

## BLANK MASS

Blank Mass

ROCK ACTION. CD/DOWNLOAD

OUT NOW

★★★★

**Lone Fux Button discovers wonders of the solar system.**

Blank Mass's

debut arrives claiming its biggest influences as

stargazer Carl Sagan

and "the infinity of nature". Safe

to say, it's one reasserting cosmic

listening experience. The solo

project of Benjamin John Power –

half of noise abatement bothers

Fuck Buttons – Blank Mass is

a record Brian Cox might have made

if he'd ditched D:Ream, got into

peyote and recorded for Warp.

Almost Beatles, the album dodges

the "chill-out" room by seemingly

feeding everything through cranked-

up distortion pedals. The results –

as on the otherworldly glide of

Chernobyl – are like Brian Eno's

Apollo reimagined for the ATP

generation. **ROBIN TURNER**

**DOWNLOAD: Sifted Gold** 50

Chernobyl // Fuckers

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## THE BLUE AEROPLANES

Anti-Gravity

ARTSTAR/ALBINO TWO. CD/DOWNLOAD

OUT NOW

★★★★

**Bristol indie janglers return with career high.**

It's difficult to

know where The Blue Aeroplanes begin and

end, but their 10th

studio album shows

there is much life left in their art/

poetry/rock project. Sporting the

"classic" core of frontman Gerard

Langley (who once proclaimed WH

Auden and himself the only great

poets of the 20th century), guitarist

Rodney Allen and drummer John

Langley, little differentiates Anti-

Gravity from their early-'90s peak,

the likes of opener Sulphur, 25

Kinds Of Love and Pretty Head

(Raising Cain And Pulses) even

offering a touch of psychedelia.

Somewhat fantastically, this is

their most consistent album in

20 years. **ANDY FYFE**

**DOWNLOAD: Sulphur** // Angela Carter // Oak Apple Day

## DIONNE BROMFIELD

Good For The Soul

LIONESS/ISLAND. CD/DOWNLOAD

OUT 4 JULY

★★★★

**Sophomore effort from Amy Winehouse's Mini-Me.**

While you suspect

that Amy Winehouse

might not be the

most diligent aunt

and godmother,

signing her schoolgirl niece to her

variety label was a handy leg-up.

Bromfield's debut was a bog-

standard covers affair, but this time

she's co-writing and the ante is

upped. Her throaty voice is part

Winchouse, part Erykah Badu and

ideal for the big, brass-laden,

Motown-esque arrangements of

Yeah Right (a duet with Diggy

Simmons, son of Run DMC's Rev

Run), Ouch That Hurt and the

finger-clicking Move A Little Faster.

She's less convincing with a slower

tempo, but there's real promise

here. **JOHN AIZLEWOOD**

**DOWNLOAD: Yeah Right** // Ouch That Hurt // Move A Little Faster



a formidable reputation in bluegrass circles, but his fourth album **A New Home In The Old World** (HOMETOWN CARAVAN, ★★) veers towards the

mainstream. Sit Down is traditional Nashville country, while the likes of Thunder Rail and The Grain could

have been lifted from R.E.M.'s Fables Of The Reconstruction.

Southern oddball **JIM WHITE** describes **Sounds Of The Americans** (LOOSE, ★★) as "a kind of post-

modern musical spaghetti western". Typically untypical, the album

started as the score for a Juilliard School production based on the

works of Sam Shepard, its whimsical, offbeat and melancolic songs a

patchwork of slice-of-life stories that have always fascinated White.

Equally murky is **JEFFREY FOUCAULT's Horse Latitudes** (SIGNATURE SOUNDS, ★★).

Foucault has grown as a songwriter in the American songbook tradition, the understated menace of

Springssteen's Nebraska mixing with the country of Gene Clark. It all gets

together on tracks such as Goner's title track. After "just" seven albums, it looks like there's a new kid in town.