

Albums we missed in 2003: The '70s Rise Again

Everybody makes mistakes. Here's a few albums we missed telling you about that everyone really should know about. Classic sounds of '70s delight (before "rock was dead"), these albums are sure to tickle your fancy upon first listen and last until your CD player has gone the way of the eight-track.

Jet
Get Born
(Elektra)



So we're all sick of the single "Are You Gonna Be My Girl"

playing constantly on the radio, but there's something about that Rolling Stones meets MC5 meets the Strokes sound that won't get out of our heads. The rest of the album mixes more '70s rock riffs than you can count. And the subtle references to some of the greatest bands of the time pouring out of four Australian kids makes this album a must buy for any fan of stripped down, true rock.



Joss Stone
The Soul Sessions
(S-Curve)



What the hell can a 16-year old British girl know about American soul? Way more than most Americans do. On her way to becoming the next Britney, Stone got her first taste of soul and couldn't get enough (thank God). Armed with the sultry diva voice of a 50-year-old, this whippersnapper takes the high road of Norah, but gives Aretha class to versions of Carla Thomas' "I've Fallen in Love With You," John Ellison's "Some Kind of Wonderful" and even Jack White's "Fell in Love With a Boy." For a market absent of quality soul, this teen diva has the goods to turn heads of all genres and take notice of a rising starlet that keeps her clothes on for a change.

The Beatles
Let it Be...Naked
(Capitol)



Hailed as the Swan Song of the fab four, *Let it Be* began as a "back to roots" project for four members that admitted they needed to *Get Back* to their origins in order to survive as one of the greatest bands of our time. Unfortunately, animosity toward producer Phil Spector irked Sir Paul so much that an eventual polishing of the album seemed evident. *Let it Be ... Naked*, issued 33 years later, takes the original masters and essentially leaves the rough edges in to create a more relaxed and true recording. Much like the extended version of "Star Wars" or "Lord of the Rings," *Naked* gives you a glimpse at behind the scenes banter, stripped down melodies and alternate solos. Since the release of *Let it Be*, which was actually compiled by friends of the Beatles and not the band because of the so-called Yoko syndrome, we are now on our third version of the final album of a monolithic band that's still trying to get the mix right.

— Dan Marek