

AURAL GRATIFICATION

Rave on!

Recent releases from *Tori Amos*, *Derivative Duo* and *Deee-Lite*, who will all grace local stages this month

by Aaron Bong

STEVE PERRY

For the Love of Strange Medicine

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I know when I hear timeless music. Excellent music creates and expands emotion; bad music only rides on existing emotion. This is not great music, only mediocre.

Steve Perry has a distinctive voice that evokes memories of the band he was previously in, Journey.

The music itself is upbeat and not bad, but the lyrics sound like Perry is "trying to really get into his craft," whatever that means. Definitely not on my Top 50 albums list for this year.

THE DERIVATIVE DUO

Opera for the Masses

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My first thought before I even listened to this CD, was that comedy is at least 95 percent physical. My belief was confirmed.



That aside, these women are excellent vocalists. The team of Susan Nivert and Barb Glenn, who are life partners, works. Their voices bounce off of, and intertwine with, one another.

The album is a collection of re-worked classical songs. My favorite was the "Waltz of the Toreadors" from Bizet's *Carmen*, reworked into "Ode to Grete." It is a song about Margarethe Cammermeyer, discharged from the National Guard for being a lesbian, and a song about queers in the military in general.

The Derivative Duo will perform at the Northwest Service Center on Sept. 24 at 8 pm. Tickets are \$10 in advance (through Fastixx outlets and It's My Pleasure), and \$12 at the door.

BRANFORD MARSALIS

Buckshot LeFonque

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The music on this album feels like a soft beam of sunlight—comfortable and reassuring. Also with no risk involved.

It seems that risk-taking in Marsalis' music is no longer an option. Winning a larger audience and a bigger slice of the corporate music pie seem to be the aims of this album. How sad.

I do not enjoy hip hop music, and, if you don't, I suggest that you skip the intro. The second song, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," has everything to do with the poem by Maya Angelou. She reads the poem against a beautiful sounding backdrop of chirping birds and alto saxophones.

The entire album has a "breakfast jazz" feel to it, very quiet and soft with few surprises.

TORI AMOS

Under the Pink

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Amos has returned with a fierce and moving album that reaches out to many facets of humanity. Her first album, titled *Little Earthquakes*, was rich-sounding, but lacked the maturity that seems to come across on this album. The songs and instruments provide a brilliant canvas for her richly textured voice.

Don't buy this album expecting to hear a group of songs that sound like the radio hit "God." On one of the songs, titled "Bells for Her," Amos sings accompanied by what sounds like a celesta, but, according to the credits, it is actually a "demolished" upright piano. Seeing Tori Amos in concert should be incredible, given the quality of her music. She will be in Portland on Sept. 13, at the Civic Auditorium. Tickets are \$20.50 through Fastixx.



NEWSFLASH: Yes, my little disco bunnies and rabid ravers, the rumors are true!! That fabulous, funkadelic, lip-smacking, disc-spinning, hip-grinding group Deee-Lite is coming to town, after the recent release of their third album *Dewdrops In the Garden*.

The new album is full of new sounds for the group, including Lady Kier rapping, and a more sensual sound to their music. All in all, not an album to be missed.



Deee-Lite

Monday, Sept. 19, Deee-Lite plays *Queer Night* at La Luna. Tickets are \$10 in advance (available at Ticketmaster outlets), and \$12 at the door. However, I doubt that any tickets will be left for sale at the door. One dollar from each ticket will benefit the No on 13 campaign to fight the most recent Oregon Citizens Alliance ballot effort.

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