

SOUNDCHECK



Jimi Hendrix

NEW EXPERIENCE The future Jimi Hendrix had in store

Near the end of his life, Jimi Hendrix was moving toward a fusion sound that incorporated horns, keyboards and a second guitar. That shift is evident on *People, Hell and Angels*, a new album featuring twelve previously unreleased recordings. "The way Jimi described it in 1969 was what Earth, Wind & Fire became," says Janie Hendrix, sister of the guitar pioneer. "That's what he would have had—richer, bigger bands with more sounds and more cultures. There would have been a definite evolution."

Hendrix made the recordings during 1968 and 1969 while working on the proposed double-album, *First Rays of the New Rising Sun*, which was intended as a sequel to 1968's *Electric Ladyland*. Eddie Kramer—Hendrix's longtime engineer who oversaw production of the new record—recalls the track "Somewhere," which was recorded with Stephen Stills on bass and Buddy Miles on drums. "It's an amazing example of Jimi's control of the wah wah," he says. "The tone and how that affects the whole song—it projects itself through the track."

Other players include Chas Chandler and Mitch Mitchell of the Experience, bassist Billy Cox, saxophonist Lonnie Youngblood and second guitarist Larry Lee. Janie Hendrix says her brother, who died in 1970 at the age of 27, was pushing to expand beyond the trio format: "Jimi told my dad, 'You're going to be doubly proud of me.'"

TOP TEN

Without the cowbell these tunes just wouldn't ring.



The Rolling Stones

- 1 MOUNTAIN**
"Mississippi Queen" (1970)
Drummer Corky Laing tapped the beat from the Band's "Up on Cripple Creek."
- 2 THE ROLLING STONES**
"Honky Tonk Women" (1969)
Cowbell striker Jimmy Miller later played drums on "Tumbling Dice."
- 3 GRAND FUNK RAILROAD**
"We're an American Band" (1973)
Drummer Don Brewer wrote this No.1 hit for the Michigan rockers.
- 4 WAR**
"Low Rider" (1975)
Took its name from the popular Latino car modification.
- 5 DAVID BOWIE**
"Diamond Dogs" (1974)
Bowie handled all guitar parts on this riff rocker.
- 6 CREEDENCE CLEARWATER REVIVAL**
"Down on the Corner" (1969)
Recorded later as a duet by Harry Belafonte and Lena Horne.
- 7 THE BEATLES**
"A Hard Day's Night" (1964)
An off-hand remark by Ringo sparked this classic's title.
- 8 GUNS N' ROSES**
"Nightrain" (1987)
Pays tribute to a cheap wine from the band's early days.
- 9 BLUE OYSTER CULT**
"(Don't Fear) The Reaper" (1976)
Stephen King quoted some lyrics in his novel *The Stand*.
- 10 NAZARETH**
"Hair of the Dog" (1975)
Originally titled "Heir of the Dog," but changed by the record label.

'A GOOD SONG CAN ONLY DO GOOD.'
-PETE SEEGER
1961

LIVE NOTES



Yes

> Prog rockers Yes will perform three classic albums in their entirety when they hit the road for a North American tour this spring. Fans will be treated to 1971's *The Yes Album*, 1972's *Close to the Edge* and 1977's *Going for the One*—in a single night. "We thought it would be nice to put these albums, which are very near and dear to us, in their full and proper context," says guitarist Steve Howe. The trek kicks off March 1 in West Wendover, Nev., and wraps April 12 in Detroit, Mich.

Alicia J. Rose, Robyn Hitchcock

SHOOTING STARS

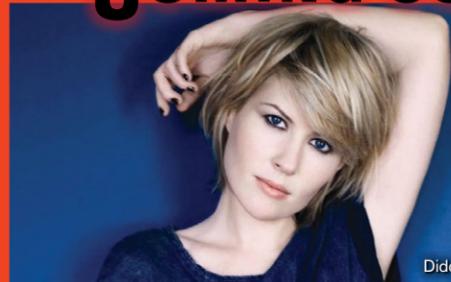
A documentary about power-pop legends Big Star has been garnering rave reviews on the independent film festival circuit. *Big Star: Nothing Can Hurt Me* charts the enduring legacy of the influential Memphis-based 1970s band. "It's one hell of a tale," says director and co-producer Danielle McCarthy. "A group of extremely talented musicians craft some of the best albums of their generation, only to find their record label is unable to properly distribute the records, and the airplay they do get seems to fall on deaf ears. Fast-forward to the early '80s, and bands like R.E.M. and the Replacements are name-checking and even writing songs about band leader Alex Chilton. Voilà—arguably the first cult band is born into the pop culture consciousness." After the deaths of frontman Chilton, guitarist Chris Bell and bassist Andy Hummel, drummer Jody Stephens remains the



Big Star

group's sole surviving original member. McCarthy hopes to help keep the flame alive. "Who knows what's next for the Big Star legacy?" she says. "We hope this film introduces the band to a whole new generation of fans."

COMING SOON



Dido

> **DIDO** (March 5) Dido settled on an electronic approach for *Girl Who Got Away*, her fourth studio album. The British songstress recorded in London and California, sometimes working in a hotel room with little more than a keyboard and microphone. Nonetheless, a team of all-star producers was recruited, including Greg Kurstin, Jeff Bhasker and A.R. Rahman. "A big, fun electronic extravaganza" is how Dido describes it.



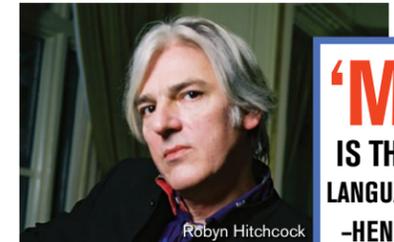
They Might Be Giants

> **THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS** (March 5) They Might Be Giants continue their return with *Nanobots*, their second adult record since releasing a pair of children's albums. The duo's quirky humor remains intact. "There are 25 tracks in about 45 minutes," says co-leader John Flansburgh, "which sounds like we might need a refill on some Ritalin. But those 25-second songs really offset the longer ones."



Low

> **LOW** (March 19) Low celebrates their 20th anniversary with *The Invisible Way*. The group enlisted Wilco's Jeff Tweedy to produce after hearing Tweedy's work on Mavis Staples' 2010 album, *You Are Not Alone*. Singer-guitarist Alan Sparhawk says the songs are "about the drug war, the class war, plain old war war, archeology and love." Recording took place at Wilco's Chicago studio, the Loft.



Robyn Hitchcock

> **ROBYN HITCHCOCK** (March 5) Robyn Hitchcock describes *Love From London* as "paintings you can listen to," adding the songs "celebrate life in a culture imperiled by economic and environmental collapses." Multi-instrumentalist Paul Noble produced the project. The album hits stores two days after Hitchcock's 60th birthday. "Rock 'n' roll is an old man's game now," says Hitchcock, "so I'm staying in it."

'MUSIC IS THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE OF MANKIND.'
-HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW
1835



Aretha Franklin

IN THE STUDIO

Aretha Franklin has begun work on a new album. Details are sketchy, but the soul legend has confirmed that renowned R&B songwriter-producer Babyface has been tapped to helm the project. Plus, hip-hop producer Danja is set to collaborate on the project. It's presumed the album will be released under the close supervision of industry mogul Clive Davis. Franklin, who turns 71 in March, announced last spring she had renewed her association with Davis, who orchestrated her successful career resurgence in the '80s. "I'm working with Clive again," she said. "We're going to sit together and decide what it is we're going to record."