

top 25 NEW MUSIC Critiques 2010

Compiled by Mark Nardone and Andy Mesecher

Music Connection is dedicated to helping unsigned and DIY artists get their music noticed, free of charge. This year, as in the past, our top New Music Critiques artists come from all walks of life, and possess a sound all their own. Each score is based on the merits of production, lyrics, music, vocals and musicianship. An average of those scores is then calculated and posted. MC acknowledges all artists who submitted music in 2010, and our committee applauds everyone who pursues their dream. We openly invite recording artists to send us material in 2011 by first checking out the "Get Reviewed" area at musicconnection.com.



Mighty Kate

Email: booking@mightykate.com
 Web: mightykate.com
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Multi-instrumentalist Kate Pfaff has a rich, resonant voice that puts a glow on these well-crafted tunes. Her violin imbues the catchy, optimistic "Better Days" with a classical air. The song "200 Stories" demands more of her voice and she delivers beautifully. The acoustic melody of "Two Apples" shows this performer's sultry appeal to its max, proving she has no difficulty connecting with the concerns of everyday life. No new ground is broken here, but it's hard to imagine how the artist and her able support could improve on this effort.

SCORE: 8.6



Rob Owen Band

Email: contact@robowenmusic.com
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Owen's rich baritone rasp is the spearhead of this band, which infuses its material with a subtle sophistication. We're talking the kind of musicianship and ensemble work (including organ, piano) that deftly incorporates unusual meters into a pop format. Topping it all off is Owen's voice, conveying both melody and melancholy, and on the sunny, springy "Jenn's Song" he and the band put it all together. It's a disarmingly warm, welcoming song that sets a mood and envelops the listener—perfect for a soundtrack placement.

SCORE: 8.6



A Good Fight

Contact: agoodfight@gmail.com
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Arkansas pop-rockers have a buoyant Strokes-ish energy, propelled by group vocals a la Taking Back Sunday. Frontman Eddie Love shines, especially on the ballad. These expertly rendered productions, together with the photogenic frontman's star quality, go beyond the band's influences and should have major labels starving for A Good Fight.

SCORE: 8.4



Brother Shadrach

Contact: broshad@pearlandmusic.com
 Web: brothershadrach.com AMP Username: brothershadrach

Lyricaly progressive, musically dynamic, with Tribe Called Quest and 8-bit essences co-mingled, this artist's vision is compelling. "Do What U Can" disarms you with its modesty and insight. "Lonely" has FX that keep you glued as the artist laments the loss of friends. "Do You Justice," his tribute to a significant other, gels nicely.

SCORE: 8.4



Jenni Alpert

Contact: sounditmusbooking@gmail.com
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An artist with terrific touch and extraordinary ease, Jenni Alpert luxuriates in her music like a warm bath. All in all, this singer, songwriter and keyboardist has a rich, appealing voice (if a bit familiar), and she's a deft arranger who keeps her collection of mood songs interesting with subtle, effective surprises.

SCORE: 8.4

Music Connection's executive committee rates recorded music on a scale of 1 to 10. Number 1 represents the lowest possible score, 10 represents the highest possible score. A final score of 5 denotes an average, competent artist.



Katerpillar

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SCORE: 8.4



An Endless Sporadic

Contact: rockme@prthatrocks.com
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SCORE: 8.4



Paula McMath

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SCORE: 8.4



W8rld

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SCORE: 8.2



Nick Daugherty

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SCORE: 8.2



Not An Airplane

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SCORE: 8.2



The Big Motif

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SCORE: 8.2



Cathy-Anne McClintock

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SCORE: 8.2



Evan Hirschelman

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SCORE: 8.0



Kenan Bell

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SCORE: 8.0



Paraphrase

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SCORE: 8.0



Amidst

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SCORE: 8.0