

• **Worldwide — Pieces of Life**

Pieces of Life is a soulful, groovy party in a jewel case, highlighted by well-constructed songs. That's not always a strong point for Funk-oriented bands, who often overlook songwriting finesse in favor of overdoing their dance-centric rhythms.

• **Ryan Adcock — From Silence and Joy**

The local singer/songwriter has released his most fully realized effort to date, and it could well be the one that launches him into a wider, national profile. He retains all of the affable qualities he exhibited on his previous work, but *From Silence* has the kind of hooks, sheen and accessibility that could slide easily into rotation on Pop radio right between John Mayer and David Gray.

• **Oval Opus — Red Sky Recovering**

A showcase of Oval Opus' accomplished brand of radio-ready Modern Rock, this CD is highlighted by the band's knack for hooky melodies and skillful songwriting. With their growing regional fan-base and crisp sound, don't be surprised if these guys are the next in town to garner a big-time record contract.

• **Brian Ferry — Some Sort of Static**

Ferry decided to take a more relaxed approach to recording this sophomore effort, a creative, organic Indie Rock-meets-Folk release featuring a "full-band" sound on most of the tracks and also featuring Ferry's experiments with loops and samples.

• **Philosopher's Stone — The Goods and the Ills**

This trio's sound is so novel that it's refreshingly difficult to draw direct comparisons. The group's songs have a fluid, watery vibe that feels very organic, and they don't write in an expected Pop format, eschewing the cookie-cutter verse/chorus style for an atmospheric approach that

simply pours forth and develops naturally.

• **Echo Park — Little Breakdown**

This album continues in the same vein as Echo Park's impressive debut release, *The Machine*, featuring hook-heavy, muscular Pop songs that are surefire radio-friendly.

• **Ric Hickey and the Loose Wrecks — A Pool and a Pond**

Fans of Hickey's work get a little bit of each side of his musical persona on this new CD. It's a bit of a hodge-podge but quite an enjoyable one, as he lays out everything from folksy solo-acoustic tracks to neon-glowing lo-fi to frolicking, full-band Pop Rock.

• **V-Mob — Equilibrium**

This metallic group's hard-to-the-core sound is exhibited brilliantly on this relentless five-song disc that relies on syncopated guitar riffing, a thumping rhythm section, crafty vocals and esoteric key-

board and sample ornamentation, which lends the music a creeping undertow.

• **Broken Head — 420**

Eccentric Hard Rock, artfully pulled off by this new group of veteran locals.

• **The Sidecars — Stay All Night**

A joyous, masterful take on traditional Western Swing, where Jazz meets Bluegrass. A lot of fun to boot.

• **Venus Mission — Midwestern Soul**

Fans of Sarah McLachlan or Over The Rhine will find a

JUSTIN LYNCH
THE
SKYWRITERS
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effort, featuring just him and an acoustic guitar. Lynch's rich songwriting ability makes this a thoroughly satisfying listen.

• **Ms. Jaz — Chances**

This album mixes original songs with cover tunes, but the highlight is Marshall's soulful, expressive vocals. The general sound of the album is a warm Contemporary Jazz-to-Pop crossover, with an R&B undercurrent.

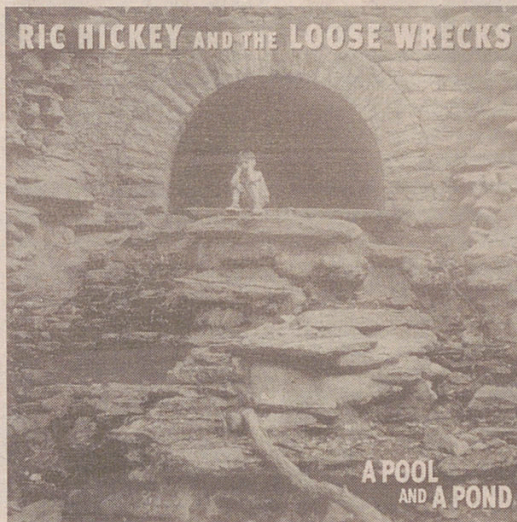
• **Bottom Line — In and Out of Luck**

Warp Tour vets who've already toured Japan, these Pop Punk hooligans are poised to go big time with their catchy, energetic approach.

• **The Flock — Recovering Catholics**

Eclectic Americana from one of the city's best bands. The diversity of material is part of their appeal, and their versatility has enabled

them to be an even more potent presence on the local club front, where they play Celtic venues, Folk clubs and even Blues spots. ©



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