

...the new releases

Standout songs are *Come On Home*, *Sugar Tongue*, *What Are You Like* and *Second Time Around*. **LB**
www.indigogirls.com

**Glen Matlock
& The
Philistines
BORN
RUNNING**
Peppermint-
FREEM5024
★★★★



*Sex Pistols' punk
has gone soft*

Glen Matlock might be a name you are familiar with, for he is the original bass player and founder from the English rock'n'roll band, the Sex Pistols. With years of experience facing angry punk crowds, Glen has taken a different approach to his music, singing lead vocals, playing guitar, keyboards and writing his own material. Nowheresville is an enjoyable country-rock track, played in a lighthearted manner. With regards to Glen's voice, though he appears to be putting everything into his music, you will walk away thinking BORN RUNNING is an average record with nothing special to offer. Rock Chick provides a bit of an anthem, but don't expect a massive rock-belter, for you will be left disappointed. Timebomb seems to be a filler track, pointlessly bulking the album out. There are a handful of good easy-listening songs on BORN RUNNING, so it would seem that Timebomb is superfluous to requirements. Something Tells Me shows great writing skills by Matlock, and provides a sweet country-tinged melody lines played on the electric guitar. With harmonies sung by a male chorus, Something Tells Me is likely to be the most requested track for Maverick readers. With Something Tells Me and Electricity placed after Timebomb, you will really feel frustrated as to why that track was allowed to make it onto the album, for it really lowers the excellence this album is striving towards. If you find the first tracks on BORN RUNNING a little bit of a let down, skip to tracks 8 to 12, and you will find some exciting music that certainly has that 1980s punk flavour. **CB**
www.glenmatlock.com

**Rob Baird
BLUE EYED
ANGELS**
Carnival Recording
Company
★★★★



*Country-rock
just doesn't nail
what this music is all about, for it's so
much more*

Essentially, BLUE EYES ANGELS is a difficult album to pigeon-hole. Not quiet rock, but also not a country record, Rob Baird's latest release is somewhere between the two. You could call this a country-rock album, but that just doesn't nail what this music is all about. Providing eleven self-written tracks, the music Rob Baird performs will certainly lift most listener's spirits, offering great tunes with well-written lyrics. *Here Comes The Day* has a southern taste, with the banjo being fingered well

**Rebecca Loebe
MYSTERY PRIZE**
Self-released
★★★★

*Awarding winning songwriter Loebe's sophomore
album sparkles and bubbles*



This former Boston-based audio engineer hit the road as a travelling troubadour early in the new millennium. A Kerrville Folk Festival New Folk Songwriting finalist two years ago, she was one of the annual six winners last year. The twelve-song, (memorably) melodic MYSTERY PRIZE is Rebecca's sophomore solo album, her debut surfaced six years ago, plus THE BROOKLYN SESSIONS EP appeared in 2007. Born in Arlington, Virginia and currently based out of Atlanta, Georgia, MYSTERY PRIZE was recorded in the city's Free Sound Studios, the sessions helmed by Will Robertson (upright bass, guitar, keyboards). Adding (the main) musical support is the trio of Mike Meadows (cajon, goat hooves, spoons) of Austin-based trio porterdavis, Matt Phillips (tenor guitar, harmonica, cornet, mandolin) and Mark Van Allen (pedal steel).

The narrator contemplates cheating in the happy-go-lucky, waltz-paced album opener/title song, which begins with the assertion: 'You're a peach, you're a gem, You're a prince among men, Love is a blessing, I know,' then the narrator adds: 'Oh but I got my eye on the mystery prize.' Further wryly worded references to (illicit) love and sports (terminology) merge in, for instance, the closing lines: 'It's an unfair comparison choosing between, All that I've got versus all that could be waiting. Exhilaration, adrenaline, goose chasing, Saving the game at the 30 yard line.' Treading that fine line between reverie and reality, the effervescent *Redneck Karaoke Bar* is all booze, spinning glitter balls, white lies, repeated renditions of *Rocket Man*, and male/female lip gymnastics, but with barely seconds between, slips straight into the morning after guilt themed *Land & Sea* wherein the narrator announces 'I woke up in a fantasy.'

