

what's on

MUSIC

By Nicholas Jennings

OF NOTE



BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

Chapter & Verse

This companion CD to his new autobiography includes hits and some of Bruce's favourite songs. Still, fans will be most interested in such rare, previously unreleased numbers as "Baby I," a garage rocker from 1966 by his first band the Castiles, and his solo acoustic streetwise nugget "Henry Boy," recorded in 1972.



DALLAS SMITH

Side Effects

He started out as frontman for rockers Default, but the B.C. native's switch to country music has been smooth and wildly successful, earning awards and top-10 hits. Dallas's third solo album showcases his expressive tenor, especially on the ballad "Autograph" and the catchy "One Little Kiss."



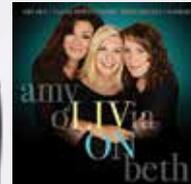
TAMI NEILSON

Don't Be Afraid

Trading twang for more soulful sounds, Tami's latest represents a stylistic shift but keeps the emphasis on her powerhouse vocals. On songs like "Holy Moses" and "Bury My Body," the Canadian-born New Zealand singer digs deep into roadhouse blues and gospel, while "Heavy Heart" proves she still has a way with a torch song.



Pick of the week

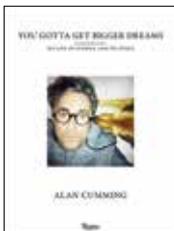


OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN, BETH NIELSEN AND AMY SKY

Liv On

Music has the power to heal – a concept that Australia's Olivia Newton-John and Canada's Amy Sky explored previously on *Grace and Gratitude* and its sequel, *Grace and Gratitude Renewed*. Now the Grammy-winning artist and the Toronto singer-songwriter have partnered with American songstress Beth Nielsen Chapman to create an album of compassion and hope. Their voices weave mellifluously on the opening "My Heart Goes Out to You," a simple ballad with accompaniment from Hattie Webb, Leonard Cohen's harpist. Backed by cello, Olivia delivers the stirring "There's Still My Joy," and Amy sings with palpable emotion on her piano-led "Forever Blue." One of the highlights of the album, whose songs are written and sung either individually or collectively by all three, is Beth's bittersweet "Sand and Water." Olivia says the songs are "for anyone facing a time of challenge in their life, whether it is grieving a loss or on the journey to health and recovery." Many will be grateful for the comfort they bring.

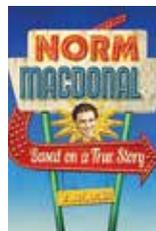
BOOKS



YOU GOTTA GET BIGGER DREAMS

Alan Cumming
First he wrote a cheeky novel about a lad who struggles with adulthood. Then he penned a memoir that offered an unflinching look at his often-traumatic formative years. Now the actor, an alum of TV's *The Good Wife*, lightens things up with a collection of whimsical personal essays covering everything from a memorable road trip to his

encounter with Elizabeth Taylor. "I feel that both my audience and me need a bit of a lift," he told *Women's Wear Daily*. "[This book is] more indicative of my spirit and my life now." —MICHAEL KILLINGSWORTH



BASED ON A TRUE STORY

Norm Macdonald Acerbic jokes and deadpan delivery were Norm's hallmark as the Weekend Update anchor on *Saturday Night Live*, and his new book offers a similar knowing tone and laugh-out-loud moments. True to the title, the Ottawa Valley native uses the facts of his life – his farm upbringing, standup career, gambling sprees – as a starting point for riffs that tantalize and tease. (He shares insightful memories

about *SNL* in the era of Adam Sandler, for example, while embellishing wildly – one supposes – about his romantic interest in Sarah Silverman.) Darkly funny, it's a must-read for comedy fans. —SUSAN CATTO **H**

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