

## MUSIC

WITH  
SALLY  
BROWNE



### PLAYLIST



INDIE

#### WHEN I FIRST MET YOUR MA

Various



Even rock stars have mums. On this record, some of Australia's finest talents have chosen songs which they've dedicated to their much-loved mums, who inspired them on their journey and gave them unconditional love even when they were not famous and couldn't get a gig in a lift. The result is a treasure chest of largely gentle tunes, including covers and originals. The record features contributions by Julia Stone, Gin Wigmore, Megan Washington, Gurrumul, The John Butler Trio,

Katy Steele, Clare Bowditch and Troy Cassar-Daley. The album opens with its title track by Paul Kelly - a sweet story reminding us that mums were young lovers once, too. Washington thanks her mum for introducing her to Bob Dylan, Paul Kelly and Mamma Cass and offers the gentle song *Lightwell*. This CD would be great to introduce Boomer mums to Australia's current talent, or a lovely gift for new Gen X or Y mums. As John sings, "you better treat yo mama wif respect".



FOLK

#### I WANT THAT YOU ARE...

The Middle East



Don't let the album title, *I Want That You Are Always Happy*, fool you. The clue is in the cover art, or lead track *Black Death 1349*. There's a lot of spooky darkness surrounding this second album from the much-touted young folk collective from Townsville. And for a band acclaimed as next big things, it's a brave release. They are definitely a talented bunch; songs are artfully arranged, rich in instrumentation and vocal harmonies and wistfully folky. *Land of the Bloody Unknown* is a

pretty tune, while *Jesus Came to My Birthday Party* adds some grunge to its tunefulness. The surf guitar tinge in *Dan's Silverleaf* will put you in a brighter mood. Those are the exceptions, though. *Mount Morgan* is a sombre song: a funeral dirge with deep, almost Mongolian vocals and sounds like it could belong on the soundtrack to a Nick Cave movie. This album conjures up Arthurian dreams of the late 1960s hippy era, but we get the sense that Queen Morgana is lurking by.



FOLK-ROCK

#### HORSES AND HIGH HEELS

Marianne Faithfull



At 64, Marianne Faithfull has lived a full life and her voice shows it - but that's no bad thing. She may not be the sweetest canary in the cage but her sandpapery voice lends a folky honesty to the songs she sings. *Horses and High Heels*, a collection of covers and originals, was recorded in the New Orleans French Quarter, with noted producer Hal Willner and a little help from her friends: Lou Reed, Dr. John and MCS's Wayne Kramer. Some of the originals are the strongest. *Eternity*, for example, is

a fantastic song, with its intriguing sample of Arabian sounds recorded by Brian Jones in Morocco in 1968. *The Old House* features lyrics written especially for her by playwright Frank McGuiness. Marianne's own survival story lends weight to her cover of Carole King's *Goin' Back*. And *Past, Present and Future* is a song that deserves revisiting. It's been more than 45 years since the 1960s "it" girl put out her first record and she's remained a powerful and unique force in music since.



# TOP DOGG HANGS OUT

His latest album cover features a gold throne, proving the rapper is king of his domain. But Chez Snoopy is more mellow these days, writes **Sally Browne**

**B**ack in the day, the "Dogg House" was hang-out central. Celebrities, homies, rock stars and movie stars would head to Snoop Dogg's California home to drop by and drop beats, cooking up sounds or hot chicken on the barbecue.

Now the Dogg is a little older, he reckons things have mellowed at Chez Snoopy.

But that doesn't mean he isn't hanging with anyone and everyone, and the proof is on his latest album, *Doggumentary*.

On the 21-track album, the 39-year-old mixes up sounds from old-school funk to euro-techno, working with 1970s funk master Bootsy Collins (he who told us "groove is in the heart" on the famous *Dee-Lite* track) and French superstar DJ David Guetta on that No. 1 single, *Sweat*.

On his 11th album, the westcoast rapper works with names including R. Kelly, T Pain, Kanye West, John Legend, Gorillaz and Willie Nelson.

Hang on a minute, who was that last one? "Me and Willie Nelson, we hooked up a couple of years ago and became friends," Snoop explains from his gold throne, granting a private audience with *U on Sunday* on his recent visit here.

"And we love the same things in life, and we

respect each other. I'm a fan of his and sometimes people are just meant to be together."

Snoop says he recorded the track *Superman*, in which he shows off his lovely singing voice, with the country star in a smoke-filled room in Amsterdam.

The Guetta track, *Sweat*, which Snoop was surprised to learn was a No. 1 hit in Australia, he cheekily dedicated to Prince William's bachelor party.

Unfortunately, he won't be attending the royal wedding, he says.

"I've been invited but I don't think I'm going to show up - I've got a barbecue I'm invited to that day," he jokes.

Which is a shame because Snoop sounds like a fun guy to hang out with.

"I made this record at my studio in Hollywood so a lot of artists would come by my spot and hang out for a day or two or three, because that's what it provoked because we were having so much fun in the process of making this record," he explains of *Doggumentary*'s recording process.

"We would always have some chicken cooking or some bacon going on, some video games, old-school music in the living room, which inspired us to go in the back room and make some real music."