Red Hot & Rhapsody: The Gershwin Groove
Various Artists • Antilles

Groove is the operative word for describing this excellent collection of the classic composer's best loved songs. The latest compilation in the Red Hot series gathers artists as diverse as Natalie Merchant, Luscious Jackson, Skylab and Money Mark. The overall feel is a relaxed, mellow jam that is smooth, baby, smooth.

ROTATIONS PER MONTH by Rosemary Morrow

Highlights from the stellar acts include Davina's rendition of "I Was Doing All Right," a rich, mournful lover's lament sung in her smoky tones. Spearhead, featuring former Disposable Heroes of Hiphopcrisy frontman Michael Franti, layers steady rhymes over "I Got Plenty o' Nuthin" on a duet with Ernest Ranglin. And The Roots team with Bobby Womack for an infectious version of the quintessential Gershwin tune, "Summertime."

David Bowie and Angelo Badalementi round out the 17 tracks with a breathlessly eerie "A Foggy Day (in London Town)." This is a CD that deserves another spin and a place in any music lover's collection.

The Wizard of Oz: 1998 Cast Recording
Music and Lyrics by Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg • TVT Soundtrax

What more could be said of the great American fable by L. Frank Baum? For one thing, no other production of the classic tale ever had the magic of Eartha Kitt to give it renewed freshness. A former Catwoman of the Batman television series, Kitt brings a fierce felinity to her role as the Wicked Witch of the West in this production, originally presented at the Paper Mill Playhouse in New Jersey.

Kitt brings a dry humor to her portrayals of Miss Gulch and the witch, and leaves one craving more of her booming voice on the rest of the soundtrack. Another showbiz veteran—the still Puckish Mickey Rooney—is featured as the Wizard. And 16-year-old newcomer Jessica Grové brings Dorothy to life at the same age that Judy Garland was in her legendary screen portrayal.

For any Oz fanatic, the best reason to give these tunes another listen is the inclusion of a new one: "The Jitterbug," a campy, quirky number sung by Kitt. This soundtrack will definitely make listeners nostalgic for that Yellow Brick Road.

Espina
Psychotica • Zero Hour Records

Natural born showman Pat Briggs returns to his brainchild Psychotica for th band's sophomore effort, a mix of goth, glam and hard rock. "Ding Dong Dead" opens the album with gothic abandon, à la Siouxsie and Bauhaus. "Blind" and a cover of Jimmy Webb's "MacArthur Park" continue the dark, macabre vein. But other tunes, such as "Bleeding," recall Meat Loaf rather than Peter Murphy.

Briggs does come up with a few gems on his emotionally charged tirade. "Breakable" is a vulnerable confession from a complex being, and "February 14th 1979" induces aural nirvana via feedback and funky reverberations, similar to latter day Duran Duran.

Once again, Briggs and his bandmates have created an eclectic mix of songs that one can either fight or fuck to.

Pigtails and Ribbons
Brenda Dickey • Reality House

If Janis Joplin and Melissa Etheridge had a child and brought her up in the middle of Tennessee, and the child grew up to make an album, *Pigtails and Ribbons* would be that album. A twangy mix of pop and country, Dickey merges her strong vocals with catchy melodies.

"Here I Am" opens the album metaphorically with an Etheridge-like rocker. She gets bluesy on "Walking Between Two Worlds," outdone by her own raspiness. And she brings new compassion to the Beatles' "Oh! Darling." Overall, the tunes are slow and sentimental, but with enough variation to make this a worthwhile effort.

If you like country and easy listening, this is a most enjoyable selection that is bringing Dickey some fame and, no doubt, some music industry attention.

SOKOL BLOSSER
WINERY

THANKSGIVING
DOGMA
NOV 27 * 28 * 29 (11am-5pm)

Rise up against the masses and seek harmony from retail aggression by joining us in our noble Utopian experiment of offering great wine at fabulous prices. Send a message to the running dogs of retailism while sipping our new Evolution No.9 and listening to very cool music.

RED ROOM
20% off case sale
*
Sample a vertical of 1988-1997 Redland Pinot Noir
*
Old library finds and other collectibles

WHITE ROOM
20 % off case sale
*
Sample new and current releases of:
Chardonnay, Riesling, Semillon, Pinot Gris,
Ice Wine, Evolution No.9 and more.
*
Special deals, closeouts and holiday gift baskets.

MUSIC
BRENDA DICKEY
*
JIVE TALKING ROBOTS
*
SOMEONE ELSE EQUALLY COOL

FOOD
*
Harvest Fresh from McMinnville

MAKE IT SO!