

# Songwriter's Corner

By Andrea McPhee

sizer and maybe some artificial, galactic sounding zips, you know, like, doo doo doo doo doo doo doo. But really, this disc shows Dave Falk has the beginning of a very successful musical project. Falk's tunes are riddled with catchy guitar hooks and generic pop rhythms destined for the radio. His lyrics aren't half bad either, "Many have tried to rise above, to find these mortal walls, let us drink beneath the stars tonight, filled with song and sweet delight." So sweet. In "Down in the Valley Again," Falk hits some killer high notes that even Mr. Bowie would be envious. With a little more practice, maybe some glitter eyeliner and heavy exposure of his amazing backup vocalist Lisa Housman, Falk could really do some damage - in a good way.

## J ARMEN

Plan B

[jarmen.net](http://jarmen.net)

J. Armen's second full-length album Plan B, falls short of success and shoddily showcases this musician's true talent. Plan B mixes sexy salsa influences and bluesy acoustic guitar stylings for a unique album that's missing the originality and quality to make it great. The album is generic and at times dull, but as a sophomore CD, Armen could have done worse. "Fallen Angel," is easily this album's best song, with its intimately raw, blues sound and downtrodden, almost liquid melody. J. Armen also takes his vocals down an octave or two and improves the sound of his voice immensely by singing in his range. In other songs, Armen is straining so hard to reach high notes that his vocals sound squeaky and nasally, making it almost as painful to listen to as it must have been for him to sing. My suggestion is to make it a duo; he should stick solely to solo guitar and composing and hire someone who knows how to sing the blues. Or, plan b: take a voice lesson. Poor production quality proved to be a distraction on this album. "'Til Georgia," showcases Armen's ability for making smooth melodies and his talent as a musician, but has three pops on the track. J. Armen needs to pay someone who can make a quality disc, that does justice to his fine musicianship.

## DAVE FALK

Love Breaks All The Rules

(Bright Sound Productions)

[davefalk.com](http://davefalk.com)

Cha-cha-cha-cha-changes! It would be really cool if Dave Falk ditched his bluegrass, alt-acoustic singer/songwriter style, and went full-blown glam rock. Like Bowie! He could be the next fabulous cross-dressing, androgynous Space Oddity. Seriously. The constant strumming of the electric guitar and the disco drumming in "Kiss of Heaven" made me aching for a synthe-

## TAKE TWO

Memories of This Place?

[taketwo.biz](http://taketwo.biz)

It only takes two! And for Mike Gacek (lead vocals and guitar) and Ken Lemire (backup vocals and guitar), it only takes two to create a musical powerhouse of a debut album. This alt-acoustic duo has managed to produce a strong sound that blows my mind, by a couple of seasoned musicians who have been jamming for decades - and it shows. Gacek's raw, soulful vocals give the debut, "Memories of This Place," a powerful punch and a unique one-up on most other acoustic groups that I've heard. These two men obviously have been at their craft for years and are on their way to becoming professional musicians. Track 1, "Call Me" is upbeat and truly rocking. This sexy song is the perfect tune to launch an album and a career. It's poppy, tight, and Gacek couldn't be more on with his I-sound-like-Eddie Vedder-but-I'm-not-trying-to vocals. He growls, twangs, whippers, and belts at all the right times with the guitars strumming right along. At some points I felt that Gacek was rocking a bit harder than some of the sweet ballads intended, but aside from being "too" passionate at times, this debut album couldn't be tighter. Lemire also shows off some fancy finger work and guitar plucking in "Spoiled Rotten Little Girl (acoustic)." This team is skilled, and from the lack of other available press, severely underrated. In today's entertainment world of not-really-musicians-or-singers-more-of-an-icon-on-a-poster-because-I'm-cute, real talent is refreshing, surprising and a reminder of what it should take to make it. The album ends with the tune, "CKL/Right About Then," a little over a minute of light guitar picking and a goofy scat session between the guys of Take Two that includes an invitation into the "sound." Thanks, I think I'll take it.

