

Bettye LaVette

★★★★★

Worthy

CHERRY RED. CD/LP

Fine soul-blues interpreter reunited with producer who sparked her late flowering.



In 2005, Bettye LaVette recorded *I've Got My Own Hell To Raise* with producer Joe

Henry and suddenly, remarkably, the decades of neglect and under-appreciation fell away as her still strong and expressive voice, now grainy and lived-in, romped, pleaded and blasted away the years. *Worthy* reunites her with Henry and the match is still blessed. The material is cleverly sourced – 1970 Savoy Brown, 1981 Amazing Rhythm Aces – and she relates each song to her story, her life, as in *Undamned*, written by Over The Rhine's Linford Detweiler, and the title track, both speaking for all late-bloomers who are fighting to be heard. Her bigger name covers (Unbelievable, from Bob Dylan's 1990 *Under The Red Sky*, and Lennon & McCartney's *Wait* off *Rubber Soul*, reinvented as a slow blues ballad) are notable successes. Previous albums in 2007 and 2010 were up for Grammys. It'll be a travesty if *Worthy* isn't a third nomination.

Geoff Brown

Frisk Frugt

★★★★★

Den Europæiske Spejlbu

TAMBOURHINOCEROS. DL/LP

What a difference this Dane makes!



At various points in its 59 minutes this amazing second album

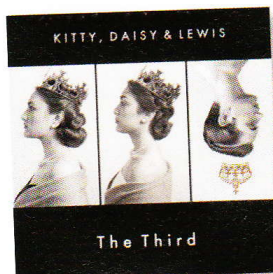
proper by maverick Danish musicologist Anders Lauge Meldgaard suggests Gorky's jamming with Gryphon; the Art Ensemble Of Chicago performing the theme from *Trumpton*; and/or a wild and woolly early Incredible String Band album with extra strings by Jack Nitzsche. Enlisting the help of (among others) Mads Forsby on percussion and a superbly named Svend Rump on bassoon, Meldgaard has pioneered a kind of 'chamber music *concrète*' both more formal and yet looser than the deftly processed West African field-recordings of his excellent debut *Dansk-toppen Møder Burkina Faso...* Awash with infectious melodies and formal experimen-

Greg Harris

D'Angelo: return of a latterday

tation, it will melt the minds of Van Dyke Parks completists and Björk fans alike.

Ben Thompson



Kitty, Daisy & Lewis

★★★★★

The Third

SUNDAY BEST. CD/DL/LP

Digital-averse Durham siblings team up with Mick Jones of The Clash.

Now out of their teens, this blood-relative R&B/ska trio from north London haven't been overly hasty in following up 2011's *Smoking In Heaven*. They've apparently been busy converting a run-down curry house into a 16-track studio. In the interim, there's been much pop-cultural hot air, but *The Third* finds them supremely unaffected, unless you count the strings, which hover with Hi Records gravitas on *No Action*, and sweep through ska romp *Turkish Delight*. Mick Jones's production captures a vibrant, timeless analogue vibe, particularly on the sistas' sassy numbers. He probably insists on tip-top tunes too – there's zero filler here. Baby Bye Bye lilts on a sublime Caribbean groove not too dissimilar to Jonah Lewie's *Stop The Cavalry*, topped off with a bittersweet end-of-the-affair vocal from Lewis – a solid-gold hit in any chart worth bothering with.

Andrew Perry

