

# MUSIC

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## Dr. John's *Tribal* CD delivers feel-good music

Staff and wire reviews

### Dr. John and the Lower 911 TRIBAL

The prolific Dr. John delivers another collection of his New Orleans-brewed funk 'n' soul. Actually, the soon-to-be 70 singer, pianist and organist has a musical reach that defies categorization. *Tribal* pulsates and resonates with the Afro-Cuban groove of "Feel Good Music"; uplifting, down-home "Big Gap"; and deep, horns-enhanced funk of "When It's Right (I'm Wrong)," a song that comes on like part two of Dr. John's biggest hit, "Right Place, Wrong Time."

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The spiritual-philosophical "Lissen At Our Prayer," featuring a string arrangement by one of Dr. John's long-running New Orleans partners, Wardell Quezergue, further soothes the troubled psych. Even though the lyrics of "Change of Heart" recount a hurtful breakup, the song's gospel-inflected sound brings that healing feeling back again. Decades disappear into some lost Louisiana bayou with "Jinky Jinx," a spooky studio creation that conjures memories of Dr. John the Night Tripper's adventurous album debut, 1968's *Gris-Gris*.

Probably more politically-oriented in his lyrics during these post-Katrina years than at any other time in his 50-plus-year career, Dr. John frequently mixes social commentary into the groove, one example being another of *Tribal*'s Afro-Cuban-seasoned songs, "Only In Amerika."

Music being such a communal endeavor, *Tribal*'s guests include Derek Trucks in "Manoovas" (playing guitar too



Photo provided by James Demaria Productions

#### Dr. John

loud and too often), Mark Mullins blowing fun trombone in "Them" and jazz saxophonist and Mardi Indian chief Donald Harrison augmenting the already mystic "Music Came." Collaborative spirit also informs the album's songwriting through Allen Toussaint and Dr. John's recently departed friend and writing partner, Bobby Charles, to whom this splendid disc is dedicated.

John Wirt

#### Mike Posner

##### 31 MINUTES TO TAKE OFF

Sometimes, first impressions aren't exactly right.

Though Mike Posner's smash single "Cooler Than Me" suggests that he might be 3OH!3's brainier little brother or Ke\$ha's self-deprecating male counterpart, the recent Duke

University graduate's debut album *31 Minutes to Take Off* actually has far more in common with Justin Timberlake and Usher.

Posner plays the new-millennium soulman in "Do You Wanna," riffing off a Ray LaMontagne horn sample and selling the loping groove like he's the love child of Otis Redding and Macy Gray. He holds his own with Boyz II Men, who back him up on "Deja Vu" and give him a sweet response to his sometimes expletive-laden calls.

On "Synthesizer," Posner stretches a bit too far for a hook to get "Don't synthesize her, don't redesign her" into the synthy-soul ballad.

But before people started getting the idea that he's an old-school soul cat, Posner quickly makes sure to act his

age — in the catchy come-on "Bow Chicka Wow Wow" or the retaliatory "Cheated," where he delivers "I shoulda cheated on you, nobody told me I was dating a whore" like an angry Ne-Yo and then proceeds to name the girl in question.

It's those unusual juxtapositions on *31 Minutes to Take Off* that push Posner to the front of the soul-pop line ahead of the recent chart-toppers Jay Sean, Iyaz and Bruno Mars. If he keeps the rest of his career this fresh, Posner's takeoff should be exceedingly smooth.

Glenn Gamboa  
Newsday

### Squeeze

#### SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Teenage friends and musicians Chris Difford and Glenn Tilbrook formed Squeeze in 1973. The band found late-'70s success in its native Britain with wave-era favorites "Up The Junction" and "Cool For Cats."

Often compared to an earlier English songwriting duo, John Lennon and Paul McCartney, Difford and Tilbrook were, and are, wry and exceptional tunesmiths. Blending pop and soul, the Squeeze discography contains that memorable tale of a jilted boyfriend on the rebound, "Black Coffee In Bed," one-time band member Paul Carrack's blue-eyed soul vocal performances of "Tempted" and "Loving You Tonight" and the otherworldly pop of "Some Fantastic Place."

*Spot The Difference* presents Difford, Tilbrook and Carrack in new recordings of their best-known Squeeze songs. Tough as it is to top the originals, "Pulling Mussels (Front The Shell)," "Loving You Tonight" and the 12 other exacting new recordings have convincing authority. After a few hearings of the new versions, it's the earlier versions that may fade from memory.

John Wirt

## TOP TRACKS

### National Popular Singles

1. "Love The Way You Lie" Eminem
2. "Dynamite" Taio Cruz
3. "Mine" Taylor Swift
4. "California Gurls" Katy Perry/Snoop Dogg
5. "I Like It" Enrique Iglesias/Pitbull

### Billboard Top Albums

1. "The Suburbs" Arcade Fire
2. "Recovery" Eminem
3. "Nightmare" Avenged Sevenfold
4. "Trill O.G." Bun-B
5. "Teflon Don" Rick Ross

### Top Country Songs

1. "Free" Zac Brown Band
2. "I'm In" Keith Urban
3. "All About Tonight" Blake Shelton
4. "Lover, Lover" Jerrod Niemann
5. "Love Like Crazy" Lee Brice

### Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs

1. "There Goes My Baby" Usher
2. "Un-Thinkable (I'm Ready)" Alicia Keys
3. "Ride" Ciara/Ludacris
4. "Miss Me" Drake/Lil Wayne
5. "Your Love" Nicki Minaj

### Alternative/Modern Rock Tracks

1. "In One Ear" Cage The Elephant
2. "Lay Me Down" The Dirty Heads/Rome
3. "The Catalyst" Linkin Park
4. "Animal" Neon Trees
5. "Lisztomania" Phoenix

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