

MUSIC

with Helen Clarke

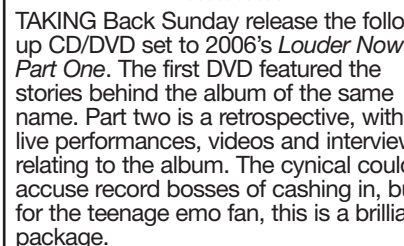


The Goo Goo Dolls
Greatest Hits Vol 1: The Singles Album
(Warner Bros)
Out now
★☆☆☆☆

LONG before the likes of Coldplay and Snow Patrol hijacked the music world on both sides of the Atlantic, there lived a punk/metal band from deepest America. Somewhere around the mid-90s they became a bit less angry and grew their hair. Then they wrote a song called *Iris*, and the rest is middle of the road, stadium rock history.

Their breakthrough album, *A Boy Named Goo*, arguably paved the way for a new generation of soft-rock and The Goo Goo Dolls are renowned for being many a music snob's guilty pleasure. But much of this singles collection sounds dated and its only real purpose seems to be as a stocking filler for people who loved *Iris*.

Banished from this album are the heavier tracks. Instead we're left with a husky vocal, plenty of twiddly, space-filling guitar and gut-wrenching lyrics. *Iris* still sounds brilliant and has stood up to relentless airplay. Their defining song, it's the reason you can download single tracks from iTunes.



Taking Back Sunday
Louder Now: Part Two CD/DVD
(Warner Bros)
Out now
★★★☆☆

TAKING Back Sunday release the follow-up CD/DVD set to 2006's *Louder Now: Part One*. The first DVD featured the stories behind the album of the same name. Part two is a retrospective, with live performances, videos and interviews relating to the album. The cynical could accuse record bosses of cashing in, but for the teenage emo fan, this is a brilliant package.

From their Live Earth performance to the making of single *Liar (It Takes One To Know One)* and some cringey, gushy interviews, their target audience is defined from the off, with the background screams of 'Adam...I love you!' drowning out some of the live recordings. It's emo-by-numbers, and they mercilessly steal riffs and screams from their predecessors Dashboard Confessional and At The Drive In, but they do it well and the tight, flawless performances in this set are a testament to that.

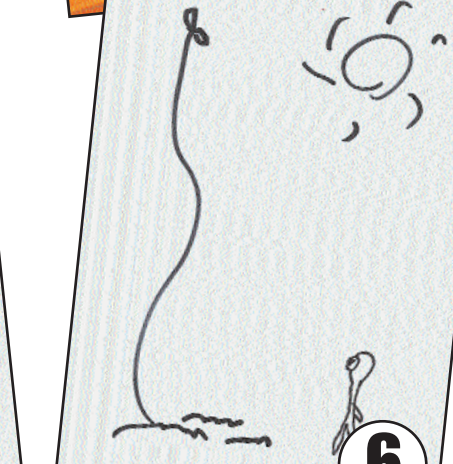
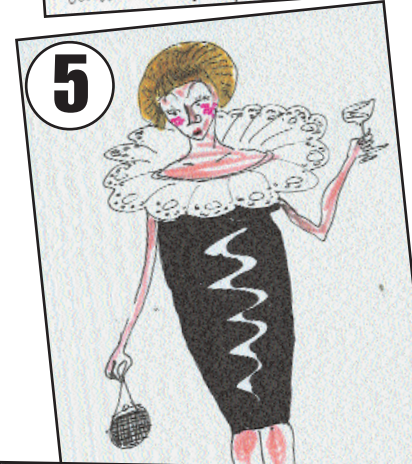
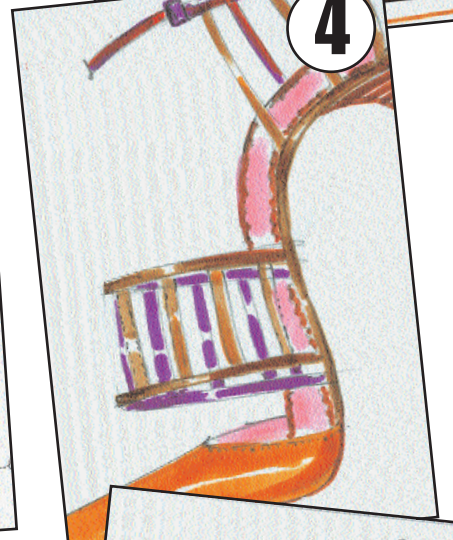


The White Stripes
Conquest
7" Single
(XL Recording)
December 31
★★★★☆

JACK and Meg tackle this dream cover version with the guts and imagination we've grown accustomed to. Written by Corky Robbins and popularised by Patti Page in the 1950s, *Conquest* is a painfully hip scrap between Jack's trademark driving bass and a Mexican/flamenco trumpeter. It sounds unlikely, but as with everything they've thrown at us during their six-year career, The White Stripes manage it with effortless cool, sounding both retro and light years ahead of everyone else at the same time.

