

LEGSYBOY
PRESENTS

ECLECTIC Legsyland



Is it a cheroot? Is it a beer? No, it's **The Coronas**, and the Irish rockers' third album **Closer To You** (Lix Records/Planet) is a little hit and miss. When

the Gaelic influences infiltrate their indie sound, they are compulsive listening (try album opener 'What You Think You Know'), but the occasional slip into balladry doesn't help the overall cause. Still, if they do manage to take off outside their native Ireland (where they are huge), then you can say *Rhythms* was on board first!

I've recently encountered two wonderful pianists with polar approaches to their craft.

The enigmatic New Age soloist **George Winston** has released **Gulf Coast Blues & Impressions, Vol. 2: A Louisiana Wetlands Benefit** (Sony), to draw attention to, and raise funds for, the organisation of the same name (Vol. 1



similarly raised funds for Hurricane Katrina victims). Winston draws his inspiration and styling from the great New Orleans players such as Professor Longhair and James Booker and, while I find a whole album of unaccompanied piano a little too much for one sitting, the album

and The Allmans. Here, Leavell and his friends pay homage to ivory greats like Otis Spann, Skip James, Ray Charles and Leroy Carr, and anyone with a hankering for the blues will be well satisfied – even if Chuck's vocals leave a touch to be desired.

A couple of noteworthy re-releases have passed by this month. **Paul & Linda McCartney's Ram** (Universal) has received a bells 'n' whistles treatment as well as a



more sedate two-disc renovation. Unmercifully pilloried at the time of its original release, there's been a tempering of the vitriol towards it in recent times, particularly with this remaster, which does sound glorious. It's up to you whether you think the heightened sound experience warrants a reappraisal (although perhaps, unlike me, you may have liked it first time around anyway).

Beatles completists will also want to check out **George Harrison's Early Takes Volume 1** (Universal), billed as a companion piece ("featuring 10 previously unreleased recordings") to the superb documentary *Living In The Material World*. The

land (Sony). I never fully appreciated previously what a ground-breaking record this was. Even forgetting the extraordinary political circumstances it was recorded in, the sheer inventiveness of melding zydeco with African rhythms, and the poetic strength of his lyrical imagery, rightly make this a career high watermark for Simon; he always was more than just a folkie.

Heard of **Adam Miller**? It seems the Novocastrian is far better known overseas for his virtuoso finger-picking than he is in his homeland. He has played with the likes of the late Les Paul, Matt Schofield, Adam Levy and Bruce Mathiske, performed at the Montreal Jazz Festival and been lauded by US

magazine *Guitar International*. Still not heard of him?

Delayed (www.adammiller.com.au) is Miller's fourth studio album featuring 13 original acoustic solo compositions.



The thing is, you'd swear there are at least two guitarists playing (either that or he's got seven fingers!) when he weaves his way around his custom made Traugott eight-string acoustic. This is one acoustic album worth turning up LOUD – Adam Miller is one helluva player and it's time we appreciated it.