



Dirty Linen presents the February/March 2008

BEST OF 2007 SAMPLER

Sixteen tracks from among the best recordings we heard last year, selected by the editors of *Dirty Linen*, the magazine of folk and world music. Subscribers received this sampler CD with issue #134 (February/March 2008). Don't miss future samplers! Sign up today! Go to www.dirtylinen.com or call 1-800-276-5441.

Total time: 59:30 minutes

DL001 © 2008 Dirty Linen Music, a division of Visionation, Ltd.



1. Le Vent du Nord "Rosette" 3:55

(traditional, arranged by Olivier Demers),
from the album *Dans les airs* [Borealis Records © 2007]
www.levendunord.com, www.borealisrecords.com

This Québec-based group, consisting of Nicolas Boulerice, Simon Beaudry, Olivier Demers, and Réjean Brunet, created an almost immediate impact with its inception in 2002. Beloved by an international audience, this group's creative and fresh approach to traditional music garnered recognition as the North American Artist of the Year, Artist of the Year at the Canadian Folk Music Awards, and the Juno Award for the best roots and traditional album of 2004.



2. Cherryholmes "I Don't Know" 2:55

(Cia Cherryholmes, Spirit High Ridge Music, BMI),
from the album *Cherryholmes II: Black and White*
[Skaggs Family Records © 2007]
cherryholmes.musiccitynetworks.com,
www.skaggsfamilyrecords.com

The lively yodeling, step-dancing live performances of this 2006 Grammy-nominated bluegrass sextet make it a real crowd-pleaser. Dad Jere (bass), mom Sandy Lee (mandolin), daughters Cia (banjo, guitar) and Molly Kate (fiddle), and sons B.J. (fiddle) and Skip (guitar, mandolin) share vocals and dancing duties. The group was named the 2005 Entertainer of the Year by the International Bluegrass Music Association.



3. Marie Knight "Samson & Delilah" 3:45

(Rev. Gary Davis), from the album *Let Us Get Together: A Tribute to Reverend Gary Davis* [M.C. Records © 2007]
www.myspace.com/1marieknight, www.mc-records.com

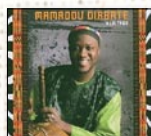
Born in Brooklyn in 1925, Marie Knight's career spans pop-soul, jump blues, doo-wop, rhythm and blues, but she made her name in gospel as singing partner to Sister Rosetta Tharpe. With her powerful contralto, she's been compared to Mahalia Jackson. She's back with a revived career and her own MySpace page.



4. Mark Olson "My Carol" 3:50

(Mark Olson, Sunny Vista Music, BMI, administered by Bug Music) from the album *The Salvation Blues*
[HackTone Records © 2007]
www.myspace.com/markolsonmusic, www.hacktone.com

Founder of alt-country band the Jayhawks and member of the Creekdippers, Olson has a career that has spanned 30 years. With some help from former Jayhawks bandmate Gary Louris, Olson has reinvented himself as a solo artist with his newest release, *The Salvation Blues*. Simple, straightforward, and optimistic, Olson's newest work bespeaks a personal and musical maturity.



5. Mamadou Diabate "Salimou" 4:53

(traditional, adapted and arranged by Mamadou Diabate and Djikorya Mory Kante)
from the album *Heritage* [World Village © 2006]
www.mamadoukora.com, www.worldvillagemusic.com

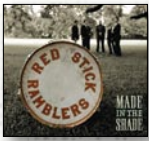
Born in 1975 in Kita, Mali, into a centuries-old family jeli (griot) tradition, this young kora player quickly established an international reputation. Adapting his 21-string harp and musical tradition to jazz, blues and other styles enables Diabate to hold on to his familial music traditions, while constantly innovating and expanding his art. The American Folk Alliance recognized Mamadou as World Music Artist of the Year.



6. Tab Benoit "Sac-Au-Lait Fishing" 3:53

(Tab Benoit, Cailou Music, BMI),
from the album *Power of the Ponchartrain* [Telarc © 2007]
www.tabbenoit.com, www.telarc.com

Whether it's swamp blues, soul blues, or Chicago blues, blues guitarist Tab Benoit delivers. Recognized by his peers with Grammy nominations and the 2007 Blues Music Awards (formerly W.C. Handy Awards) as the B.B. King Entertainer of the Year, Benoit is also active in promoting wetlands preservation.



7. The Red Stick Ramblers “Unsentimental” 3:36
 (Chas Justice, Panse Bourée Publishing, BMI), from the album *Made in the Shade* [Sugar Hill Records © 2007]
www.redstickramblers.com, www.sugarhillrecords.com

Baton Rouge-based Red Stick Ramblers (Eric Frey, Linzay Young, Glenn Fields, Kevin Wimmer, and Chas Justis) got its start playing clubs and parties near Louisiana State University. True to the band’s beginnings, most of its music is dance music, whether Cajun fiddle tunes, Western swing, blues, or old-school jazz. The group has also contributed to film soundtracks under T-Bone Burnett.



12. Mary Flower “Raise the Devil” 3:24
 (Mary Flower, Bluesette Music, BMI), from the album *Instrumental Breakdown* [Yellow Dog Records © 2006]
www.maryflower.com, www.yellowdogrecords.com

Flower is a fingerstyle and lap slide blues guitar player from Portland, Oregon, who blends acoustic blues and jazz with a rich, sultry vocal. With her original compositions and elegant, yet funky blends, she is the only woman to place twice at the Fingerpicking Guitar Championship held in Winfield, Kansas.



