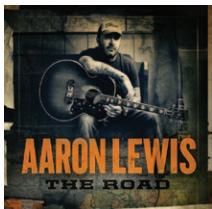


REVIEWS

AARON LEWIS

*The Road*

[Blaster]

Old-school country fans unimpressed by the modern state of the genre need only look to this, the sophomore country album by Staind frontman Aaron Lewis, for solace. Sure, Lewis was raised in Massachusetts, but thanks to his country-loving grandfather, he absorbed the sounds of the greats. And although he made his name with hard rock, his success in that arena has as much to do with his emotive storytelling as it does his rugged vocals. On *The Road*, Lewis proves himself a full-blooded country musician—one ready to lead listeners back to the kind of vintage music that resonates in their souls and tells the stories of their lives. From the first notes of the title track and the whining steel guitar of “Red, White & Blue” to the throbbing ballad “Anywhere but Here,” Lewis triumphs. *The Road* is destined to become a bellwether for modern country. —Nancy Dunham

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PETER FRAMPTON | KEYSHIA COLE | NAS | SOUNDGARDEN

TAYLOR SWIFT
Politely conquers the world

DONALD FAGEN
Clean slate

AIMEE MANN
Goes pop

JOHN HIATT
True grit

HOLIDAY GEAR
STUDIO DRUMS
POP HITMAKER