

3rd



COAST MUSIC

ELENI MANDELL

#120/209 JANUARY 2007

FAR & Away

2006

•

**JOHN THE
REVEALATOR**

•

**FREEFORM
AMERICAN
ROOTS #89**



ROOTS BIRTHS & DEATHS

REVIEWS * * * * * (or not)

Eilen Jewell • Eleni Mandell

Michael Weston King

A New Kind Of Loneliness

At present, King is one of the world's greatest songwriters

FEEDBACK

A singer/songwriter of unique insight and ability. A thoughtful, probing troubadour, King's songs make a deep emotional connection, sometimes in the most unlikely of ways

BY A ENTERTAINMENT NEWS & VIEWS

Like Tim Hardin, Phil Ochs or Townes Van Zandt, King transmutes squalor and self-laceration into pure gold... his craft seems to thrive on adversity

MOJO

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on Poptown Records

The stunning new album from arguably Britain's finest singer songwriter of the past few years.

Featuring guest appearances from Ron Sexsmith, Jackie Leven, Herb Petersen and founder member of The Byrds and The Flying Burrito Brothers, Chris Hillman.

Michael Weston King: A New Kind Of Loneliness



www.michaelwestonking.com
www.poptownrecords.com



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210/820-3748 • john@3rdcoastmusic.com
publisher/editor • John Conquest

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FARM

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REVIEWS CODE

***** Killer

**** What's not to like?

*** Can do better

** Why did they bother?

* Piss on this noise

? I don't get it

% Fraction of what you pay for

COVERS: A CASE STUDY

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JC

EILEN JEWELL • BOUNDARY COUNTY

ELENI MANDELL • MIRACLE OF FIVE

(self *****/Zedtone *****)

3rd Coast/Third Coast were originally a combination of description and metaphor, the motive for which was, quite frankly, that, in late 1996, Joe Horn and I found ourselves chafing at the self-imposed limitations of *The Great Texas Music Show* and *Music City Texas*. Joe changed his KSYM program's title to *Third Coast Music Network*, I changed the name of the magazine to, well, you know what.

The literal, littoral aspect has rather withered away. Ten years ago, there was a steady supply of music from (loosely) the Gulf Coast, but, with virtually no label support left, Conjunto, Cajun and Zydeco have become as hermetic as Polka, an archipelago of isolated self-releasing acts few of which have any interest in airplay or reviews. However, the liberating Greater Texas metaphor, which allowed *TCMN* and *3CM* to extend their boundaries to the four corners of America and beyond, is flourishing. It's an alternative landscape defined by music; Austin, mythic Lubbock, Memphis and Detroit, Chicago, New Orleans, Seattle and Boston dwarfing New York, Los Angeles and Nashville, the cities we all love to hate. In this metaphysical geography, a self-released album can make a wide space in the road more significant than Atlanta (rather oddly, nothing any use seems to come out of Atlanta).

Already skewed by my predilections (if I specialized in, let's say, Narcocorridos, the view would be dominated by San Jose), this perspective is further distorted by distance. What I actually know about Boston, for instance, depends on what I get in the mail and word of mouth, so, while some *3CM* subscribers may have shit fits about my abysmal ignorance, Beantown earns a place on this map simply by being the home of Sarah Borges, Dennis Brennan and The Stumbleweeds, oh and The Spurs, but that's good enough.

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In German, eilen is a musical term directing a musician to perform a certain passage 'in a rushing style, to accelerate, or to increase the tempo,' which is, as Jewell herself acknowledges, is wonderfully ironic as all 13 of her originals are slow to medium paced. Even with a wonderful voice—she sounds like a rather less angular Gillian Welch—this might make **Boundary County** somewhat monotonous if she wasn't also an exceptional songwriter, with what she calls "the best band in the world" (they are pretty good). Like Welch, though more languorous and intimate, she combines a spare Appalachian sound with personal lyrics, and if she's going to be dogged for a while with Welch comparisons, there are much worse fates and a follow up, due later this year, may define her own individual identity.

