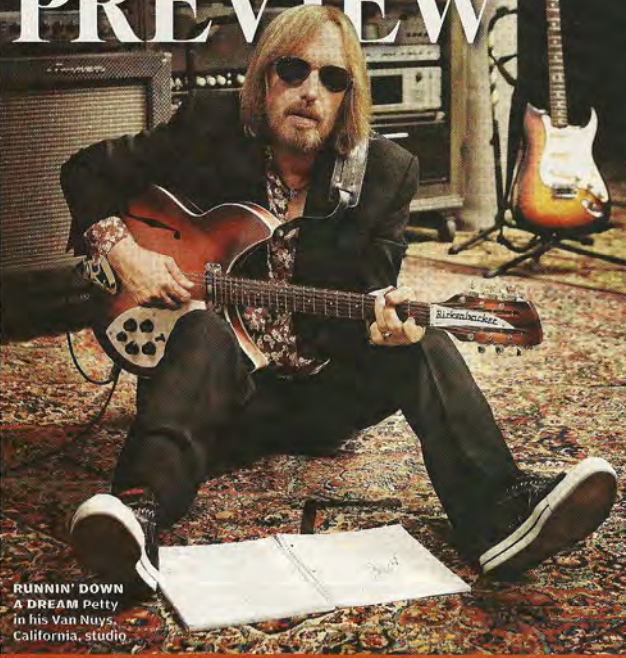


March 18, 2010

## SPRING MUSIC PREVIEW

From MGMT to Erykah Badu, a first listen to 2010's hottest albums



**RUNNIN' DOWN A DREAM** Petty in his Van Nuys, California, studio.

### Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers

MOJO MAY

"I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING IN THE band that hadn't been brought out," says Tom Petty, who let the Heartbreakers run wild on *Mojo*, his loudest, loosest, bluest album ever. "I was listening to early Jeff Beck Group, Peter Green, Muddy Waters, even a little JJ Cale - so that's kind of the way I was thinking when I was writing." To make it all work, Petty pushed guitarist Mike Campbell to let go of his signature restraint and step up as a guitar hero: He solos with almost Buddy Guy-like abandon throughout and riffs Zep-style on the surprisingly heavy "Good Enough."

There's more than just blues rock here, though. "First Flash of Freedom" has a psychedelic swing that suggests Love; the stoner's lament "Don't Pull Me Over" is an unexpected stab at reggae; and "The Trip to Pirate's Cove" is a classic Petty story-song ("I've got a friend in Mendocino/And it's getting close to harvest time," he sings). Says Petty, "We were having so much fun recording that we had to force ourselves to pull the plug - it could have gone on and on."

BRIAN HIATT

#### MARCH

### Justin Bieber

MY WORLD 2.0 3/23

JUST FOUR MONTHS AFTER releasing his debut, teen phenom Justin Bieber is rolling out the follow-up. "With *My World*, I was a rookie," says the singer. "I'm still a rookie, but I think of this album as an upgrade, a step above." The disc - produced by hitmakers Tricky Stewart and Bryan-Michael Cox - leans R&B, from its influences (Boyz II Men, Usher, Anthony Hamilton) to its theme. "I'm not allowed to have a girlfriend until I'm over 16," says Bieber, who reached the milestone on March 1st. "But I wrote a lot about girls."

### Meth, Ghost and Rae

WU-MASSACRE 3/30

"LYRICS OVER SOME NICE beats - that's what the people want from us," says Ghostface Killah, who recruited fellow Wu-Tang Clan members Method Man and Raekwon for the closest thing to a Wu album since 2007. Even though most of the Clan aren't involved, the trio got the retro-soul beat for first single "Our Dreams" - which features a 1975 Michael Jackson sample - from RZA's stash. "When I heard that beat, I was like, 'Holy shit!'" says Ghostface. "It's not a roughneck joint - just nice and mellow."

#### APRIL

### Jakob Dylan

WOMEN AND COUNTRY 4/6

CUT IN LESS THAN A WEEK, Jakob Dylan's second solo album reunites him with T Bone Burnett, who produced the Wallflowers' 1996 breakthrough, *Bringing Down the Horse*. "He brings out the best in people," says Dylan. The album features cozy harmonies from Neko Case and Kelly Hogan, and is divided between songs about relationships ("We



Dylan made his 1P in less than a week.