Jack's been quoted as saying they've longed to record this song for years and it sounds as though it's been years in the making - a clever, stirring sound, combining passion and mystery with their usual nonchalant minimalism.

A bigger sound than we're used to, *Conquest* is ridiculously camp and Jack seems to relish the chance to really show off. His vocal reaches a level we've not heard before and his solo is faster than ever. Another classy, classic single.



WHO'S WHO?
A dozen pictures by art students James Green and Jo Longhurst, and superstar artists Grayson Perry, Damien Hirst, Paula Rego, Yoko Ono, Sir Peter Blake, Sir Paul Smith, Tracey Emin, Nick Park, David Bailey, Manolo Blahnik. But can you tell who has done what? The answers are in the story. No cheating now!

STUDENTS' PICTURES ARE MIXED UP WITH THOSE BY ESTABLISHED ARTISTS COULD YOU HIT THE JACKPOT?

Each year Royal College of Art students display painted postcards alongside those by artists whose works sell for thousands. **CHRISTIAN McLAUGHLIN** took a look at the entries

CAN YOU see which rainbow has a pot of gold at its end? Here is a selection of the postcards that went on sale at the Secret exhibition at Kensington's Royal College of Art.

Each card went for £40 but was potentially worth thousands. Whether from the hand of Damien Hirst or a recent RCA graduate, the public had a week to preview the 2,300 images and try their luck.

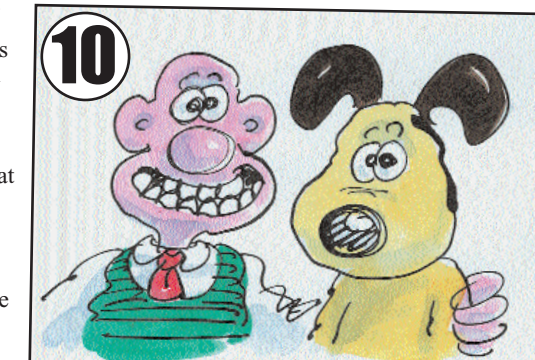
Postcards were displayed face-up, so the mystery was only solved when the artists' signatures were revealed on the flipside. The fundraiser for RCA students made £94,000, and will return for its 15th anniversary in 2008. Take a look at the suspects and see if you can match the cards.

● Grayson Perry, 47, is a cross-dressing British artist who works mainly in pottery. As famous for his skirts as for winning the 2003 Turner Prize, he mocks conventions and goes by the name of Claire when dressed as a lady. **5**

● Damien Hirst, 42, is the world's most expensive living artist. Art students that didn't make the grade this year can take comfort that both Leeds and Goldsmiths art colleges rejected him at his first attempt. He won the Turner Prize in 1995. **1**

● Paula Rego, 72, is

Portuguese-born but based in Britain. Her sexually charged, childhood-inspired art may be the stuff of



nightmares, but it didn't prevent her earning a Turner Prize nomination in 1989. **12**

● Tracey Emin, 44, is an English artist of Turkish Cypriot origin. A fellow Young British Artist with Damien Hirst, she was pipped to the 1999 Turner Prize with My Bed. **11**

● Nick Park, 59, four-time Oscar-winning British filmmaker, famed for *Wallace and Gromit*. Made his first film in his parents' attic at just 13. **10**

● Yoko Ono, 77, is a Japanese-born artist based in New York. John Lennon, her late husband, dubbed her "the world's most famous unknown artist; everybody knows her name, but nobody knows what she does". **6**

● Sir Peter Blake, 75, is a British pop artist. A student at the Royal College of Art in the early 1950s he led the pop art scene, famously designing The Beatles' Sgt Pepper album sleeve. **9**

● Sir Paul Smith, 61, is a British fashion designer. His empire has a £300 million annual revenue, despite the fact that he left school at 15 with no qualifications - "my biggest regret". **8**

● David Bailey, 69, is a British photographer. A fashion snapper for *Vogue* and an icon of the swinging 60s, Bailey was the basis for the photographer played by David

Hemmings in Antonioni's 1966 film *Blow Up*. **3**

● Manolo Blahnik, 65, is a Spanish fashion designer. Raised on a banana plantation in the Canary Islands, he opened his first shop, Zapata, in Chelsea in the early 70s. Madonna said his designs were better than sex, "and they last longer too". **4**

● James Green graduated from the Royal College of Art in 2007, after specialising in painting. **2**

● Jo Longhurst is a photography PhD student at the RCA. **7**

Secret, the show of students' and celebrity artists' work at the Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, SW7, happens every November. See www.rca.ac.uk/secret.

The Turner Prize, organised by the Tate Gallery since 1984, is named after painter JMW Turner and is awarded to a British visual artist under 50. The prize is £40,000, plus a lot of publicity. Visit Tate Britain in Pimlico to see all the past winners' works exhibited until January 13.



informer review