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Admittedly torch has certain image problems, but then what genre, apart from Early Music, hasn't been commodified and schmothered in schmaltz? Nanci Griffith, who has spent a hell of a lot longer than Mandell aspiring to be taken seriously as a singer-songwriter, has just released an album of torch songs, which features no less than three songs by Mandell's musical hero and primary influence, Tom Waits. If, in reinventing herself as a torch singer, Griffith has read the zeitgeist right, she'll catch Mandell, who has been honing her cool, languid, sultry and elegant style over several albums and pretty much perfected it on this one, flatfooted. It seems rather odd to be taking issue with an artist over her goals and admiring her for talents she doesn't claim, but **Miracle Of Five** is excellent on Mandell's terms and superlative in ways she doesn't even want to acknowledge.

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JOHN THE REVEALATOR

Big screw up last month was forgetting, for the third time, to change the date on the cover. You'd think over 17 years I'd have learned to do that right away, but oh no. Couple of wrong names in the FAR chart, **Eilen Jewell** being listed as Ellen, **Joey Allcorn** as Jerry. Problem here is that I cut and paste from emails and if the first FARster to report an album misremembers the name of the act or the album title, and I'm not familiar with either one and don't notice that other reports offer variants, such errors tend to get perpetuated.

◆ Former Austin Lounge Lizard, currently playing mandolin in Sarah Elizabeth Campbell's Banned, **Paul Sweeney** doesn't dispute my claim to have written the first story which linked the International Bluegrass Association and The Doors, but tells me "There actually is a connection between **bluegrass** and **The Doors**, although it predates IBMA. On The Doors' **Soft Parade**, there's a song called *Running Blue*, written by their guitarist, Robbie Krieger. The song has an instrumental interlude which features mandolin and fiddle. The mandolin player was none other than **Jesse McReynolds**, and the fiddler was **Jim Buchanan**. I have no idea how they hooked up with Jim Morrison & Co, but they are credited."

◆ Announcing a forthcoming *Great Performances* featuring **Jerry Lee Lewis** with his **Last Man Standing** duet partners (BB King, Merle Haggard, Willie Nelson, Little Richard, Bruce Springsteen, Neil Young, Mick Jagger, Eric Clapton, etc), PBS' website says "Nearly 50 years after the release of his first single (and amassing a long list of hits, including *Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On*, *Good Golly Miss Molly*, and *Baby Baby Bye Bye*)..." Observant reader Jim King sardonically notes, "*Baby Baby Bye Bye* was a hit? I did not know that!" Be nice if PBS knew what they're talking about.

◆ For several years, **3CM** has been printed at the *Round Rock Leader*, but last month Cox Newspapers bought the *Leader* and shut down the press. In theory, all the *Leader's* customers will now be printed at—gasp!—the *Austin American-Statesman*, but the move required that I make some changes (for a start they can't fold the mag the way it's been for the last nine years or so). I'm not sure if this is going to work out and this is more or less how it's going to be from now on, or I'll have to find another printer, but bear with me.

◆ One note: **Anna Fermin** sent me her album in November but didn't start in on radio until December. Expect to see her in FAR & Away 2007.

JC's BEST OF 2006

ALBUM

- 1 Anna Fermin's Trigger Gospel: Go
- 2 Butch Hancock: War And Peace
- 3 Dayna Kurtz: Another Black Feather
- 4 David Rodriguez: Sign Of Live
- 5 Dave Insley: Here With You Tonight
- 6 Miss Leslie & Her Juke Jointers: Honky Tonk Happy Hour

DEBUT ALBUM

- 1 Carrie Rodriguez: Seven Angels On A Bicycle
- 2 Sam Baker: Mercy
- 3 Jessie Lee Miller: Now You're Gonna Be Loved

VARIOUS ARTISTS/TRIBUTE ALBUM

- 1 American Music: The Hightone Records Story
- 2 A Case For Case: A Tribute To The Songs Of Peter Case
- 3 Heartworn Highways

REISSUE/HISTORIC ALBUM

- 1 Don Walser: Texas Legend
- 2 Fern Jones: The Glory Road
- 3 Mary Cutrufello & The Havoline Supremes /Who To Love & When To Leave

