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ALBUM REVIEWS

Transforming the best of '90s rock

“Showroom of Compassion”

Cake

Upbeat Records

★★★

“Showroom of Compassion,” Cake’s first album since 2004, finds the Californian outfit in toned condition, turning out polished compositions that could fit in with its classic catalog but updated with new twists. Recorded in the band’s own solar-powered studio over a period of some two years, each song on “Showroom of Compassion” sounds nurtured into its ideal state. The positive-minded “What’s Now Is Now” has almost a utopian, ’70s AM rock glister to it. Could a song developed off the city’s energy grid, literally soaked in sunshine, sound any other way?

—MARGARET WAPPLER