



## LISTEN UP

### Music views, news, and reviews

By [Ken Barnes](#)

## This week's playlist: Folk meets rock

Perhaps keyed by the pick of the week and the leadoff track, my playlist leaned a lot folkier and less rocky than usual, although there's some rock (and a bit of dance-pop) included. I hope you'll find it intriguing.

### > Pick of the week:

[Evil Is Alive and Well](#), Jakob Dylan: The Wallflowers leader, armed only with an acoustic guitar, ventures down a bleaker street for a stark, ominous reflection on the dark side of things. His ample melodic gifts shine through in slightly bluesy form on this opening track from *Seeing Things*, due June 10.

### > The Playlist:

[715](#), Peter Cooper: Utterly transfixing country-folk meditation on Hank Aaron, Babe Ruth, baseball and the South just in time for opening day. Note: Cooper writes for Gannett's *The Tennessean* (the Nashville paper) and his work has appeared in USA TODAY many times. He keeps writing songs like this, the issue will become irrelevant, because he can give up his day job.

[Mojo Pin](#), Whitley: *Hallelujah*'s a hit anew, so the timing's right for this brooding, banjo-driven Aussie cover of a Jeff Buckley original.

[Flying Upside Down](#), Griffin House: Could be *Mojo Pin*'s twin until it blooms into a glorious country-pop chorus.

[My Two Feet](#), Old 97's: Cult heroes are back with an exuberant alt-country wall of sound, from the excellent *Blame It on Gravity*, out May 13.

[The Golden Flower](#), Apples in Stereo: More cult heroes offer a dreamy, diffuse, fragile chorus that almost comes apart in your ears. Spellbinding. From upcoming odds-and-sods collection *Electronic Projects for Musicians*, out next week.

[Little Bird](#), Goldfrapp: U.K. dance act goes all ethereal psych-folky on this dense, dreamlike track.

[Count to Ten](#), Tina Dico: Danish singer delivers a remarkable claustrophobic folk blues, with swooping strings at the end an unexpected delight.

[Make You Mine](#), Marianne Keith: L.A. singer/songwriter's irresistible rocker shows all female singers need not be naifs or simps.

[Bad Word for a Good Thing](#), The Friggs: Late Philly garage gals crunch those nasty riffs and snarl convincingly on a track from a best-of collection.

[Can't Get Over](#), September: The Sweet's *Fox on the Run* and The Easybeats are just two of the past echoes embedded in this Swedish dance-pop ditty.

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