

# FRESHLY SQUEEZED

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**\$10<sup>99</sup>**

Thank God for Lyle Lovett. All year long I've been looking for that one great singer/songwriter disc to knock me off my feet. Plenty have come across my desk and plenty have made me think twice, but nothing will touch *It's Not Big, It's Large*. The Texas-based songwriter releases his first disc since 2003's *My Baby Don't Tolerate*.



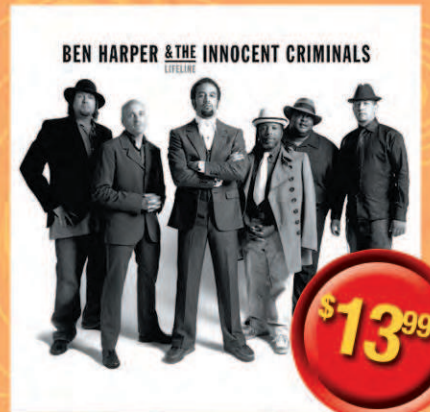
**\$10<sup>99</sup>**

Michelle Shocked comes full circle. Her debut album was a bootleg that caught the world off guard and introduced us to her. Unaware that *To Heaven URide* was being recorded, it spotlights her where she's always shone brightest live, on stage, in front of an audience.



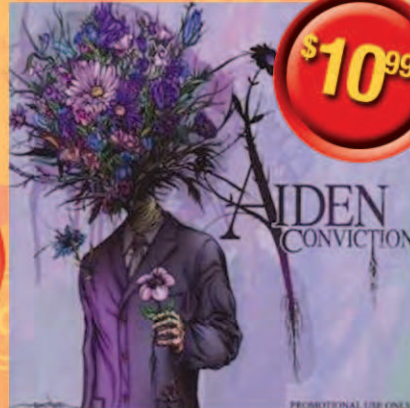
**\$11<sup>99</sup>**

In the world of Liars, weirdness is relative. So while Liars might be lyrics on songs about witches and twilight percussion experiments, these eleven tracks of spooked, discord-heavy rock, clanking grooves and skronky garage crunch suggest this band still have little to no interest in pandering to the mainstream.



**\$13<sup>99</sup>**

Ben Harper--mind or body--rarely rests, be it on the road with backing jam band the Criminals or buried in a studio, where the gifted singer-songwriter lays down his brand of peace-chanting, love-tilting music. His latest is lighter on the rock, with a greater emphasis on gospel, blues, and deeply burning soul.



**\$10<sup>99</sup>**

On August 21st, the world will, once again, be taken by storm as AIDEN unveils their next chapter, known as *Conviction*. Lead singer Wil describes the record: *Conviction* is about loving the darkness that will destroy you, its about tearing yourself apart from inside, its about feeling that the world is crashing around you.



**\$10<sup>99</sup>**

One of the best-known and most acclaimed rappers in hip-hop, Talib Kwesi makes his Warner Bros. debut with his first album on his own label, Blacksmith. *Eardrum*, his fourth solo album, delivers music that matters, that both sparks the mind and makes the body move. Solidifying Kwesi's status among raps best.



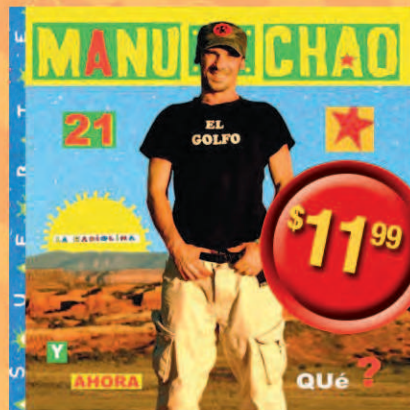
**\$10<sup>99</sup>**

Enigk's biggest claim to fame is his involvement with 'Emo (music) emo rock band Sunny Day Real Estate Sunny Day Real Estate, who released five albums from 1993 to 2000, in which he served as lead singer, co-songwriter and guitarist. He was often cited as progenitors of today's emo music.



**\$12<sup>99</sup>**

This isn't 'rap', but hip-hop in the most classic sense of the word. I've always felt that Galactic's dynamic grooves would be complimented by talented MCs, and the group has selected some of the finest in underground hip-hop to collaborate with. Lyrics Born, Ohmega Watts, and Lateef (among others) bring their A-game to the table.



**\$11<sup>99</sup>**

Americans waited six years for a new studio album from one of the most exciting ambassadors of cosmopolitan party/protest music. Infusing rock fundamentals with elements of ska, reggae, punk, and Afro-pop, Chao's grown by continental leaps as a bandleader since then, as *La Radiolina*'s mix of festival-rousing rock.



**\$12<sup>99</sup>**

Although the reformed group's approach has always tempered upbeat material with a darker, more soulful edge, their sixth studio release, *Street Symphony*, exudes a heightened mood of bittersweet melancholy. Even Steve Amadee's ever-present tambourine seems to be less frisky.



**\$10<sup>99</sup>**

Literally, *Scary Kids Scaring Kids* is essentially a quest for the truth in its most organic form, something that the band explore in-depth over the course of these 16 tracks. 'It's all about reaching deep within and pulling out who you truly are,' Afkary explains, inherent in the disc, these tracks express universal themes.



**\$10<sup>99</sup>**

*As I Lay Dying*. The San Diego-based outfit returns with the kind of killer guitar hooks (courtesy of Phil Sgroso and Nick Hipa), dynamic vocals, and a drum and bass attack that creates an aftershock bound to be felt for the remainder of the decade and long into the next. The radio-friendly title cut stands out.

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