FEMALE ARTIST

- 1 Dayna Kurtz
- 2 Carrie Rodriguez
- 3 Jessie Lee Miller

MALE ARTIST

- 1 Michael Weston King
- 2 Dave Insley
- 3 Bill Kirchen

SONGWRITER

- 1 Chip Taylor
- 2 Butch Hancock
- 3 Michael Weston King

BEST IN THE INDUSTRY

- 1 Darrell Anderson (Hightone)
- 2 Matt Eskey (Freedom/Texas Music Roundup)
- 3 Fred Boenig (Americana Media)

FAR & AWAY 2006

So, how was 2006 for you? Judging by nominations, no less than 63 for Album of the Year, with Wayne Hancock squeaking ahead of a very tightly packed field, the FARsters liked it pretty well. In other categories, there were some rather more decisive wins and even places and shows, Blaze Foley (Reissue/Historic) getting the highest number of votes, by quite a margin, followed by **A Case for Case** (VA/Tribute), Carrie Rodriguez (Debut), **The Pilgrim** (VA/Tribute), Rosanne Cash (Female Artist), Sam Baker (Debut), Neko Case (Female Artist), Darrell Anderson@Hightone (Best In Industry), Johnny Cash (Reissue/Historic) and James Talley (Reissue/Historic).

The only real surprises, at least to me, were Rosanne Cash and Neko Case, both of whom had respectable if not spectacular showings in the monthly charts, but ended up ahead of artists who scored #1s during the year. I was disappointed that **Don Walser: Texas Legend** didn't get hardly any votes, but then these deals are rather dependent on the quality of service provided by labels and artists (with a side order of how well radio station libraries are organized, or how porous they are). I tell people that the FAR DJs play what they like, not what they're told to like, and this is what they collectively liked in 2006.

ALBUM OF THE YEAR

- #1 WAYNE HANCOCK: TULSA
- 2 Rosanne Cash: Black Cadillac
- 3 Neko Case: Fox Confessor Brings The Flood
- 4 Bruce Springsteen: We Shall Overcome
- 5 Darrell Scott: The Invisible Man
- 6 Solomon Burke: Nashville
- 7 Chris Knight: Enough Rope
- 8 Miss Leslie & Her Juke-Jointers: Honky Tonk Happy Hour
- 9 Paul Burch: East To West
- 10 I See Hawks in LA: California Country
- 11 Johnny Cash: American V; A Hundred Highways
- 12 Cornell Hurd Band: Texas By Night
- 13 Dave Insley: Here With You Tonight

DEBUT ALBUM

- #1 CARRIE RODRIGUEZ: SEVEN ANGELS ON A BICYCLE
- 2 Sam Baker: Mercy
- 3 Eilen Jewell: Boundary County
- 4 Jessie Lee Miller: Now You're Gonna Be Loved

VARIOUS ARTISTS/TRIBUTE ALBUM

- #1 A CASE FOR CASE: A TRIBUTE TO THE SONGS OF PETER CASE
- 2 The Pilgrim; A Celebration Of Kris Kristofferson
- 3 Willie Nelson: You Don't Know Me; The Songs Of Cindy Walker
- 4 Sail Away: The Songs Of Randy Newman
- 5 Heartworn Highways

REISSUE/HISTORIC ALBUM

- #1 BLAZE FOLEY & THE BEAVER VALLEY BOYS: COLD, COLD WORLD
- 2 James Talley: Got No Bread, No Milk, No Money, But We Sure Got A Lot Of Love
- 3 Johnny Cash At San Quentin
- 4 Johnny Cash: Personal File
- 5 Waylon Jennings: Nashville Rebel
- 6 Gram Parsons: The Complete Reprise Sessions

FEMALE ARTIST

- #1 ROSANNE CASH
- 2 Neko Case
- 3 Miss Leslie
- 4 Carrie Rodriguez
- 5= Anna Fermin • Irma Thomas

MALE ARTIST

- #1 ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO
- 2 Wayne Hancock
- 3 Dave Insley
- 4 Jon Dee Graham
- 5 Darrell Scott
- 6 Chip Taylor

SONGWRITER

- #1 BUTCH HANCOCK
- 2 Darrell Scott
- 3 Chip Taylor
- 4 Sam Baker
- 5 Tom Russell
- 6 Tom Waits

