

## Music on DVD

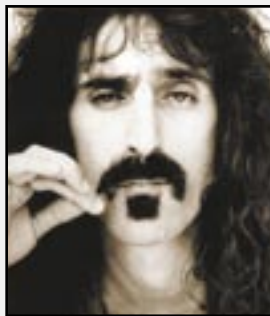
### Tony Palmer

All You Need is Love

Documentary

★★★★

Defining pop music is tough enough; definitively chronicling its history is impossible. But that didn't stop British filmmaker Tony Palmer from giving it his best shot with this 17-episode TV series that aired in the late '70s. Over the course of nearly 15 hours, Palmer follows North American music from its African roots all the way up to glam rock, with leisurely detours into nearly every major genre: Ragtime, jazz, blues, country, Vaudeville, Tin Pan Alley, Broadway, swing, R&B, country, folk, rock and more. The exhaustively researched and brilliantly edited work includes revealing glimpses at a who's who of modern music, from Louis Armstrong to Frank Zappa. Much of it (such as rare TV footage of Gene Vincent) is thrilling; some of it (such as an interview with Phil



FRANK ZAPPA

Spector) is chilling; and some (such as a drunken Keith Moon recording his gawdawful solo album) is hilarious. Despite Palmer's best efforts, though, it's not definitive. A whole host of artists including Led Zeppelin, Neil Young, The Grateful Dead, Van Morrison and more are conspicuous by their absence, while Palmer's Britcentric perspective gives others such as Eric Burdon more time than they deserve. And it's a pity the set wraps just before the onset of the punk, new wave, metal and hip-hop scenes that are the bedrock of today's sound.

## GARAGE BAND IDOL

Let us listen to your original song, and we'll tell you if it sucks or not

**Dan Kokol**  
Bradford, Ont.  
[myspace.com/dankokol](http://myspace.com/dankokol)

Remember that whiz-kid guitarist from school who could play Eddie Van Halen's *Eruption* note for note? That kid grew up to be Dan Kokol. And after countless hours spent honing his chops, he can shred like Steve Vai or Joe Satriani. Trouble is, he's clearly spent a lot more time mastering his playing technique than his songwriting technique. The generic instrumentals on his MySpace page may showcase his fretboard prowess, but unless you're interested in guitar lessons, they get old faster than watching some kid play *Eruption* for the millionth time.

Want Darryl Sterdan to review your homemade, original song? E-mail us an online link where he can hear it. If he chooses yours, he'll tell readers if it sucks or not. Send the link to [CDcritic@wpgsun.com](mailto:CDcritic@wpgsun.com)

**DARRYL'S VERDICT**  
★½  
"How many guitar solos do you need to hear?"

**LISTEN FOR YOURSELF**  
[myspace.com/dankokol](http://myspace.com/dankokol)

### School of Language

Sea From Shore

Indie-Pop

★★★★



Fans of arty British indie-pop trio Field Music are in for a field day.

SoL is the brainchild of FM singer-guitarist David Brewis, who wrote, played and produced nearly every note on this disc. Control-freak move or not, it pays off. These cuts pair hooky melodies with imaginative sonics and lush vocals to create subtly stylish orch-pop that is outstanding in its ... well, you know.

**Download:** *Rockist Pt. 1-4, This is No Fun*

### Human Bell

Human Bell

Art-Folk

★★★★



Baltimore guitarists David Heumann and Nathan Bell (get it?) have

worked with the likes of Silver Jews and Bonnie Prince Billy. Here they pool their considerable talents on moody and mostly meditative instrumentals accented with drums, vibes, trumpet and banjo. It's easy to appreciate their virtuoso musicianship — though it would be easier if these cuts were more dynamic.

**Download:** *A Change in Fortunes, The Singing Trees*

### Ladyhawk

Shots

Indie-Rock

★★★★



We don't know if these Vancouver indie-rockers are fans of the Marvel character

they share a name with. But judging by the fuzzy, lumbering guitar-rock of their second CD, they have a soft spot for Neil Young and Crazy Horse. Of course, their ragged vocals, jazzier passages, big-assed jams and occasional nods to Beatle-pop tell us they're characters in their own right, too.

**Download:** *S.T.H.D., Ghost Blues*



### Veda Hille

This Riot Life

Orch-Pop

★★★★

Calling Hille a singer-songwriter almost feels like an insult. Sure, the Vancouverite sings and writes songs. She also plays piano, among other instruments. But as usual, her 12th CD is an artful and ambitious affair. Weaving together hymns and personal lyrics with majestic orchestrations and the odd dose of theatrical rock, Hille dresses for the job she deserves: Composer. **Download:** *Ace of the Nazarene, The Trees*



### Old 97's

Blame it on Gravity

Alt-Country

★★★★½

"The easy way gets harder all the time," claims Rhett Miller. We aren't buying it. With their seventh studio disc, the pop-loving singer-guitarist and his alt-country outfit make it look easy. Returning to their old Dallas nabe — and edging a few steps closer to the scrappy alt-country twang and crunch of their early discs — these 13 tracks suggest you can go home again after all. **Download:** *Dance With Me, Early Morning*



### Duffy

Rockferry

Pop

★★★★

She's a powerful retro-soul singer. She's the toast of Britain. And her first name is Aimee. Sound familiar? Yep, Welsh chanteuse Duffy is the latest female to be feted as The New Winehouse. But while this debut owes a sonic debt to the glory days of Stax and Motown, its lush Bernard Butler-produced tracks are a tad too predictable and derivative to stand the test. Still, not bad. **Download:** *Stepping Stone, Mercy*



### Dokken

Lightning Strikes Again

Hair-Metal

★★

Is Don Dokken's Final Net never going to wear off? It's been a decade since guitarist George Lynch left, and longer than that since grunge killed hair-metal dead. But Dokken hasn't changed his tune on his 14th CD. He's still dishing up arena-metal anthems full of shredding solos and power ballads for the Bic-waving cougars. Get out your striped Spandex and party like it's 1989. **Download:** *Give Me a Reason, Disease*

## Coming up

### NEXT WEEK

Anywhere I Lay My Head

Scarlett Johansson

XV

King's X

Departure

Jesse McCartney

Crayons

Donna Summer

### 2 WEEKS AWAY

Stop, Drop & Roll

Foxboro Hot Tubs

Lay it Down

Al Green

Same Old Man

John Hiatt

Songs in A&E

Spiritualized

Here I Stand

Usher

All release dates subject to change