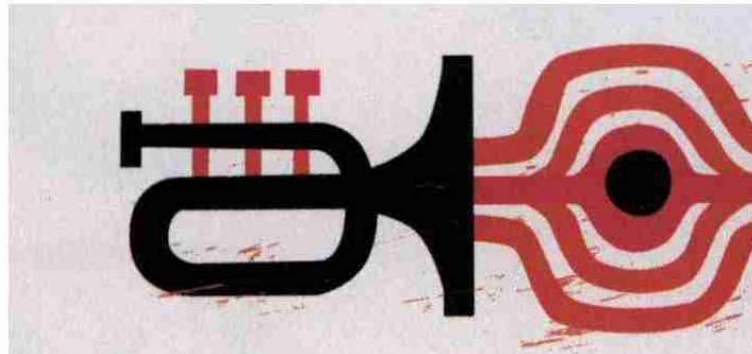


January 10, 2011



POP NOTES
ROCK OUT

These highly anticipated rock-and-roll albums, all out in the first months of the year, may bring a bit of warmth to your winter:

Cake, “*Showroom of Compassion*” (Jan. 11)—The deadpan brilliance of John McCrea has been underrepresented in music since 2004, when Cake served up “*Pressure Chief*.” The new album will supposedly broaden the band’s sonic palette, with more stately acoustic piano and a rounder sound, but don’t expect po-faced sincerity.