8. Compadres (James Keelaghan & Oscar Lopez) “¿Buddy Where You Been?” 3:41
 (James Keelaghan and Oscar Lopez, Celtino Music, SOCAN), from the album *¿Buddy Where You Been?* [Celtino © 2007]
www.compadres.ca

Not an odd couple at all, multiple award-winning Canadian artists James Keelaghan and Oscar Lopez draw upon their respective backgrounds to form a hybrid cultural sound they label “Celtino.” Keelaghan, with his resonant baritone and penchant for historical songwriting, and Lopez, with a passionate Latin jazz/pop instrumental fusion, combine elements of structure, energy, introspection, and edginess, creating a cohesive package from two longtime friends.



13. Ricky Skaggs & the Whites “Let It Shine” 3:42
 (James Martin Funderburk and Sharon White, Winding Way Music, Inc./Heartbound Songs, ASCAP), from the album *Salt of the Earth* [Skaggs Family Records © 2007]
www.skaggsfamilyrecords.com

More decorated than a Christmas tree (numerous Grammys, CMA, IBMA), Skaggs is a defining artist of current country bluegrass. He’s been a member of Ralph Stanley’s Clinch Mountain Boys, J.D. Crowe’s New South, and Emmylou Harris’ Hot Band. The Whites count Skaggs’ wife, Sharon, as one of their clan.



9. Ani DiFranco “Both Hands” (brand-spanking-new studio version) 3:22
 (Ani DiFranco, Righteous Babe Music, BMI) from the album *Canon* [Righteous Babe Records © 2007]
www.righteousbabe.com

The original folk-punk-indie queen, DiFranco’s talent transcended attitude to catapult her beyond cult heroine status. Her trademark staccato fingerpicking and vocals defined a unique style, but DiFranco walked the walk of her anti-corporate, anti-authoritarian songs with the creation of her Righteous Babe label well before technology enabled the broad use of home studios and Internet distribution.



14. Bob Margolin “Hard Feelings” 2:39
 (Bob Margolin, Viper Music, BMI) from the album *In North Carolina* [Steady Rollin’ Records © 2007]
www.bobmargolin.com

Born in Boston in 1949, blues guitarist Margolin played backup with Muddy Waters from 1973 to 1980 before starting his own band and working with flexible groupings of available musicians to carry on the Chicago blues tradition. Margolin has been nominated for seven W.C. Handy [Blues Music] Awards, winning twice, and five Grammy Awards, winning four times for albums he played on with Muddy Waters.



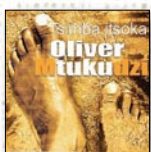
10. Tom Feldmann & the Get Rites “Converted” 3:06
 (Tom Feldmann, Tom Feldmann Music, ASCAP), from the album *Side Show Revival* [Magnolia Recording Company © 2007], www.tomfeldmann.com

Minnesotan Feldmann and the Get-Rites are masters of the no-excuses, no-holds-barred, folk-blues-roots Americana music. On his latest two CDs, singer/songwriter and resonator guitar player Feldmann marries the attitudes of old-time spirituals and tent-show revivals for a come-to-Jesus country blues that should delight music lovers who don’t like so-called “Christian music.”



15. The Finlay MacDonald Band “Abdoul’s” 3:22
 (Finlay MacDonald, arranged by the Finlay MacDonald Band and Kevin MacKenzie) from the album *ReEcho* [Greentrax Recordings © 2007]
www.finlaymacdonaldband.com, www.greentrax.com

This band will quickly disencumber you of the notion of “heard one bagpipe, heard them all” with its funky and contemporary jazz arrangements by members Finlay MacDonald (pipes, flute, whistle), Chris Stout (fiddle), Kevin MacKenzie (guitar), Fergus MacKenzie (drums), and John Speirs (bass). The music is a hybrid of traditional Scottish and contemporary music with world influences. MacDonald is a graduate in Scottish music from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Dance.



11. Oliver Mtukudzi “Kumirira Nekumirira” 5:21
 (Oliver Mtukudzi, Tuku Music) from the album *Tsimba Itsoka* [Heads Up International © 2007]
www.tukumusic.co.za, www.headsup.com

“Tuku,” as he is affectionately nicknamed, hails from Zimbabwe. In the mid-70s he got his start with the band Wagon Wheels, introducing him to Thomas Mapfumo, who influenced the young musician toward chimurenga and the hypnotic rhythms of the mbira (thumb piano). With his own group, Black Spirits, Mtukudzi explores many styles of music, with a view toward the interrelatedness of all African music.



16. Joe Jencks “Come With Me” 4:03
 (Joe Jencks, ASCAP) from the album *The Candle and the Flame* [self-released © 2007]
www.joejencks.com

From Cincinnati, folk singer/songwriter Jencks follows in the populist activist folk tradition of Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, and Phil Ochs. With gentle humor and storytelling skills that betray his half-Irish heritage, Jencks pens themes of social consciousness and spiritual exploration free of political correctness and haranguery.

by Colleen Moore