Loebe's main (subjective) focus is love, and heaven knows the world suffers from a surfeit of such songs. That said, Rebecca approaches 'love' with a sly wink, and a lively lyrical style that purposely ignores the pitfalls of 'moon, spoon and June' That contention sees fruition in *Married Man* ('You can't knit socks for a married man') and *Meridian* ('I've got a lover who don't love me, guess that's just what I deserve'), while the title alone—*Her In That Dress*—screams venom and jealousy. Loebe first toured the Golden State back in 2006, a visit that inspired the sing-a-long *California* which hinges around the repeated: 'California, I warned you, I can't stay.' A few seconds into *Avalanche*, the final selection, Rebecca whispers: 'It's a dangerous place.' Building to a climax and then fading wistfully, a string section delivers the closing two-minute long coda of this simple yet sensual song. There's no mystery about the prize, simply note the name—it's Rebecca Loebe. **AW**
http://www.rebeccaloeb.com/

next to Rob's vocals, which have a great country strain. *Lonely Road* is a radio-friendly pop-country track, which will most likely be knocked by some for falling more into the category of contemporary-pop than country. However, if you are the type of *Maverick* reader who appreciates and enjoys some fine music then this album will fit suitably in your record collection. The opening *Running Away* will be one of a handful of songs which you will find yourself skipping back too, with its melody provided by Rob's rhythm guitar making this a must-listen-to track. It would seem there is not one dull track from the eleven—just simply great music. We at *Maverick* are looking forward to his next album. **CB**
www.robbairemusic.com

**Anna Coogan
THE
NOCTURNAL
AMONG US**
Independent
★★★★

*Fantastic new
music that
embraces country
and folk with a mix of her own remedy
to the tough times...*

Firstly from visiting her website, you will notice that Anna Coogan truly understands the times and

this is reflected in her music. She understands that right now everyone's suffering the tough times and that music is something you don't necessarily have the money to enjoy. So with THE NOCTURNAL AMONG US, her latest recording, Anna is adopting a 'pay what you can' system that she first adopted on the road. Basically if you purchase the CD from Coogan's website you can donate an amount that will get you a copy of the CD. Anything up to 10 dollars will get you a digital copy and anything above 10 dollars, a signed hard copy with a bonus EP plus a personal thank you card from Anna herself. I think this is a marvellous idea and it just shows that you can be inventive about the hard times and still get a chance to enjoy some good new music. And that's just what this album is—good new music!

Anna Coogan's music is Americana at its best. As a trained opera singer and field biologist, her music focuses on bringing to the forefront the realisation of beauty all around us, in daily living and the relationships that connect us all. It's enjoyable sweet music that swirls through the air to your ears, a melodic voice in *Dreaming My Life Away* as the ensuing *Crooked Sea* is slightly darker. Embracing country and folk, Anna

Coogan's music is a mix of this and more, with sweet melodies and catchy hooks that instantly have you involved, especially with *Take The Sky And Run*. This is an impressive collection, a really enjoyable listen that has you chilling but content. Standout tracks include *Take The Sky And Run*, *Halfway Gone* and *Mockingbird*. **LB**
www.annacoogan.com

**Dale Watson
CARRYIN' ON**
Me And My
Records
MMACD1044
★★★★



*Dale at his very
best.*

The true country fans' champion Dale Watson is in superb form on this new album on which he is supported by a veritable A-list of country music musicians. I mean who would not be proud to have the likes of Lloyd Green, 'Pig' Robbins and Glenn Duncan amongst others on your record. The album starts with *Carryin' On This Way* a lively country waltz with Dale's smooth rich vocals a pure joy to listen to! Lloyd Green also chips in with a wonderfully silky pedal steel solo.

Dale is known for his lively songs that are sometimes tongue-in-cheek and at other times having a dig at the Nashville system but he can also sing some truly gorgeous ballads such as *Heart Of Stone* that will probably melt most hearts. The delightful piano playing of Robbins intros *How To Break Your Own Heart* which is another terrific waltz tune and *Hello, I'm An Old Country Song* is just pure Dale Watson. He also does a great take on the Wizard Of Oz theme in his fun song *Tequila, Whiskey And Beer, Oh My!* Brilliant.

Willie Nelson admits to being a big fan of Dale Watson and I have to admit that I am as well. I have said it before and I will say it again, Dale Watson often sings of his heroes that are country music legends, but to me he deserves to have his name added to that list of legends alongside greats such as Willie, Merle, Waylon, Johnny etc. Although he has never got the stardom he deserves he has always stayed true to the music and this album rates amongst his best. **DK**
www.dalewatson.com

**Deer Tick
THE BLACK
DIRT
SESSIONS**
Fargo FR21213
★★★



*An overdose of
Americana doom
and despair*

The opening track of Deer Tick's third album, *Choir Of Angels*, even though it's sung by the familiar anguished voice of main man John McCauley, is a remarkably positive song, particularly given the band's history as purveyors of doom and despair. Normal service is rapidly resumed for the remainder of the album however, with McCauley straining ever harder to emote so that his voice makes you think of a piece