


Local jazz release

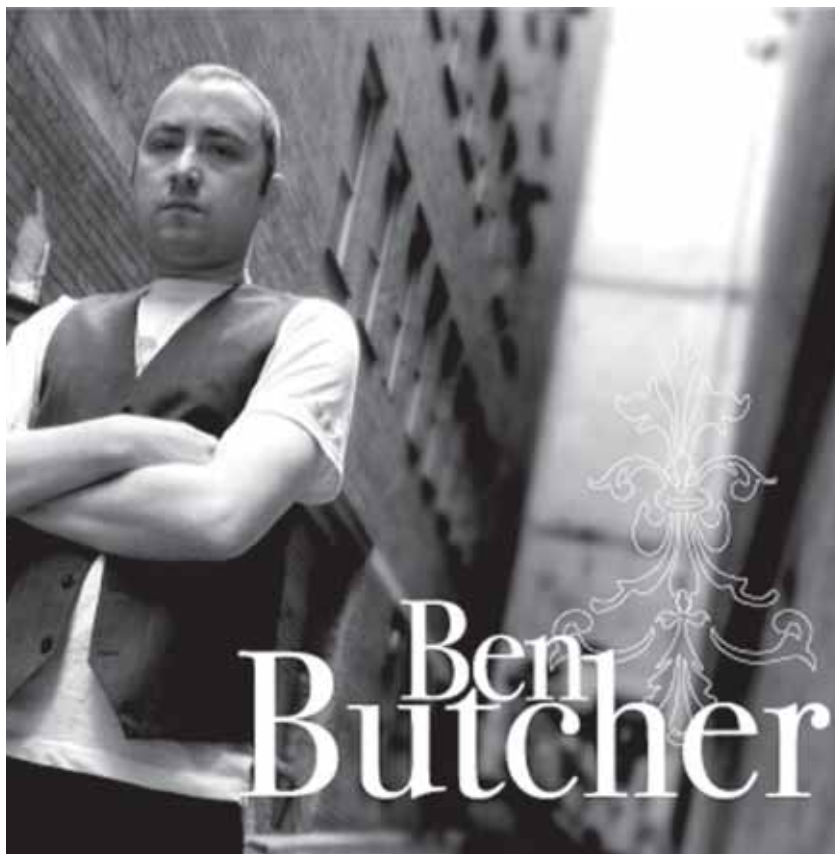
There's a new soul and blues man in town and he is 27-year-old Monash University student Ben Butcher who is about to hit airwaves with his self-titled third album.

The combined musical efforts of Butcher and father Henry deliver a rare but inspired mix of talent and experience that captures and penetrates deeply into audiences' souls to form a lasting impression. Butcher is a regular at Melbourne's infamous Ruby Lounge (next gig is 3pm April 20).

Musicians he has played alongside include the US's Bob Log III, Spoonful and Bobby Flynn. Butcher is studying for his Bachelor of Jazz, majoring in performance.

The duo's original songs, written by Ben, reveal a grasp of human nature and an intuition for rock and blues not commonly seen in young songwriters. Expertly timed and emotionally charged vocals are executed with instinctive delivery. While Ben strums lead guitar with the ferocity, but not the abandonment, of a hungry lion. This duo is a powerhouse of musical ability. Butcher will not only rock the house with his powerful vocals, unique blend of lyrics and innovative musical style, he will shake it to its core foundations. Butcher audiences can expect to be satisfied with a soul retching, emotionally charged, kick-arse performance every time. You can check out Butcher's tunes on www.myspace.com/benbutcher 

Lauretta Davies



Apocalypso

The Presets

Universal

After two years studio silence, The Presets come rocketing back into the fray with their sophomore album, *Apocalypso*.

Ranging from expansive, emotive techno, to future pagan house and choral space funk, *Apocalypso* demonstrates the band's undeniably canny knack for welding hook-laden pop to some of the most singular and exciting sounds of tomorrow.

In less than four years Julian Hamilton (vocals, programming and keys) and Kim Moyes (drums, programming and keys) have worked their way up and out through the musical quagmire of Sydney's club scene to become Australia's foremost proponents of twisted electronic pop and a global phenomenon as one of the most talked about and in-demand live acts today.



FuturePOP

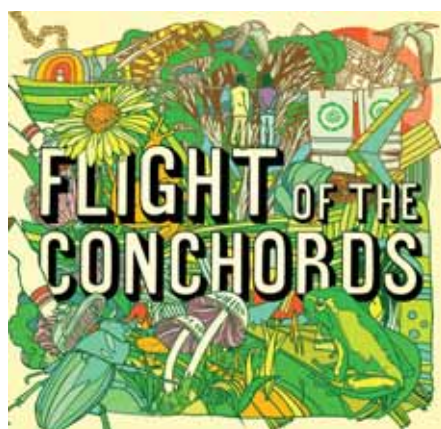
Various

EMI

In the future, there is no American Idol, Australian Idol or X Factor. There are no manufactured teen pop groups, no Top 40 chart and no So Fresh. In the future, there is only futurePOP, and this is what it will sound like.

A double CD featuring the best of the current crop of electroclash/synthpop/dance artists, as well as hot remixes from the cream of pop music royalty.

Features Hot Chip, Bloc Party, Robyn, The Killers, LCD Soundsystem, The Sounds, Digitalism, The Presets, Muscles, Moby, Calvin Harris, Roisin Murphy, Simian Mobile Disco, Groove Armada, Faker, Justin Timberlake, New Young Pony Club, Tracey Thorn, The Knife, Annie, Kylie and many more



Flight Of The Conchords

Flight Of The Conchords

Stomp

Acclaimed Kiwi novelty band duo Flight of the Conchords follow up the release of their sixtrack Grammy award winning EP (it's true, it's true!) 'The Distant Future' with their album debut, the conveniently titled *Flight of the Conchords* (which, not at all coincidentally, is also the name of their television series).

Bret McKenzie and Jemaine Clement's trademark acoustic guitars lead the blitz, backed by a diverse array of instrumentation and production technique.

The album sounds legitimate, and musically it's incredible, but, as Shakespeare said, "Does it funny?" Happily, yes. If amazing, delightful and hilarious is your idea of funny, then prepare for undisappointment!



Paradise

My Disco

Stomp

Well known for their precise and flawless live performances, Ben Andrews (guitar), Liam Andrews (vocals / bass) and Rohan Rebeiro (drums) have gained a strong and dedicated following since they first came together in 2003. A lot has been accomplished in the last five years, from countless headlining shows within Australia and around the world, to playing support for international bands such as Battles, Mogwai, Death From Above, Comets On Fire and Deerhoof.

With several vinyl releases already under their belt, 2006 saw the release of their debut album *Cancer*, from which stemmed an abundance of glowing reviews and radio support, sold out album launches in Melbourne and Sydney, plus tours.

Playing at Karova Lounge, Ballarat April 18; The National, Geelong April 19 and The New Market, Bendigo May 2.



Third

Portishead

Universal

Portishead return in style with *Third*, their first album in over a decade.

The band has an exhaustive attention to detail – real quality control in the structure of songs, the sounds they use. The sound ranges from the more soulful to quite hard. But it is the Portishead signature sound: it's what makes them special. This is why they have been cited by artists from rock to hip hop."

The album was recorded in the band's Bristol studio and Nick Gatfield who is overseeing the project explains: "The band has probably only been working in earnest on this album for the last couple of years, although they've done side projects, but they regrouped to tackle the album head on."