

## THE DIVINE COMEDY

**The Very Best of the Divine Comedy**  
(Setanta Records)

Neil Hannon is a bit of an oddity. He writes dark, murky little ditties about murder, sex and unrequited love, then delivers them in a jaunty, cabaret style.

Performing as the Divine Comedy, a one-man band backed up by a rotating crew of studio performers, Mr. Hannon has racked up quite a stock of these strange little pieces during 10 years. His new collection, "The Very Best of the Divine Comedy," brings together 17 of them in a rich, funny and interesting package that illustrates why Mr. Hannon has developed a cult following across the globe.

Mr. Hannon's unusual singing — best described as Morrissey singing Robyn Hitchcock songs at a martini lounge — and lush arrangements make this a divine sampler. — *Sean Scully*

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