BEST IN THE INDUSTRY

- #1 DARRELL ANDERSON (HIGHTONE)
- 2 Joe Swank (Yep Roc)
- 3 Lynn Lancaster (Sugar Hill)
- 4 Chris Thomas (Palo Duro)
- 5 Vicki Lucero (Propaganda Group)

FREEFORM AMERICAN ROOTS #89

REAL MUSIC PLAYED FOR REAL PEOPLE BY REAL DJs
DURING DECEMBER 2006

#1 ANNA FERMIN'S TRIGGER GOSPEL: GO

(sighlow) *B&C/*CP/*DT/*N&T/*RC/*TF/*TJ

- 2 Blaze Foley & The Beaver Valley Boys: Cold, Cold World
(Lost Art) *DA/*EB/*RJ/*TR
- 3 Tom Waits: Orphans (Anti-) *BB/*DF/*GM/*MDT/*MR/*ST
- 4 Miss Leslie & Her Juke Jointers: Honky Tonk Happy Hour
(Zero Label) *ND/*SH
- 5 Wayne Hancock: Tulsa (Bloodshot) *DV/*LG
- 6 Solomon Burke: Nashville (Shout! Factory) *BP/*CS/*JS/*RH
- 7 Joan Osborne: Pretty Little Stranger (Vanguard) *DS
- 8 Kreg Viesselman: The Pull (Red Kite) *JB/*T&J
- 9= Gob Iron: Death Songs For The Living
(Transmit Sound) *JR/*T&C
- Ramsey Midwood: Popular Delusions & The Madness Of Cows
(Farm Wire) *JM/*TG
- 10 Sean Mencher (Goofin') *WR
- 11 Eilen Jewell: Boundary County (self) *JP/*TA
- 12 Bill Kirchen: Hammer Of The Honky Tonk Gods
(Proper American) *BR
- 13 Austin Lounge Lizards: The Drugs I Need (Blue Corn)
- 14 Sally Spring: Mockingbird (Snifinup) *RE
- 15 Keith Sykes: Let It Roll (Fat Pete) *GF
- 16 Butch Hancock: War And Peace (Two Roads) *MF
- 17 David Brake & That Damn Band: Spin Around
(Westerland) *OO
- 18 Jim Lauderdale: Country Super Hits Vol 1 (Yep Roc) *AB
- 19= Michael Brennan: Cautious Man (Red Rows) *KD
- Mary McCaslin: Better Late Than Never (self) *GS
- Audrey Auld Mezera: Lost Men and Angry Girls
(Reckless) *MN
- The Skylighters (Red Beet)



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*XX = DJ'S ALBUM OF THE MONTH

Freeform American Roots is compiled from reports provided by 140 freeform DJs in the US, Canada, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Uruguay. More information can be found at www.accd.edu/tcmn/far



