

Music

ALBUM REVIEWS By DAVE ESSON & DAVID HAMILTON

FATHER JOHN MISTY: God's Favourite Customer ★★★★★

(Bella Union)

Josh Tillman is pinching the bridge of his nose on his fourth album's cover, and at times it does feel as if he's finding all this self-examination and honesty more and more painful. At one stage in the creation of God's Favourite Customer, tensions saw him exit the family home and live in a hotel for two months, and he details the dislocation on Mr Tillman and also The Palace. Musically, he's still deep in the 1970s, all Elton John, ELO, Nilsson and Cat Stevens, and there's a bleak beauty to songs like Just Dumb Enough To Try and Disappointing Diamonds Are The Rarest Of Them All. **DE**



HONEST: Father John Misty

including a 17-minute Spoonful from a 1968 Cream US Tour, and a version of Jimi Hendrix's Little Wing by Derek And The Dominos from 1970. **DE**

GLENN FREY: Above The Clouds ★★★★★

(Geffen/UMe)
 The world of popular music was robbed of a very special talent with the untimely passing in

January 2016 of Eagles co-founder and front-man Frey, aged 67. This 3 CD, 1 DVD box-set celebrates his remarkable solo career before and after the Eagles became global superstars. Disc 1 includes chart hits such as the Miami Vice ballad You Belong To The City, the gritty Smuggler's Blues, the Beverly Hills Cop anthem The Heat Is On, and Frey's poignant Soul Searchin'. Disc 2 includes a magical version of Caroline, No from the Beach Boys' Pet Sounds, as well as his own takes on American Songbook standards such as Route 66, For Sentimental Reasons and The Shadow Of Your Smile. The third disc highlights early output of Longbranch/Pennywhistle, a duo Frey formed with his good buddy JD Souther. The live DVD comes from a July 1992 gig at Dublin's National Stadium and showcases Eagles songs Peaceful Easy Feeling and Desperado, as well as a Lyin' Eyes/Take It Easy medley. **DH**

THE CORY BAND: Britpop Brass ★★★★★

(UCJ)
 A dozen interpretations of classic 90s guitar-pop, coinciding with the 25th anniversary of the Battle Of Britpop between Oasis and Blur for the No 1 spot in the charts. Welsh Valleys brass band



The Cory Band dabble with the likes of Bittersweet Symphony by The Verve, Alright by Supergrass and, of course, a couple of tracks each by those main protagonists. More sedate than recent brass band pop crossovers like the Hackney Colliery Band or the Hot 8, but would brighten up a drive over the Yorkshire Moors in an open-top sports car. **DE**

SHANNON SHAW: Shannon In Nashville

★★★★ (Easy Eye Sound)
Fresh from fronting her band Shannon & The Clams' recent fifth album, Miss Shaw strikes out on her own under the guidance of the Black Keys' Dan Auerbach, who wanted her to approach the project in the vein of Dusty Springfield's classic Dusty In Memphis. The links to that album continued with Auerbach's house band containing two members of those 1969 sessions. Shaw, like Dusty, suffers from self-consciousness and insecurities, but this drives her dramatic and powerful vocal on soulful belters like Golden Frames and Broke My Own. **DE**

ADDIE BRIK: I Have A Doctor On Board

★★★★ (Itza)
Georgia-born Addie wrote her



TV STAR: Eleanor Tomlinson

latest stunning album at home in, of all places, Troon, taking walks on the beach to recharge her batteries, and feeding her lyrics from interviews with an inventor and lifeboat captain. Her inventive alt-folk songs (Nothing Too Much, Birding and Velocity Made Good are the standouts) immediately bring to mind the likes of Kate Bush,

Bjork and Tori Amos and their flair for the dramatic. **DE**

ELEANOR TOMLINSON: Tales From Home ★★

(Sony Music Masterworks)
Tomlinson has a perfectly pleasant, clean voice as she tiptoes through a set of folk-influenced covers, but the question remains: would she have got the chance to record the album had she not been smouldering on our TV screens as Demelza in BBC's Poldark? Classics like Carole King's Tapestry and Homeward Bound from Simon & Garfunkel are tuneful, if a little detached. **DE**

LEE THOMPSON: One Man's Madness

★★★★ (BMG)
A two-disc companion to what is dubbed a "mocku-rocku-documentary" about Thompson, the larger-than-life sax player with Madness. Obviously that means it's pretty much another greatest hits of the Nutty Boys, although there are several lesser-known songs, interspersed with baffling operatic overtures, several spoken-word passages from the film, and a few tracks from Thompson's side-projects The Ska Orchestra and Crunch!, plus a couple of Ian Dury songs. One more step beyond. **DE**

