

World



Soul sister Bridie King's *Way Back Home* has a '50s flavour

Southern sounds

Soul and boogie piano at its very best

Sydneysider Bridie King grew up listening to the music of Memphis, New Orleans and songs from both sides of the Mississippi river. The likes of Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Bessie Smith, and Jelly Roll Morton. Whether by intent or good fortune this musical heritage

old school style, live to two-track analogue tape using vintage mics. "No fix-ups, no overdubs. What you play is what you get, honest, powerful and dynamic, warts and all, rhythm and blues," Bridie explains. On 'Piano Player Blues' (Dorothy Donegan) Bridie's left hand syncopated boogie bass

This musical heritage of soul and boogie piano is expressed magnificently

of soul and boogie piano is expressed magnificently in Bridie's piano style. *Way Back Home* is a special selection of some favourite Southern tunes and songs arranged for piano trio (Vito Portolesi, bass and Jacob Cook, drums) and a three-part female vocal group (The Harmony Queens). This CD has a warmth and feel reminiscent of the 1950s. It was recorded

is strong and purposeful. On other tracks like 'Love is the Only Thing' (Aretha Franklin) piano and vocal harmonies are perfectly balanced, graceful and lyrical. Leon Russell's 'Island in the Sun' is solo piano superbly played, thoughtful and laid-back and full of soul like the player herself.

Sielyn Hall



BRIDIE KING

Way Back Home
Trailblazer TRAILER 3
★★★★★



GOTAN PROJECT

Live
Ya Basta/Shock YAB038CD
★★★★☆
French-Argentinean outfit Gotan Project have been mixing technology and hip nuevo-tango since 2001, almost single-handedly creating a new, lush beat-oriented genre. With just two studio albums to their name, these Parisians have managed to transform a small amount of material into a global phenomenon by producing remixes and a classy live show. This double album chronicles their tours – 2003's *La Revancha del Tango* at London's Forum and 2007's *Lunatico*, recorded in Switzerland. While it lacks the visual strength of their elegant live staging and the historical tango film footage that they employ, Gotan fans won't be disappointed. **Seth Jordan**



JON CLEARY & THE ABSOLUTE MONSTER GENTLEMEN

Mo Hipa Live
Fhq FHQ003
★★★★☆
Now could someone patiently explain how come Jon Cleary, pianist and singer, was raised in England and yet somehow manages to play the R'n'B associated with his adopted home of New Orleans with so much super-funky soulfulness that you'd swear he'd been conceived in a bowl of gumbo served up in a Crescent City flophouse? So authentic does Cleary sound when he sings "going home to New Orleans" on the opening track, 'Go to the Mardi Gras', that you'd never think once to check his passport. Recorded live at The Vanguard in Sydney, this is a blast from start to finish. **Lynden Barber**

review shorts

ANGELO DEBARRE

Trio Tout a Cordes
Le Chante du Monde
2741622
★★★★☆
Late gypsy guitarist Django Reinhardt has a worthy successor in fellow Frenchman Debarre, heard in trio format with second guitar and double bass. Dazzling yet always warm.

AMAMPONDO

African Classics
– *Amampondo*
Sheer SLCD148
★★★★☆
Irresistibly energetic CD from this prominent South African percussion, vocal and dance troupe, a favourite of Mandela.

SPIERS & BODEN

Vagabond
Navigator
NAVIGATOR12
★★★★☆
This accordion and fiddle duo is as traditional – and as good – as English folk gets.

TERAKAFT

akh issudar
IRL IRL039
★★★★☆
Typically gutsy Malian desert blues-rock from band led by two former Tinariwen members.

MADALA KUNENE

African Classics
– *Madala Kunene*
Sheer SLCD151
★★★★☆
Varied and relentlessly listenable collection from the master of the Zulu guitar style known as Madalaine. As melodically strong as it is rhythmically persuasive, with appealing lead and backing vocals, and sympathetic accompaniment. **LB**