frontman Kris Roe plans to use January and early February to write the lyrics.

Book Review

HEGEMONY OR SURVIVAL

Noam Chomsky (\$24.95, Allen & Unwin)
Hugely important intellectual, and leader in contemporary activist thought, Noam Chomsky releases his first major new work in ten years, at a time where such dissection of the global political climate is not only crucial, but sought after by myriads of concerned individuals worldwide. In *Hegemony Or Survival*, Chomsky provides in alarming detail an account of how the United States has pursued a goal of global dominance for over half a century, which, if not re-addressed, could ultimately threaten our survival and the future of our species. In this essential text, the latest developments in global politics are discussed in relation to United States' policies and motives, as are the repercussions for everyone living on this

planet. For anyone with even a remote concern about the global state of affairs this is a must-read.

Album Of The Month

COHEED AND CAMBRIA

In Keeping Secrets Of Silent Earth:3 (Equal Vision/Stomp)

On one of the more interesting labels, this is one of the more interesting releases in terms of pushing the boundaries of genres. Like a tale from the dark side, Coheed And Cambria create dynamic and complex arrangements, haunting vocals; yet a canny sense of emo-pop is retained in their sound.

New Punk Releases

FROM ASHES RISE

Nightmares (Jade Tree)

Searing and unrelenting, From Ashes Rise carve out their third album of potent hardcore from the depths of Portland via Tennessee. Recorded at Studio Litho, where the likes of Deftones and Soundgarden have treaded, there are elements of each of those bands on *Nightmares*, all belted out with the unique FAR ferocity.

CATCH TWENTY TWO

Dinosaur Sounds (Victory/Stomp)

Three year since their last album, Catch 22 are back with their catchy concoction of ska, punk, soul, metal, motown and hardcore. A varied album with nods to everyone from Sublime to Weezer to James Brown, Catch 22 pull out the horns in all the right places and keep it all in a fun laid-back vibe.

T.S.O.L.

Divided We Stand (Nitro/Shock)

Reformed with all three living members in 1999, T.S.O.L. follow up 2001's *Disappear* with a powerful album that sways from hard-edged punk to dark groove-laden pieces layered with piano and synths. Dark and foreboding as ever, also check out frontman Jack Grisham's campaign for Governor of California at www.grishamforgovernor.com.

THE BUSINESS

Hardcore Hooligan (Burning Heart/Shock)

One of the true survivors of the British street punk scene - they formed in 1978 - this is their seventh album, and in true British style they devote an album to football, er, soccer in this part of the world. Nonetheless it's packed with lager-fuelled soccer

anthems in their famed street punk grittiness.

GIVE UP THE GHOST

We're Down Till We're Underground (Equal Vision/Stomp)

Seeped in hardcore history, the members of Give Up The Ghost take hardcore to a new level on a contextually challenging album that bends the traditional hardcore framework with elements a Fugazi - Joy Division type aesthetic. A diverse album with a myriad of influences lurking below the surface.

ON THE MIGHT OF PRINCES

Sirens (Revelation Records/Stomp)

The realm of ambient-punk has long been looming in the underground, and Long Island, NY band On The Might Of Princes have delved into that realm on their second album. With experimental soundscapes forged by the likes of Sonic Youth before them, blended with a healthy dose of screamo, and epic distortion laid pieces, the potent and poetic lyrics make this essential listening.

THE HOPE CONSPIRACY

Endnote (Equal Vision/Stomp)

Recent visitors to our shores late last year, The Hope Conspiracy unleash an explosive second album, filled with fiery hardcore tracks with influences ranging from Black Flag to The Smiths to Carcass.

TRICITY

Self Titled EP (Get Up Records)

Newest signing to Melbourne's Get Up label, this five-piece comfortably hop from straight up guitar pop to punk-pop to emo with comfortable ease. Catchy choruses and the odd piano interlude make this a band to make time for. Standout tracks are *Self Assured* and *Backlog*.

PUNK GOES ACOUSTIC

Various Artists (Fearless/Shock)

This is a well chosen collection of bands and tracks formerly in punk format, but here stripped back to acoustic guitars and heartfelt lyrics. It includes bands like Finch, Thursday, Strung Out, Taking Back Sunday, Rufio and Grade all strumming acoustic guitars and singing solo. Refreshing to hear a new aspect to these fast and loud bands.

Send Punk News, Releases, Tour Dates to SELECT C/- Mixdown, 3 Newton Street, Richmond, Vic, 3121 or email robmolnar@hotmail.com.

Progressive Music and Beyond

A discussion with Ivan Bertolla

Modes - Putting "Color" Into Your Playing

Modes In C Major



C Major	Notes/Spelling
Ionian	cdefgab (12345678)
Dorian	defgabc (12b3456b7)
Phrygian	efgabcd (1b2b345b6b7)
Lydian	fgabcde (123#4567)
Mixolydian	gabcdef (123456b7)
Aeolian	abcdefg (12b345b6b7)
Locrian	bcdefga (1b2b34b5b6b7)

Last month I gave you examples of some ethnic scales which can help you create different colors and worlds in your solos or compositions. This month I want to keep on that topic and discuss what most guitar players have nightmares about: Modes. Initially modes are a very confusing thing to get your head around but eventually it becomes easy. I am instructed by Mixdown Magazine to keep my columns simple and not too complex for readers so if you are an advanced student who wants more complex and detailed info on modes this will be elementary for you. This edition is just an introductory guide to a very detailed system.

You will notice that the 7 modes in the major scale can be broken down as follows

Major Modes = Ionian, Lydian and Mixolydian (dominant)
Minor Modes = Dorian, Phrygian and Aeolian
Diminished = Locrian

So this creates 7 tones or scales to the major scale enabling you to change the feel of a piece

How to put these to use

The confusion with modes is in the naming of them and how to apply them. To simplify this it is essential to remember which degree or step a mode starts from in a major scale. For example a D Dorian is the second mode of the C Major scale. It is used to play over a melody in the C major key not D Major key. With this in mind you are able to use all the other modes to create different "colors" in a C major scale.

Chords that match a Mode.

In C Major these modes sound great over these chords

Ionian	Cmajor7
Dorian	Dminor7
Phrygian	Eminor7
Lydian	Fmajor7
Mixolydian	G7
Aeolian	Aminor7
Locrian	B halfdiminished

As I stated at the start of this article. This is just the beginning of what you can do with modes. We are only thinking within the one scale at the moment. It gets exciting when you jump between modes from different scales in succession. I hope you get some value out of this. Try and see how within one scale you are able to create 7 different sounds. Modes are one of those topics in music that you could discuss forever. Like I said if you are tired of playing the same pentatonic and Ionian scales you should explore modes. They will not just enrich how you improvise over a chord progression but also make your compositions more interesting when creating melodies

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