

# Music Reviews

Simon McGregor

## Massive Attack "Mezzanine" (EMI)



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This is a great new album from the seminal 90's UK funk band. It is original music in a genre littered with retro references and formula copycats. Massive Attack service no cliches, and deliver strong song writing with a dark, stylish and relentless groove. The single

'Teardrop' is sublimely ethereal, and from there they range to the industrially charged 'Group Four' which challenges one of the few things we all thought was certain: that we don't like heavy metal! 'Man Next Door' contain the classic sample from the Cure's '10:15 Saturday Night', and in doing so may have created a new genre of Goth Groove. And whilst you'll often hear Massive as background music, those of us who were in the general admission section of Festival Hall for their live show can vouch for the fact that they rock up loud. Actually, they throb, if you know what I mean.

## Beastie Boys "Hello Nasty" (EMI)

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The Def Guru's have produced a "money maker disco breaker", to use their own words. This album, amusingly titled after the greeting you'll receive when you call their NYC management company Nasty Little Man, is a winner for several reasons. They rock like their old skool fans will want ('Intergalactic', 'Super Disco Breakin'), and groove with my personal favourite 'Song for Junior', which recent converts toward their 'In sound from way out' will dig. Plus they have managed to put an electro flava through many tracks, and have some great scratching ('Three MC's and one DJ'), so you'll hear this baby all over town.

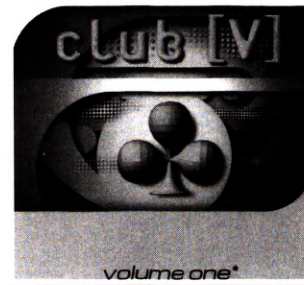
## Retro Review: Grace Jones "Island Life" (Island)

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It has occurred to me that I never bag a CD in my reviews. Well, when there's just so much good music out there, why waste space on garbage? Anyway, to keep my credibility, I'll be hypercritical in this edition's retro review. Grace Jones alternates between making musical fashion statements, and being a musical fashion victim. The dark funk moments of 'Pull up to my bumper', "Slave to the Rhythm" and "Walking in the Rain" are the sort of seeds that were planted in the pre-rap eighties (and have now flowered as Massive Attack), to be used for the proverbial 'healing of the nations' [Revelations 22:2] in

the nineties. But covers of 'Love is the Drug' and 'Nightclubbing' are empty imitations of her own style. Grace was really only as good as her producers. Oh, and by the way, I thought the last Prodigy album was shite too.

## Various "V" (Sony)



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You want a good commercial dance compilation? One mix CD and one regular, with no track overlaps? Pretty recent releases, some still charting, and a good range of music styles? Well get down off your connoisseur's high horse and buy this.

## Thievery Corporation "sounds from the Thievery hi-fi" (4AD)



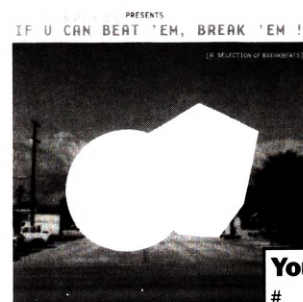
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This CD was cafe tested by the staff at Illia, just down from my chambers, and given the industry nod. Gentle dub grooves and drum patterns that evolve before they let you get totally trapped on whatever couch you're lying on. Chockers with funky samples which

begin to sound like background conversation at the very cool party you are now imagining you are at. Hints of reggae, flute, chants and key pads add subtle flavour. Highlights are '2001 Spliff Odyssey', 'Shaolin Satellite' and 'Vivid'.

In brief:

## Various "If U can't beat 'em, break 'em!" (SSR)



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Oldskool inspired chemical party hearty material. Great mixes of underground tracks.

### Young Lawyers' Quality Scale

#	Struck Out
##	Bear own costs
###	Party/Party Costs
####	Solicitor/Client Costs
#####	Wrote the judgment myself