

Shelf Life by Ted Schmidt

Snow wasn't the only thing that inundated the Loveland Public Library in late December. Over 200 new music CDs were cataloged, processed, and made ready for borrowing, covering the range from current, classic, and alternative rock, through country and bluegrass, to jazz and the blues to classical and opera titles. While some are brand new recordings and 2007 Grammy nominees, many are "classics" of all genre, borrowed but never returned or played so many times – upward of 250 loans on some titles – that they become unplayable.

Taking it from the top of the largest stack, rock albums feature new music on John Mayer's "Continuum," Los Lobos' thirtieth anniversary release "The Town and the City," The Decembrists' "Crane Wife," and Yo La Tengo's "I Am Not Afraid of You." Other alternative rock discs include Todd Snider's latest "The Devil You Know," Mastadon's "Blood Mountain," Jack Johnson's "Bushfire Fairy Tales," Loreena McKennitt's "Mask and Mirror" and "The Visit," the Duhk's self-titled debut, and the Smashing Pumpkins' "Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness

Replacements of the long-overdue classic rock albums are the Beatle's "1" "Revolver", "With the Beatles," "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" and "The White Album" along with solo efforts from John Lennon on "Imagine" and Paul McCartney's latest "Ecce Cor Meum/ Behold My Heart". In addition to Bob Dylan's "Greatest Hits, Volumes I and II," the Library also added "The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan," "Bringing it all Back Home," and "Blonde on Blonde."

Among the greatest hits collections the library has added or replaced are the soul masterpieces, "The Curtis Mayfield Anthology 1961-1977" and "Every Great Motown Hit of Marvin Gaye," as well as Best of/Classics/Essentials from Joe Walsh, the Byrds, The Police, Sly and the Family Stone, Elvis Presley, Lou Reed, the Everly Brothers, the Box Tops, The Who, Leon Russell, Stevie Ray Vaughn, Fleetwood Mac, the Eagles, and "Weird Al" Yankovic.

Other new rock CDs include Paul Simon's "Graceland", Metallica's "Reload," the Grateful Dead's "Live Dead", Radiohead's "OK Computer" the Jimi Hendrix Experience "Electric Ladyland" and "Live at Berkeley." Also new are the Tractors' debut, "Woodstock," three by the Rolling Stones – "Exile on Main Street," "Steel Wheels" and

“Sticky Fingers,” Billy Joel’s classic “The Stranger,” Elton John’s “Goodbye Yellow Brick Road” and “The Captain and the Kid,” Chris Isaak’s “Forever Blue,” the first Led Zeppelin Album, the Zombies’ “Odyssey and Oracle,” David Bowie’s “Ziggy Stardust” and U2’s “Achtung Baby.” Rounding out the new rock CDs are both of Seal’s discs, Tom Waits’ “Nighthawks at the Diner” and his new 3 CD set “Orphans: Brawlers, Bawlers and Bastards,” Oasis’ debut “What’s the Story Morning Glory,” the Dave Matthews Band’s “Crash” Coldplay’s “A Rush of Blood to the Head,” Ani Di Franco’s “Up, Up, Up, Up, Up” and “Educated Guess.”

New country and bluegrass is led by classics from Johnny Cash “At Folsom Prison,” “American III: Solitary Man,” and “VH1 Storytellers,” a duet album with Willie Nelson, who is also featured on “16 Biggest Hits.” Other country classics include “Don Williams’ Greatest Hits,” Solomon Burke’s “Nashville,” Jerry Lee Lewis’ “Last Man Standing” and Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys on “Legends of Country Music.”

The women of country are well-represented on the Dixie Chicks’ “Wide Open Spaces,” “Fly,” and “Home,” Faith Hill’s “Cry” and “Fireflies” and three by Kathy Mattea – “The Innocent Years,” “Love Travels” and “Roses.” Reba McEntire’s debut “My Kind of Country” is matched with her “Greatest Hits,” while Shania Twain celebrates “The Woman in Me” and Lee Ann Womack “Hopes You Dance” to Tammy Wynette’s “Super Hits volume 2.”

Other greatest hits of country albums include Diamond Rio’s, George Strait’s “50 Number One Hits,” the Very Best of Randy Travis, Alan Jackson and Dwight Yoakam, Garth Brooks’ “Double Live” and “Fresh Horses,” Kenny Chesney’s “No Shoes, No Shirt, No Problems” and the debut of Holden Wofford and the Hi-Beams.

Bluegrass and folk are collected on terrific albums by Alison Krauss and Union Station, “Live at the Louisville Palace,” June Carter Cash’s “Press On,” and Fort Collin’s own, Hit and Run Bluegrass on “Beauty Fades” and “Without Maps or Charts,” and Rhonda Vincent’s “All American Bluegrass Girl.”

New folk albums include the Kennedys’ “Songs of the Open Road,” their cover of their favorite songwriter’s work, Gillian Welch’s “Revival,” and two by John Prine,

“Lost Dogs and Mixed Blessings” and “The Missing Years,” and Gordon Lightfoot’s “Complete Greatest Hits.”

Next time we’ll survey the new jazz, classical, opera, world, blues and children’s albums.

Events for 1/19 Shelf Life

Jan. 19 Humpty Dumpty storytime for children under 2 and a caregiver. 9, 10 & 11 am.

Jan. 20 Authors who contributed to *Pulse of the River: Colorado Writers Speak for the Endangered Cache la Poudre* will speak and autograph books. 2 – 4 pm.

Jan 23 PC Basics and Windows class, 2 – 4 pm

Game Club for 3rd – 12th graders. 4 pm.

Jan. 23, 24 & 26 Preschool and toddler storytimes with Colorado Children’s Book Awards theme. Call 962-2587 for times and ages.

Jan. 25 Humpty Dumpty storytime for children under 2 and a caregiver, 10:30 am.

Jan 26 Humpty Dumpty storytime for children under 2 and a caregiver, 9, 10 & 11 am.

Four Divine Comedies Film Series: *Bringing Up Baby*. 7 pm. Free film and popcorn.

Jan 27 Internet class, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm.

Jan. 30 Game Club for 3rd – 12th graders. 4 pm.

Book talk with *Bizarre Colorado* author Ken Jessen, 7 pm.

Jan. 30, 31 & Feb. 2 Preschool and toddler storytimes with Don & Audrey Wood theme. Call 962-2587 for times and ages.

Feb. 1 Humpty Dumpty storytime for children under 2 and a caregiver, 10:30 am.

Feb. 2 Humpty Dumpty storytime for children under 2 and a caregiver, 9, 10 & 11 am.

Sweetnight for the Library. Friends of the Library sponsored event featuring gourmet desserts, silent auction, music and dancing. 7 – 1- pm. Chilson Senior Center. Tickets available at the library and at the door.