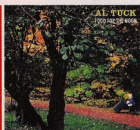


Chic Gamine (left) and Mike Petkau

Imagine writing, performing and recording a song in only a few hours. Now imagine tackling this task with a handful of people you've just met. Welcome to Winnipeg's Record of the Week Club. Sixteen songs were created this way last summer—one posted online per week—and they were released as an album in June. The musicians, who were different each week, came from such notable bands as The Weakerthans, Novillero and Nathan and even the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. The mastermind behind this weekly creative exercise is Mike Petkau, 30, a Winnipeg recording engineer. "We've long been a city of hard rock and roots, but I'm interested in music that pushes boundaries," he says. Andrina Turenne, 27, a singer with the Juno Award-winning roots band Chic Gamine, heard about the project when Petkau sent her an email asking if she was free

one Wednesday night. "Going into the studio and not being allowed to come out without a song is a really great way to stimulate creativity," says Turenne. Her group—which included *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*'s Matt Tapscott and Matt Schellenberg of The Liptonians—split the writing duties and even recorded foot stomps in the stairwell to get the sound on their track, "Come Forth," just right. Even the release method was fresh: Petkau posted the new track on the project's website (recordoftheweekclub.com) the day after the session. "A lot of music today doesn't sound like people in a room playing music; it just sounds like a computer project," explains Petkau. "Music has become so precise that it doesn't breathe anymore. The listening public is getting tired of that, so it was quite freeing—just running with your instincts." BRIONY SMITH



● East Coast singer-songwriter **Al Tuck** wears his ravaged heart on his sleeve on his beautiful new album, *Food for the Moon* (Independent). The songs' backdrop is a relationship gone sour, and they're filled with pain and anger (as he sings in the title track, an elegy to his former father-in-law, songwriter Gene MacLellan, "Be careful what you do to someone who can write"). But when they're played and sung so beautifully by Tuck and a bunch of talented country-blues musicians, the effect is devastating. ● On *The Loving Kind* (Rounder/Universal), **Nanci Griffith's** first album of new material since 2004, she tackles social-justice issues—the title track salutes a couple who challenged U.S. laws against mixed-race marriage in the late '50s—as well as more mundane problems like boredom, marital disappointment and the dangers of "Tequila After Midnight." The clear-eyed, smooth-voiced Texan songwriter also pays a loving tribute to legendary songwriter Townes Van Zandt on "Up Against the Rain." ● **Nino Moschella's** music incorporates many styles, among them jazz, electronica, R&B and "Italian soul." But the San Francisco-area multi-instrumentalist's *Boomshadow* (Outside Music/Ubiquity) delves most deeply and satisfyingly into '70s-style Prince- and George Clinton-inspired funk, leading him (and us) into irresistible grooves like "Something Like" and "Time of Day." MARY DICKIE

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