

On that note

Geoff Sewell

A founder and former member of hit classical crossover group Amici Forever has just released his first solo album,



Believe, which debuted at No 2 in the charts.

What was the first song or piece of music you liked?

Greased Lightning [from *Grease*] – I wanted to be Danny as he was such a hit with the ladies.

When push comes to shove, what is your favourite album?

Anything Elvis. I think his 68 *Special* goes down as the favorite of all time. He is the best entertainer in the history of the whole wide world.

What is the best gig or concert you have attended?

Elton John's *One Night Only* at Madison Square Garden in New York City. We were guests of Kiki Dee [who dueted with John on *Don't Go Breaking My Heart*]. She had the No 1 dressing room and Simone – my wife – and I got to hang out backstage with all the legends.

What is your favourite Saturday night album?

INXS, *Kick*. This album had a huge impact on me in my teens growing up in New Zealand. We would go on surfing trips to Gisborne and Mahia Peninsula and thrash this album.

What is your favourite Sunday morning album?

Keane, *Hopes and Fears*. It is such a chillout album and my gorgeous little girls love dancing to it as well.

What music have been listening to recently?

My own album. I am doing all the press at the moment, so I'm hearing it 24/7 – just as well I love it.

If you could sing any song on a karaoke machine, what would it be?

That's easy. *My Way*. I won a karaoke competition singing it in a Thames pub when I was 18. I walked away with \$500 and thought I was Father Christmas and his reindeer.

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ROCK

MUSIC

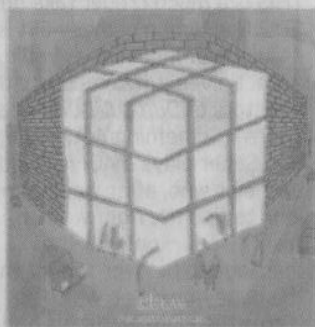
MARTHA WAINWRIGHT ★★★★★

I Know You're Married But I've Got Feelings Too (Shock)

MARTHA WAINWRIGHT'S self-titled debut album three years ago pushed her quickly out of the shadow of her brother Rufus, father Loudon Wainwright and mother Kate McGarrigle. Measured up, Martha's album's was the best release from the Wainwright clan in the past five years. It straddled the middle ground between Rufus' baroque leanings and her parents' lo-fi Dylanesque folk. *I Know You're Married But I've Got Feelings Too* leans more to the flashy, fuller production of her brother's recent albums (especially the

cabaret touches on *Tower Song*), and has a more poppy feel (*So Many Friends*). In other *of the Night* it's stark vein of PJ Harvey. B avoided difficult second drome. She even better and singer, and more a still keeping some d fingernails. She's also Hudson from The Band

INDIE



ELBOW

Seldom Seen Man (Universal)

WHY the band Elbow are not bigger in the popularity stakes eludes me. Great songwriting, a different approach to rock music in terms of song construction, interesting arrangements and lots of thought going into instrumentation. They simply are, to me, the best band in the world at this time and certainly the most adventurous. In 2005, I wrote that on *Leaders of the Free World* they were downbeat, with lots of nervous energy mixed with a noisy clatter and fuzzy guitars. Thankfully this all survives and with time they have honed their art to create big, sonic pictures with lyrics of substance. Think early Peter Gabriel's voice, if we have to have comparisons. Then I hear Blue Nile and U2 in the songs but this is fleeting and should only be taken as a hint of who they are. I love the line in *Bones of You* which tells of madly dashing around and suddenly the muse strikes: "When out of a doorway the tentacles strike of a song that I know and the world moves in slow-mo. Straight to my head like the first cigarette of the day." Fame is just around the corner, guys. ★★★★★

Colin Morris

INDIE



CAJUN DANCE PARTY

The Colourful Life (Rhythmmethod)

THIS debut album from the bizarrely named English indie band is a bit of a gem. At first I was ho-hum about it, but after several spins I really dig it. I like the fact that I had no idea who they were, but in some quarters they are being touted with about as much excitement as The Arctic Monkeys were greeted with. Hype is a funny thing: it cannot exist if you are not aware of it. So blissfully I discovered Cajun Dance Party for myself. And I hope you do – so I will do my best to not over-hype this. I hear the sound of Guillemots at times; elsewhere it cranks up a bit more. But I like the pop instincts within the indie rock, never cloying, never too overtly borrowed. And then I read that the members of Cajun Dance Party are all too young to drink in bars and recorded this album (produced by Suede's Bernard Butler) while still at school. Hopefully this band of youngsters goes more the way of Gomez than The Arctic Monkeys. Not a total classic, but for a debut from a teenage band it is pretty impressive.

★★★★★

Simon Sweetman