

Music to your ears: spring's top underground artists hit airways

With sounds ranging from rap to harmonic acoustic, spring's unknown artists make their way to college listeners

Rasmi Gamble
Reviewer

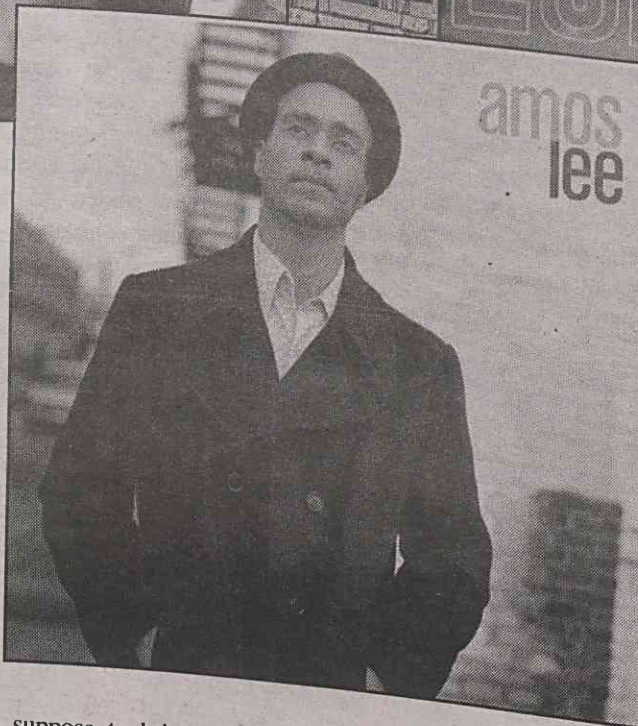
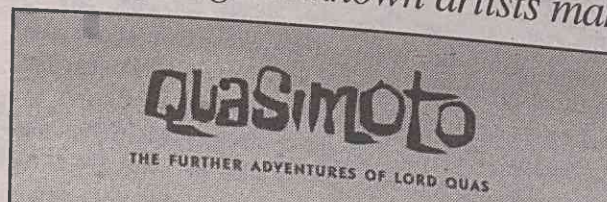
There's tons of new music out there, and although there's much hoopla for new releases such as 50 Cent's, "The Massacre" or J. Lo's, "Rebirth," there's some unknown artists that may turn your attention away from the "yeahs" of Lil' Jon or the same boring songs that are heard daily on the radio, and seen numerous times on television.

Here are four albums from artists that you may or may not have heard of, to look for in the upcoming months.

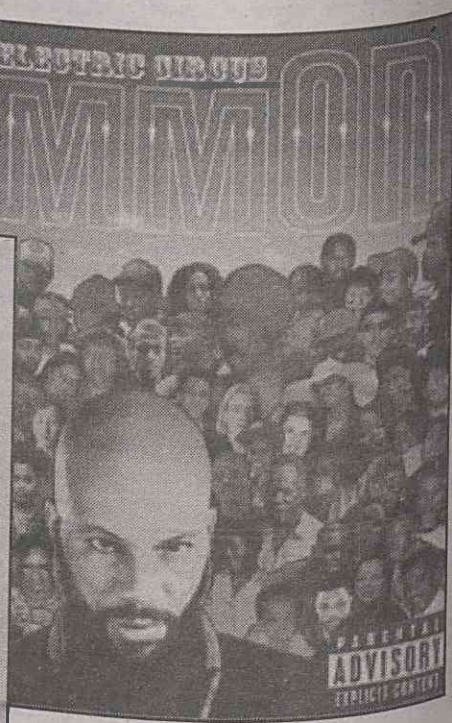
1. Quasimoto: "The Further Adventures of Lord Quas" May 3. Quasimoto is one of the many alter-egos from super producer/rapper Madlib (Lootpack, Jaylib, and Madvillian). Quasimoto's first album, 2000's "The Unseen," was perhaps one of the most innovative rap albums in the past 15 years, and is considered a classic. Well now he's back with "The Further Adventures of Lord Quas," 68 minutes and 27 songs of originality, with a classic hip-hop feel. This time

Quasimoto brought along the finest independent (underground) emcee in the game, MF Doom, as well other guest appearances by M.E.D., and legendary filmmaker Melvin Van Peebles. The production should be top notch, considering that Madlib is the best producer in hip-hop that masses haven't heard of. Songs like "Bus Ride" and "Rappcats," have created a buzz that might make "The Further Adventures of Lord Quas," a classic as well.

2. Common: "BE, TBA. 2002s The Electric Circus" was a different album for Common. Its sound was completely new from Common's earlier work, and many of his core fans (who's been with him since the days of "Can a Brother Borrow a Dollar and Resurrection") found it hard to listen to. Well folks Common a.k.a the "Future of the B-Boy," is back with his new album BE. BE is an album



Spring's newest sounds (clockwise from top): Quasimoto "The Further Adventures of Lord Quas", Common "Electric Circus", Amos Lee "Amos Lee", and members of the Scottish band Aberfeldy. "Amos Lee" and Aberfeldy's "Young Forever" are already out. "The Further Adventures of Lord Quas" is due in stores May 3 while Common's "Electric Circus" has a TBA release date.



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that is suppose to bring Common back to his roots of emceeing, and has many in the hip-hop world excited. BE includes production from Common's usual production team of Jay Dee and Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson from The Roots, as well as additional tracks from fellow chitown native Kanye West. His first single, "Corners," is a Kanye West produced track, and has a hard, rugged sound that Kanye usually doesn't come with. Artists such as John Mayer, Bilal, John Legend, and jazz great Roy Hargrove, based on guest appearances alone, BE shouldn't disappoint any Common fans.

3. Amos Lee: "Amos Lee." March. Amos Lee is the latest installment from the legendary Jazz Label Blue Note, who most recently

released Norah Jones, Al Green and Anita Baker. Lee's voice stands out from any other young soul singer in today's scene, it's sultry and has depth to it. In other words he can do what so many artists can't do, he can sing. Amos Lee composed all 11 tracks on this album, while Lee Alexander produced. "Keep it Loose, Keep it Tight," has an old-school Otis Redding feel to it, although just being accompanied by an acoustic guitar, and the delicate strings heard on "Soul Suckers," may make listener wonder what happened to classic soul. You'll never see Lee on TRL or 106 & Park, but he's opening for the legendary Bob Dylan, so you know he's doing something right. "Amos Lee" is worth checking out, because of its

simplicity and originality.

4. Aberfeldy: "Young Forever." Already out. This album is been out since August, but it has been ignored in the states, but is a must have for the spring. Aberfeldy is a Scottish band whose name comes from a small Scottish town. Their led by singer/producer Riley Briggs, who writes and produces for the five member group. Their first single "Love is an Arrow," is a perfect fit for spring. It's reminiscent of a picnic and children playing in the park, as corny as that sounds. Their soft percussion and boy-girl harmonies go hand-and-hand with their acoustic style. Young Forever is a vibrant and colorful album, just like the season of spring.

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