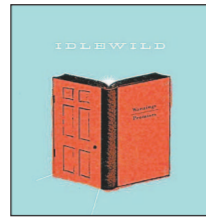


**album:** Warnings/Promises

**artist:** Idlewild

**label:** EMI

SCOTTISH lairds Idlewild have often been compared to REM, which (depending on your musical taste) is nothing to sneeze at. While some music critics haven't stopped wringing their hands over this alleged veering from their indie/punk beginnings, they've overlooked the accomplishments of this Caledonian crew. *Warnings/Promises* is a whole lot of new noise — and it rings sweetly indeed. There's still nods to their wiry ancestry, but the album lolls a little on the folk side. It's tasteful, flawless and demonstrates more growth from an already accomplished band.



**album:** Eye to the Telescope

**artist:** KT Tunstall

**label:** Relentless/EMI

ENQUIRING, intriguing, creative — KT Tunstall is, in short, a class act. With simple guitar and piano-based melodies, her songs strike a chord with their simplicity and elegance. A true talent for songwriting overlays her music and her honest lyrics are at the same time artistic and unassuming. Softly sung, sharply written, KT Tunstall is a rainbow over a sometimes drab musical landscape.



**album:** From Bulldust to Bitumen: 20

**Queensland Songs**

**artist:** John Williamson

**label:** EMI

IN the tradition of Slim Dusty, John Williamson is a quintessential Aussie bush boy. His songs celebrate a simpler Australia, and one of which he must have accumulated a lifetime of fond memories over his career. This RACQ-presented album, though, isn't just "Aussie", it's maroon through and through. Queensland and all the joys it holds are celebrated in each of the 20



tracks. Williamson gives place after place — Springbrook, Brisbane, Caboolture, Charters Towers, Cape York, Mt Isa, Longreach and Thargomindah, among others — a worthiness outside the usual paintings of dust and quaint-but-mostly-vacant country towns. Williamson's rural and outback Queensland is not a place of ghost towns and creaking windmills; it pulsates with the life and character of the people who live in and love the towns, and Williamson's songs laud this character with humour and with fondness. Even the Broncos and the Brekky Creek pub get a mention — and you can't get much more Queensland is that! Stand-out track: *Old Farts in Caravan Parks*. — *Reviews by Rebecca Te'o*

**album:** Legends III

**artist:** Various

**label:** EMI

SHUT your bedroom door, prepare your air guitar and get ready to rock — Legends style. *Legends III* offers two CDs of unadulterated hot-hits bliss, featuring rock gods (Queen, Meat Loaf, Joe Cocker, Van Halen) to pop princes (Toto, Split Enz, Fine Young Cannibals) and everything in between (Joan Armatrading, Marvin Gaye, Foreigner). Disc one goes *Everywhere* with Fleetwood Mac, then takes a *Walk on the Wild Side* with Lou Reed, before heading *Back To You* with Bryan Adams. Farnsy gets the party started on disc two with *Pressure Down*, the Beach Boys go a little troppo with *Kokomo* while Bryan Ferry implores everyone to *Let's Stick Together*. The late Robert Palmer sums the whole thing up — *Legends III* is *Simply Irresistible*.



**album:** A Mark in Time

**artist:** Brian Elkington

**label:** Blue Pie Productions

BEAUTIFUL lyrics and gentle melodies make their mark on Brian Elkington's debut album *A Mark in Time*. His music is an elegant and subdued fusion of folk, blues and country, and describes the simple, sensitive lives of his subject matter with quiet dignity. The whole spectrum is here — love, loss, lament — and Elkington's skill is in presenting soft portraits of lives that will mingle with his listeners' own memories. This is, above all, a thoughtful album with a warmth that lingers.

