

in 1972, is awash in '70s psychedelic jazz and rock. The eight songs highlight Garcia's distinctive playing, along with Garcia bandmates bassist John Kahn and drummer Bill Vitt. For any Deadhead, you can't go wrong with this one.

ME FIRST AND THE GIMME GIMMES: TAKE A BREAK, FAT WRECK CHORDS

July 2003.

The Gimme Gimme guys found their fortune playing with several well-known Fat Wreck Chords bands, namely NOFX, Lagwagon and No Use For A Name. Their recent fame has been due to brilliantly conceived concept records of popular songs done with punk rock aplomb. On *Take A Break*, the guys cover Lionel Richie's "Hello," R. Kelly's "I Believe I Can Fly" and Aretha Franklin's "Natural Woman." Other albums have them tackling showtunes such as "Tomorrow," the theme from the musical *Annie*, '60s hit songs such as "Blowin' in the Wind" and '70s and '80s gems "Mandy" and "Uptown Girl."

Each CD has its own personality, and while it increases listening pleasure if you are familiar with the originals, it's enough just to participate in the sheer lunacy of the Gimmes. Get one, get them all!

HOOKAH CAFÉ

Triloka Records, March 2003.

A beautifully seductive introduction to the music of North Africa and the

Middle East, Hookah Café would be a much appreciated stocking stuffer for any world music lover on your list. This collection merges the music of Marrakech's smoky opium dens with Athens' ancient dream world and Cairo's heady mysticism. This instrumental CD is mellow enough to provide a delicious background mood, but

intriguing enough to take center stage.

ROUGH GUIDES 2003

The Rough Guides to the World of Music are, like the Rough Guide travel books, a way to explore the musical heart of a country or culture from the comfort of your own living room.



These intelligent compilations offer an astounding array of musical styles both contemporary and classical that gives the listener an overview of the musical heritage of a region and provides a jumping off point for further exploration of any musician or style which catches one's fancy. Among the titles that have been released just this past year are Guides to the music of the Balkans, Thailand, Europe, South African Gospel, Canada and Delta Blues, songs from the cotton fields of the American Deep South. Another can't-lose gift idea for the discerning world music lover you love.

LEWIS & CLARK: THE JOURNEY OF THE CORPS OF DISCOVERY

Soundtrack to the film by Ken Burns, September 2003.

Burns' film tells the story of explorers Lewis and Clark as they and their team of 48 men journeyed west in the spring of 1804. Utilizing period music, journal excerpts and spoken word segments from the film, the delightful soundtrack traces the men's steps through the instrumental music of Peter Ostroushko, Bobby Horton, Jacqueline Schwab, Phil Cunningham, and Emmy Duncan. Native American musicians Gary Stroutsos, Epaminondas Trimis and Joseph Fire Crow perform music illustrating encounters with Indian tribes. The combination of world-class musicianship and journal readings makes this soundtrack a pleasure to listen to — for history buffs or anyone who appreciates the timeless beauty of traditional American music. *EW*

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