JANUARY ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

- 1st --- Slim Willet • 1919 Victor, TX
----- Sandy Nelson
 • 1938 Santa Monica, CA
- Magic Sam † 1969
----- Lee Dorsey † 1986
----- Stephane Grappelli † 1997
- 2nd -- Mercy Dee Walton † 1962
- 3rd -- Rabon Delmore • 1916 Elkmont, AL
----- Randy Garibay
 • 1939 San Antonio, TX
- Jimmy Heap † 1977
----- Grady Martin † 2001
- 4th -- Larry Davis • 1936 Kansas City, MO
----- Freddy Cannon • 1940 Lynn, MA
----- Ernie Durawa • 1942 San Antonio, TX
----- Chris Hillman • 1944 Los Angeles, CA
- 5th -- Little Richard • 1935 Macon, GA
----- Molly O'Day † 1987
----- Wilf Carter † 1996
----- Bobby Marchan † 1999
- 6th -- Hugh Farr • 1903 Llano, TX
----- Leadbelly † 1949
----- Joe King Carrasco • 1953 Dumas, TX
----- Tish Hinojosa • 1955 San Antonio, TX
----- Anna Fermin
 • 1970 Manila, The Philippines
- Roy Orbison † 1988
- 7th -- Tom Waits • 1949 Pomona, CA
----- Bill Boyd † 1977
- 8th -- Floyd Tillman • 1914 Ryan, OK
----- Johnny Otis • 1921 Vallejo, CA
----- Big Walter Horton † 1981
----- Marty Robbins † 1982
- 9th -- Dan Hicks • 1941 Little Rock, AR
- 10th - Rich Minus • 1940 San Antonio, TX
----- Otis Redding † 1967
----- Faron Young † 1996
- 11th - Big Mama Thornton
 • 1926 Montgomery, AL
----- Brenda Lee • 1944 Lithonia, GA
----- Troy Campbell
 • 1964 Germantown, OH
- Fiddlin' Johnny Carson † 1949
- 12th - Clifton Chenier † 1987
- 13th - Conni Hancock • 1957 Lubbock, TX
- 14th - Charlie Rich • 1932 Colt, AR
- 15th - AP Carter • 1891 Mace Springs, VA
----- Rose Maddox • 1926 Boaz, AL
----- Jesse Belvin • 1932 San Antonio, TX
----- Fats Waller † 1943
----- Betty Elders • 1949 Raleigh, NC
----- Steve Forbert • 1954 Meridian, MS
----- Valerio Longoria † 2000
- 16th - Shelby Singleton • 1931 Waskom, TX
- 17th - Spade Cooley
 • 1910 Pack Saddle Creek, OK
----- Arthur Neville
 • 1937 New Orleans, LA
- Nat Stuckey • 1937 Cass Co, TX
----- Big Joe Williams † 1982
- 18th - Wilf Carter
 • 1904 Port Hilford, NS, Canada
----- Eddie Cleanhead Vinson
 • 1917 Houston, TX
----- Professor Longhair
 • 1918 Bogalusa, LA
- John Reed • 1945 Charleston, SC
----- Jacky Ward • 1946 Groveton, TX
----- Blaze Foley • 1949 Marfa, TX
----- Don Santiago Jimenez † 1984
- 19th - Little Jimmy Dickens • 1925 Bolt, WV
----- Phil Ochs • 1940 El Paso, TX
- 20th - Hank Snow † 1999
- 21st - Albert Lee • 1943 Leominster, UK
----- Lee Roy Parnell • 1956 Abilene, TX
----- Danny Barnes • 1961 Belton, TX
- 22nd - Hawkshaw Hawkins
 • 1921 Huntingdon, WV
----- King Karl • 1931 Grand Coteau, LA
----- Red Steagall • 1937 Gainesville, TX
----- Speedy Sparks • 1945 Houston, TX
- 23rd - Esther Phillips • 1935 Galveston, TX
----- Johnny Kidd • 1939 London, UK
----- Tim Hardin • 1941 Eugene, OR
- 24th - Dave Bartholomew
 • 1920 Edgard, LA
----- Lee Dorsey • 1924 New Orleans, LA
----- Stoney Edwards • 1929 Seminole, OK
----- Cornell Hurd • 1949 Honolulu, Hawaii
- 25th - Cab Calloway • 1907 Rochester, NY
----- Alton Delmore • 1908 Elkmont, AL
----- Johnny Ace † 1954
- 26th - Harry Choates • 1922 Rayne, LA
----- Rattlesnake Annie • 1941 Paris, TN
----- Peck Kelley † 1980
- 27th - Scotty Moore • 1931 Gadsden, TN
----- Will T Massey • 1968 San Angelo, TX
----- Bob Luman † 1978
- 28th - Billy Williams • 1916 Waco, TX
----- Dorsey Burnette • 1932 Memphis, TN
----- Charles Neville
 • 1938 New Orleans, LA
- Adam Landreneaux † 1973
----- Freddie King † 1976
----- Hoagy Carmichael † 1981
- 29th - Rose Lee Maphis
 • 1922 Baltimore, MD
----- Ed Bruce • 1939 Keiser, AR
----- Tim Hardin † 1980
- 30th - Joaquin Murphy
 • 1923 Hollywood, CA
----- Bo Diddley • 1928 McComb, MS
----- Skeeter Davis • 1931 Dry Ridge, KY
----- John Hartford • 1937 New York, NY
- 31st - June Tabor • 1947 Warwick, UK
----- Rick Nelson † 1985
----- Floyd Cramer † 1997
----- Robert Pete Williams † 1980

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