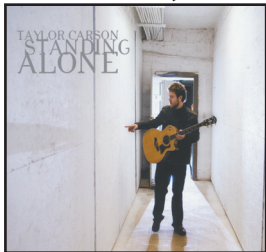


Taylor Carson

Standing Alone

www.taylorcarson.com

Area show: May 9 at Best Cellars, May 10 at Whitlow's



On his third album, "Standing Alone," Arlington-based singer/songwriter Taylor Carson treads familiar musical terrain, but this time he's walking alone. Featuring nothing but Carson's vocals over guitar (or piano in the case of "Where We've Been"), the album reflects years of steady solo gigging around the area honing his craft. His songwriting is sharp, his voice polished and his guitar work is subtle but accomplished. Carson compares favorably to obvious influences like John Mayer, and peers like Matt

Nathanson, Jason Mraz and Gavin DeGraw. Catch him on Friday, May 9th at Best Cellars in Clarendon for an acoustic show and wine tasting and on Saturday, May 10th at Whitlow's on Wilson. Visit his website for details. — *James Currie*

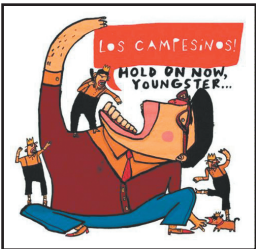


Los Campesinos!

Hold On Now, Youngster . . .

www.loscampesinos.com

Area show: May 16 at the Black Cat



Every once in a while, an album comes along that just blows you away. The unadulterated energy of "**Hold On Now, Youngster . . .**" is infectious. Out of Wales, this is the debut full-length album from the seven-piece **Los Campesinos!**, but fans will already be familiar with tracks such as "Don't Tell Me To Do The Math(s)" and "You! Me! Dancing!" Broken Social Scene producer David Newfeld produced this album, which starts off fast and never stops. It's a smart album, with fuzz, confident guitars, dueling lyricists, beautiful harmonies — and a glockenspiel. Highlights include "My Year in Lists" and "This Is How You Spell 'Ha Ha Ha We Destroyed the Hopes and Dreams of a Generation of Faux-Romantics.'" **Los Campesinos!** straddle the line of genius and full-of-themselves silliness. They fall on the side of genius, and that's why "Hold On Now, Youngster . . ." is a must. Catch them at **May 16** at the **Black Cat**. — *Robert Fulton*



ilyAIMY

Between Lover & Twilight

www.ilyaimy.com

Area shows: Multiple, including May 17 at College Perk



This 2007 release from Baltimore area band **ilyAIMY** (i love you And I Miss You) is simply elegant stuff. Highlights such as "I Am the Wreckingball" are all about heart-felt music and love, and Heather Lloyd's raw vocals melt together with an acoustic guitar. Tracks 9, 12 & 15 are live recordings from the New Deal Café in Greenbelt, Maryland. Give a listen yourself; you'll be happy you did. Lots of upcoming local shows, including May 16 and 30 at Artomatic in DC, May 17 at College Perk in College Park and May 31 in Herndon. Visit their site for details. — *Therese Karlsson Buxfäldt*



Jupiter One

Jupiter One

www.jupiterone.com

Area show: May 31 at the Herndon Festival



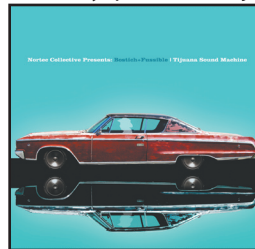
Impressed. Indie rock goodness coming from New York. Sometimes punk, other times spacey, with shimmering loops echoing in the background. There's some definite pop sensibility here, such as on the highlight, "Unglued." An '80s synthesizer feel pops up often, but it still comes across as fresh. Worth a listen. Check them out May 31 at the Herndon Festival. — *Robert Fulton*



Nortec Collective Presents Bostich + Fussible

Tijuana Sound Machine

www.myspace.com/tijuanasoundmachine



Nortec Collective took Latin electronica fans by storm in 2005 with their double Latin Grammy-nominated album "Tijuana Sessions, Vol. 3" and its incredibly happy poppy hit-song "Tijuana Makes Me Happy." The two masterminds — **Fussible** (Pepe Mogt) and **Bostich** (Ramon Amezcua) — behind that hit song have broken from the collective, but still follow the band's spirit. They blend seamlessly the norteño music from northern Mexico with techno — fusing together acoustic instruments like tubas, trumpets and norteño percussions with electronic ones like drum machines, vocoders and synthesizers. The lead single and title track, "Tijuana Sound Machine" makes great use of a jazzy horn, accordions and smooth vocoder vocals, and "The Clap" has a great clap-like sing-songy accordion beat, with a similar electronica keyboard beat following along. This is danceable techno music that can even appeal to fans of the traditional norteño music looking for an edgier futuristic version of their beloved genre. Hits the streets **May 6**. — *Alfredo Flores*

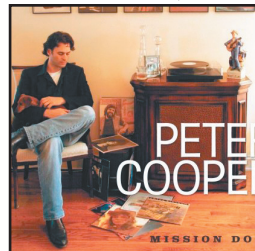


Peter Cooper

Mission Door

www.petercoopermusic.com

Area Show: May 25 at IOTA



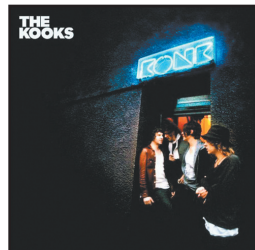
A musical collection of stories about musicians, "**Mission Door**" is an album you'll find yourself eagerly listening to. The stories and lessons, gleaned from Peter Cooper's experience interviewing musicians as a journalist, are interesting to listen to at the very least, though they can at times be difficult to understand. The album's slow and reflective lyrics go hand in hand with Cooper's country sound and will have you nodding your head along instantly. Catch Cooper live on May 25 at IOTA. — *Adaora Otiji*



The Kooks




Konk

www.thekooks.co.uk



"**Konk**," the follow up album to **The Kooks'** 2006 debut "Inside In/Inside Out" has only raised the bar higher for the UK natives. If the English accent of lead singer Luke Pritchard doesn't make you swoon then toe-tapping tracks like "Mr. Maker" and the opening song "See the Sun," which will make you feel like you actually have the sun on your face, will make you fall for this album. — *Adaora Otiji*



 **SPILT BEER**
 **HALF BEER**
 **FULL BEER**

4 BEERS = EXCELLENT!
3 BEERS = GOOD
2 BEERS = AVERAGE
1 BEER = POOR
SPILT BEER = PARTY FOUL