

NOW HEAR THIS

A weekly trip through the new-release aisle of your local music store

Titan A.E. Soundtrack (Java Records)

The animated movie "Titan A.E." apparently wants to be the "Heavy Metal" of the new millennium. The soundtrack is packed with big names performing hard-edged alt-rock, with strains of electronica and world music. Bands include such modern rock standouts as Lit, Powerman 5000 and Lucious Jackson.

Unfortunately, the collection misses badly. Instead of being a rousing teen hormone-fest, as the cheesy 1981 masterpiece was, "Titan A.E." manages to be boring. Even the great Jamiroquai manages to sound like so much musical clock punching.

If the soundtrack is any indication, miss the movie as well.
— Sean Scully

TARBOX RAMBLERS

Self-titled (Rounder Records)

The Tarbox Ramblers are more than mere revivalists. The Boston quartet has picked up the Delta blues, shaken out the cobwebs and made the genre relevant to today. Yet, they treat America's seminal music with respect, even reverence.

The band's debut album is packed with traditional songs of death, sin and redemption, including the familiar "Honey in the Rock" and "St. James Infirmary." It adheres to the traditional sound but livens things up with a judicious taste of the modern — a new verse here, a touch of electric guitar there.

The result is a delicious mix of tunes that will capture the modern music fan without offending the blues purist. — S.S.

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