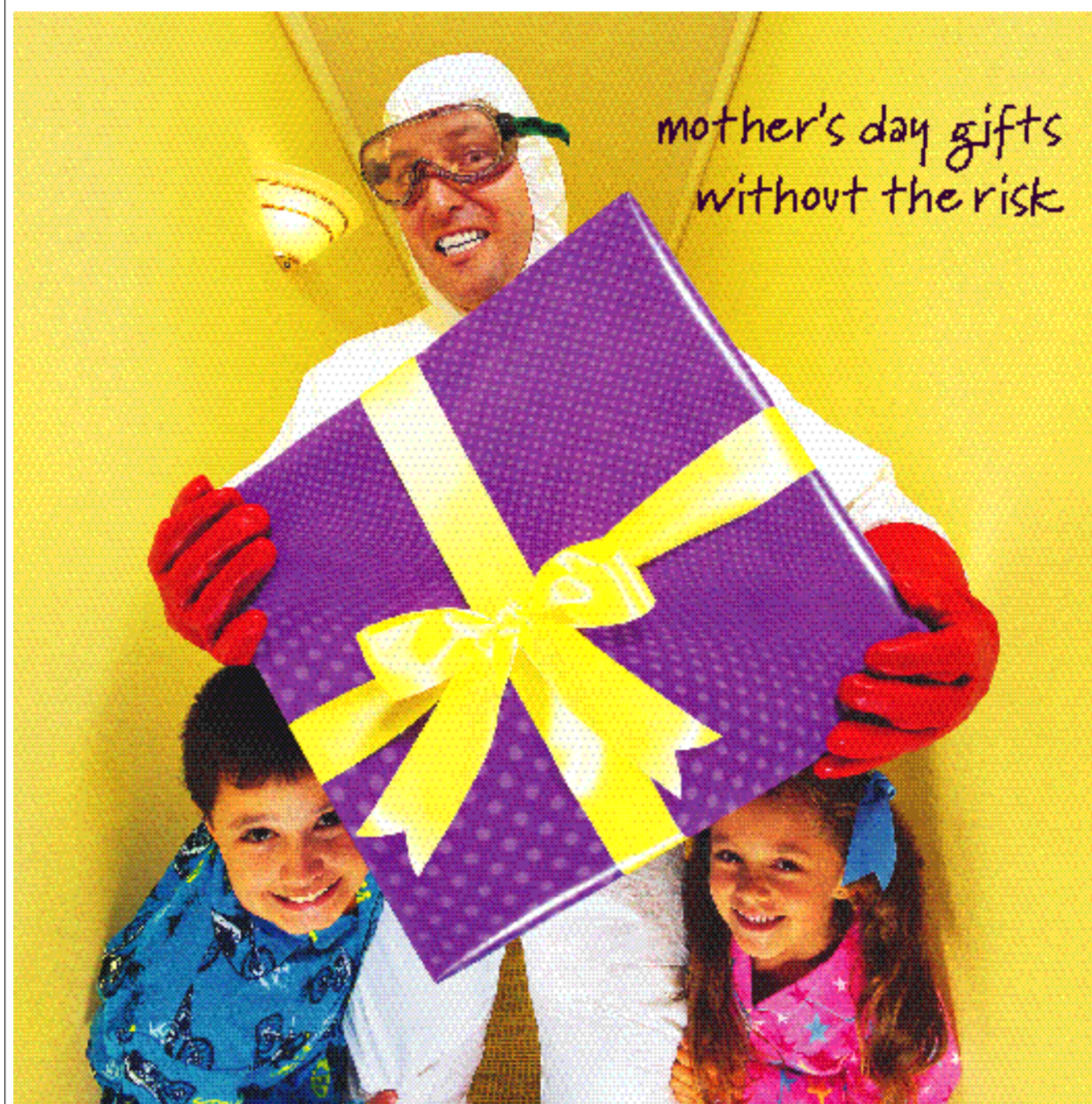
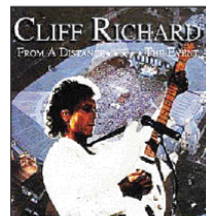


**album:** From a Distance: The Event

**artist:** Cliff Richard

**label:** EMI

BRITISH pop prince Cliff Richard has enjoyed a long career in the spotlight, all of which is celebrated on this latest album, recorded live at Wembley Stadium in 1989 during Richard's massive retrospective concert event. It's 30 years of hits, from where it all began in his days with band The Shadows to his more recent singles. This is a celebration of musical milestones, from bubblegum beats to thoughtful ballads, from an entertainer whose fans have remained steadfastly loyal to his pleasant brand of cherry-cheer pop.



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