

---

# A Roundup of Records in Review

---

BY ROBERT LUHN

---

## FORK OFF

Fork  
Elektra/Trash Goodies

This first-ever punk opera may send some classical fans running for the nearest water closet, but those raised on sterner stuff will hail Fork's bravura entry into this once staid genre.

Lead singer/songwriter Stutz Pinhead (aka George Wellman) starts Side 1 off with a bang in his opening aria:

*Take your bleeding @\*\*#!\*#\$@!  
Take your bleeding @\*\*#!\*#\$@!  
Take your bleeding @\*\*#!\*#\$@  
#\$\$@#!\*\*&%\*\*#\*!!!*

A sassy, brassy *tour de punk* for the new wave cognoscenti. Highly recommended.

---

## OL' BLANK EYES IS BACK

Little Orphan Annie  
Columbia/United Feature Syndicate  
(digital)

Daddy Warbucks' little girl has grown up and fleshed out. Hot on the heels of her comeback off-Broadway performance in "Annie Get Your Gun," LOA is fated to return to the Bowery following the release of this disastrous LP. Mawkish Peggy Lee vocal arrangements mindlessly sutured to contemporary rock classics ("Whole Lotta Love," "Tie Your Mother Down") are too much for Annie's growly baritone. This is one piece of wax to keep off your stax. Not recommended.

---

## OI-VAY!

Schirmer Melk and the Yiddikitscher Quartette  
WEA/Momzer (digital CD)

Schirmer Melk took the polka world by storm last year with his

brilliant premiere album, *Zion Harvest Moon*, and it's been smooth sailing ever since. This time around, Melk digs into the memory chest to evoke his bittersweet days as an apprentice zither maker in the Warsaw ghetto of the 1930s. From his rafter-rattling "Boil that Matzo Down" to the uproarious rendition of a doctor's first circumcision in "Whoops — Pass the Clamp!" it's vintage Melk all the way. Highest recommendation.

---

## SOFTIEST

The Charmin Twins  
Columbia/Rampage (digital CD)

"Sure to set the rock world on its collective keester!" says Arnold Coldz in *Musica Moribunda*, and how right he is. Better known as the "Softier" toilet paper twins on TV, these streetwise kids from Boston's tough Beacon Hill district know how to lay down some mean four-chord blues. If "Two-Ply Lies," the Twins'

aural exposé of the personal hygiene underworld, doesn't trigger a congressional investigation, I don't know what will. A winner.

---

## COLOR ME... KRIS

Kris Kristofferson  
CBS/Wunderlust

In his seventh comeback to date, Kris Kristofferson assembles a cadre of potential hits with this double LP of Barbra Streisand flip sides. Some possible chart-busters: "There'll Never Be Another Me," "Guilty, Schmilty" and his "I Love a Piano" duet with Liza Minnelli. Sure, there are some low points ("Under the Yum Yum Tree"), but overall, this is a solid effort from a capable performer. Adrienne Barbeau, Ernest Borgnine and George Plimpton provide backup vocals. Buy it before someone else does.

---

*Robert Luhn is associate editor of PC World and a free-lance writer.*