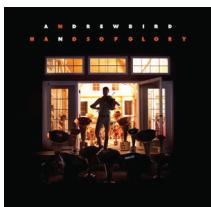


REVIEWS

ANDREW BIRD

*Hands of Glory*

[Mom & Pop]

Inspired by the popularity of his old-timey sets on his last tour, Andrew Bird returns less than a year after his last record, *Break It Yourself*. For this eight-song companion piece, the violinist and his band recorded in a barn around a single microphone. The approach was old fashioned, but the song selection was anything but. On the lone traditional tune, "Railroad Bill," Bird's jaunty fiddling and the band's hoots and hollers belie the dark subject matter. Elsewhere, Bird mixes covers and well-written originals. His unadorned tenor suits the material, whether it's a bluesy "When That Helicopter Comes" or a gentle "If I Needed You." Bookending the album are "Three White Horses" and "Beyond the Valley of the Three White Horses." The latter recalls the ambitious sound of Bird's previous efforts, while the former, with its stripped-down sound and eerie lyrics, suggests an exciting new direction. —Juli Thanki

'Recalls the ambitious sound of Bird's previous efforts, while suggesting an exciting new direction.'

PETER FRAMPTON | KEYSHIA COLE | NAS | SOUNDGARDEN



DONALD FAGEN
Clean slate

AIMEE MANN
Goes pop

JOHN HIATT
True grit

TAYLOR SWIFT
Politely conquers the world

HOLIDAY GEAR
STUDIO DRUMS
POP HITMAKER

 A full-page photograph of Taylor Swift from the waist up, wearing a black and white horizontally striped long-sleeved top and black pants. She has blonde hair and is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile.