

Tuesday, June 1, 2010

Lifeline

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Twins on the way for Celine Dion

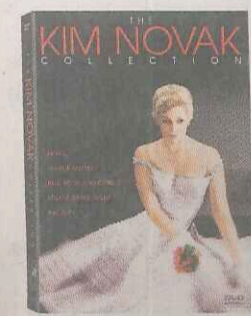
Dion: Sixth try at
in-vitro fertilization.

Celine Dion is pregnant. Dion, 42, has openly expressed her desire to expand her family, and after her sixth attempt at in-vitro fertilization, she and her husband, René Angélil, 68, are expecting twins. Dion, due in November, and Angélil have a son, René-Charles, 9. "I never gave up," Dion tells *Le Journal de Montréal*, adding that trying to get pregnant was physically and emotionally exhausting.

Coleman's parents looking for 'closure'

Gary Coleman's estranged parents are seeking answers about the circumstances surrounding their 42-year-old son's unexpected death Friday. "We're not pointing fingers at anyone, but we need to know exactly what happened," Sue Coleman, 67, tells *People.com*. She is a longtime nurse who lives with her husband, Willie, 71, a retired forklift driver, in Illinois. "We're just concerned. Did our son fall down the stairs? Did he fall in the bathtub? We need to have some closure." Janet Frank, a spokeswoman for Utah Valley Regional Medical Center in Provo, said Coleman had suffered an intracranial hemorrhage after an "accident" at his home in Utah. Frank did not elaborate, noting the wishes of Coleman's wife, Shannon Price, 24.

Due on DVD: Kim Novak, 'The Office'



► *The Kim Novak Collection*, featuring five of the star's best-known films, fully restored and remastered, arrives Aug. 3. The collection (\$39.95) includes *Jeanne Eagels* (1957) with Jeff Chandler; *Middle of the Night* (1959) with Fredric March; *Picnic* (1955) with William

Holden; *Pal Joey* (1957) with Frank Sinatra; and *Bell, Book and Candle* (1958) with James Stewart and Jack Lemmon.

► *The Office: Season Six* arrives on Blu-ray Disc (\$59.98) and DVD (\$49.98) on Sept. 7. The multi-disc set contains 26 episodes of the comedy and offers behind-the-scenes interviews and two never-before-seen extended episodes.

Ferguson 'not in my right place' in video

The Duchess of York Sarah Ferguson tells Oprah Winfrey she had been drinking and was "not in my right place" when she was caught on video offering access to her former husband, Prince Andrew, for \$724,000. Ferguson, 50, made the comments to the talk show host in an interview to air Tuesday on the *Oprah Winfrey Show* (check local listings).

By Lorena Blas with staff and wire reports
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Today's celebrity birthdays on your cellphone
Send a text message to 44636 (4INFO) with BDAY.

Today's puzzles

Gemma Arterton,
princess
of 'Persia'

Looking fierce
on film and
in life, 2D



By Chris Pizzello, AP

A better
Life911 to the
rescue of
hospitals

Low-risk callers
get nurses' help,
easing ERs, 7D

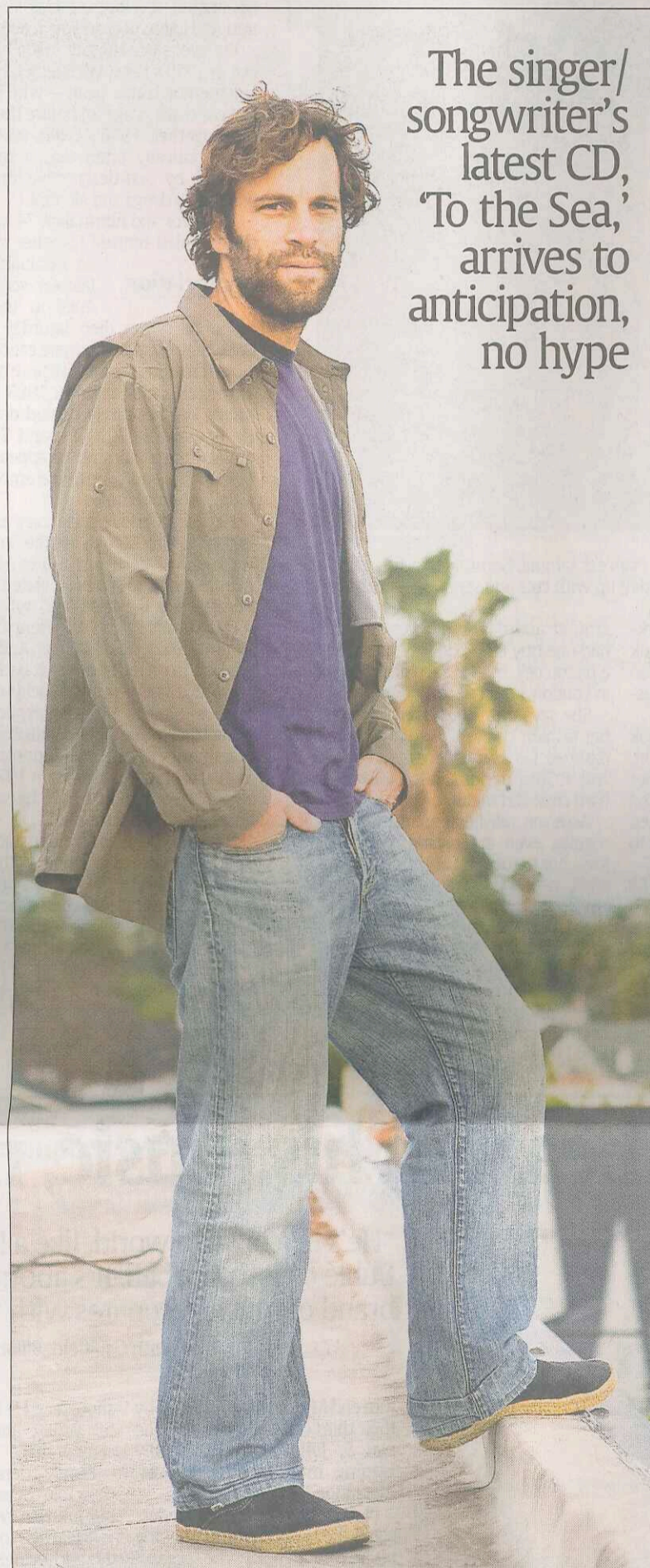
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Jack Johnson stays genuine



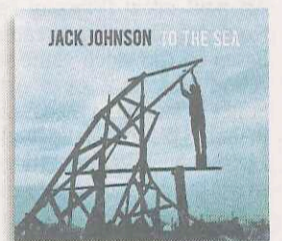
The singer/
songwriter's
latest CD,
'To the Sea,'
arrives to
anticipation,
no hype

By Edna Gundersen
USA TODAY

LOS ANGELES — Growing up in Oahu, Hawaii, Jack Johnson learned more than the art of catching a wave from his father, Jeff, a renowned surfer whose skills extended to sailing, plumbing, carpentry and the arts.

"I did this pastel picture of a farmer in a hat with his arms crossed," Johnson says. "My dad looked at it and said, 'The toes are in the wrong place.' They were backward. I was let down at first, really disappointed. Then he said, 'It makes the picture more interesting. That's your artistic license. You can choose where the big toes go.' My dad empowered me artistically."

Though Johnson, 35, took the lesson to heart, he didn't blaze a trail of provocative innovation. The singer/songwriter's daring choice? An unbending path of honest self-expression. In today's spectacle-driven pop world, where artifice trumps art, that's a non-conformist stance and one that has impressed legions of admirers.

Cover
story

Listen Up
review:
★★★, 3D

Please see COVER STORY next page ►

No-service-fee tickets
could boost concert sales

By Edna Gundersen
USA TODAY

Concert tickets go on sale today. That's *on sale*, as in discounts of up to 25% for 700 shows, a rare rollback in an industry better known for escalating VIP prices than broad markdowns.

Entertainment goliath Live Nation is eliminating all service fees for reserved and lawn seats purchased in June for shows at its 50 amphitheaters.

The "No Service Fee June" campaign covers 110 acts, including Tom Petty, Jack Johnson, Dave Matthews Band, Brad Paisley, John Mayer, Green Day, Kings of Leon and Tim McGraw. (Details at livenation.com.)

"This is every show in every amphitheater," says Live Nation CEO Michael Rapino. "Basically, our entire summer inventory."

A narrower promotion last year sold nearly 1 million tickets. In surveys, about 60% of fans said dropped fees were the deciding factor in purchasing.

"Last year, we had some pushback from artists," Rapino says. This year, "every artist said, 'We'd love to help out.'"

Hopping on as mascots, the Jonas Brothers are offering fee-free tickets to their tour and promoting with a fan-club show Wednesday in Washington.

"With the tough economy,



By Jemal Countess, Getty Images

Brother act: Nick Jonas and siblings will promote the discount.

my brothers and I wanted to do something," Nick Jonas says. "We have a close relationship with our fans, and this is one way to help them out."

Growing up, he says, "our family financial situation wasn't that great, and we'd have to refrain from going" to concerts.

His father/co-manager, Kevin Jonas Sr., adds: "I'll speak as a dad. It can be difficult to buy one ticket, much less three or four. When you eliminate *any* fees, it makes it much more possible."

Because 40% of amphitheater seats go unsold, a price cut benefits all parties, Rapino says: "If we can move a few extra seats, everyone's happy."

Beach boy: Jack Johnson's fifth studio album, *To the Sea*, arrives today. Johnson is known for his personal, family-friendly songs and for staying out of the limelight.

By Michael T. Larsen for USA TODAY

Johnson bares his heart in his music, not his life

Continued from 1D

To the Sea, his fifth studio album of seaside folk-rock jams, arrives today with none of the hype or hoopla typical of multiplatinum acts. But expect a big splash on the charts. His last, *Sleep Through the Static*, entered *Billboard* at No. 1 in 2008, remained on top for three weeks and sold 1.7 million copies, according to Nielsen SoundScan. Johnson has sold 9.4 million albums

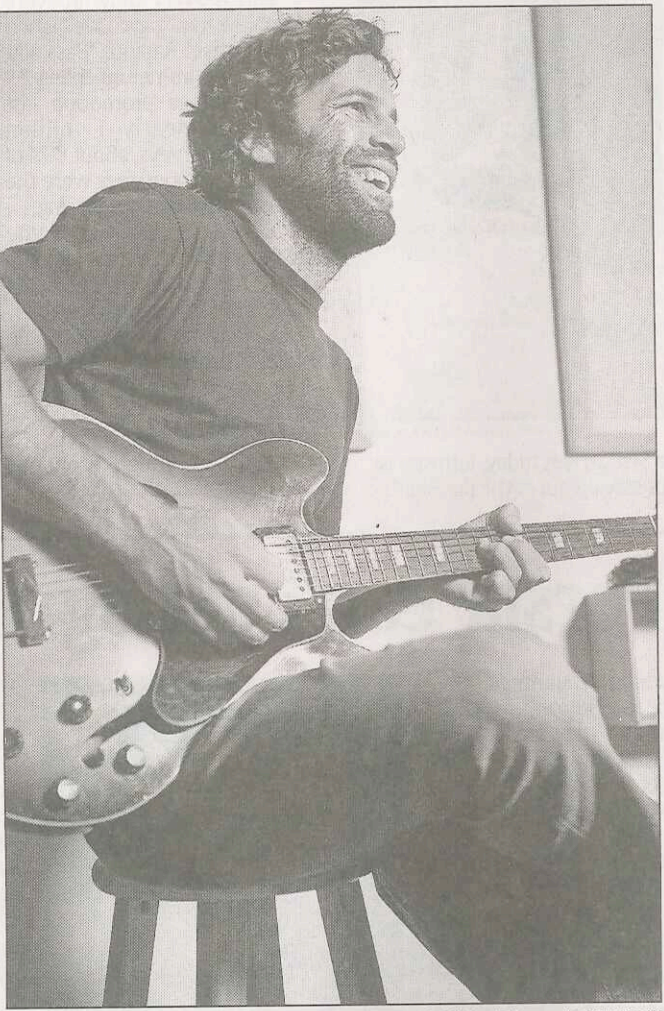
since 2001 debut *Brushfire Fairytales*, plus 1.4 million copies of the 2006 *Curious George* soundtrack he crafted with friends.

"With album sales the way they are nowadays, I don't expect (*To the Sea*) to have the same initial impact, but I will bet it has a good first week and sells quite well in the long run," says *Billboard* chart analyst Keith Caulfield.

Single *You and Your Heart* is No. 15 on USA TODAY's alternative airplay chart, but "he's never had a big radio hit, and you won't hear him on a top 40 station nestled between Lady Gaga and Ke\$ha," Caulfield says. "He's in a bizarro world, like a Michael Bubl  or Josh Groban. It's not about conventional radio exposure or morning talk shows or Twitter. It's about how his brand of music resonates with fans."

They're drawn to more than Johnson's music, Caulfield adds. "There's a certain mystique about him that people find fascinating: how he exists as a musician in a hyper-public world, his conscious decision to lay low as that surfer dude chilling out in Hawaii."

Ducking the spotlight while packing arenas has been a del-



By Michael T. Larsen for USA TODAY

Mellow fellow: After a swing through Europe, Jack Johnson will bring his tour to the USA, starting July 9 in Hartford, Conn.

icate dance, says Johnson, sporting a short beard, deep tan and shaggy curls. Today he's chilling out at his Brushfire Records label and solar-powered studio, based in an unassuming Victorian house in L.A.'s Hancock Park neighborhood.

"I can walk around the street today and not one person will recognize me," he says. "People tend to know the music better than my face. It just takes one or two people recognizing me to get me thinking, 'I've blown it and become too famous.' I tend to put silhouettes on the album covers."

He's similarly cautious in his songwriting. *To the Sea's* genial, poetic lyrics touch on love and family without betraying details of a carefully guarded private life.

"It's taken a while to learn the process," he says. "On the first al-

See an acoustic sampler of Johnson's new songs at life.usatoday.com.

bum, I wrote every song imagining nobody would hear it except a small group of friends. A lot of them were very personal songs. When it was time to write for a second album, it was harder. It took a while to realize I couldn't filter anything in the writing process. I changed lines later."

Back to the sea

When Johnson's father died in August after a long battle with cancer, the singer anticipated a writing hiatus but found himself on a prolific and introspective roll. *To the Sea's* family ties range from celebrating his father's wisdom to four love songs for wife

"He's in a bizarro world, like a Michael Bubl  or Josh Groban. It's about how his brand of music resonates with fans."

— Keith Caulfield, *Billboard* chart analyst

Kim and *My Little Girl*, inspired by their third child. A surfer since he was 5, Johnson also is finally wading into aquatic themes, metaphorically and literally.

"I recently started to understand the significance of growing up surrounded by the ocean," says Johnson, whose heavy diet of mythology books fed *To the Sea's* undercurrent of water as a representation of the subconscious. "The idea was of a father leading a son to the sea, the way my father did. Until this album, I stayed away from any kind of oceanic references after being labeled this beach-boy surfer guy."

Johnson was on track as a professional surfer until an accident at Oahu's Pipeline Masters finals beached him at 17. He required new front teeth, 150 stitches to his forehead and dry-land diversions. He earned a film degree at the University of California-Santa Barbara, where he produced 2000 surf documentary *Thicker Than Water* with his friends Emmett and Chris Malloy. And he poured his energies into music, catching the ear of G. Love, who recorded Johnson's *Rodeo Clowns* in 1999.

"Jack's very modest," says Emmett Malloy, who co-manages Johnson with Kim, the singer's wife of 10 years. The three founded Brushfire in 2002. "I'd known him close to a year before I heard one of his songs. It felt as good as when I heard Elliott Smith or Cat Stevens for the first time. He's a poet, a beautiful musician and makes music that can be liked by the whole family. He's never had to compromise for his success."

Malloy directs most of Johnson's videos and concert films, but the role he cherishes most is being a close friend.

"Jack's my most normal, grounded friend," Malloy says. "You're told not to mix friends and business. This is an unforgiving business, and it's nice to work with people you trust. It works with Jack, because he's always had a real good head on his

shoulders. He has a tight, beautiful family, and he's never lost sight of that."

Family-friendly may not be a desirable brand in rock circles, but Johnson wholly embraces it.

"I learned to play guitar in family gatherings," he says. "My dad's friends came over. We had family singalongs. When I started out, it felt natural to write songs that anybody could listen to. I never felt the need to get more edgy. Now that I have my own kids, I appreciate even more that I went this way."

Going green

His family will tag along for a world tour, and Johnson hopes to please crowds by night and blend into them by day. After a European swing, a 35-date North American leg starts July 9 in Hartford, Conn. His 2008 tour grosses exceeded \$22 million, according to *Billboard* Boxscore, and all his profits went to establish the Johnson Ohana Charitable Foundation to support environmental, art and music education. He again is donating 100% of his tour profits to the endowment.

"We're not going to do it forever," he says. "But if we can afford to, we will. We have a pretty simple lifestyle, and we've been lucky with CD sales. It feels like the right thing to do. I wasn't sure I wanted to keep touring, but once we decided to make it a fundraiser, I got excited."

The Johnson clan lives in a modest Oahu hillside home with an ocean view and no cable ("I watch TV if I'm on an airplane and *The Office* comes on"). One area of extravagance: greening. Biodiesel fuel powers tour buses and generators. Recycling is mandatory at home, on the road, in offices and studios. The label boasts solar panels and insulation made from blue-jean scraps. Brushfire developed the first recycled CD tray and has persuaded distributor Universal to invest

igate biodegradable corn-based shrink wrap and soy-based inks.

More into riding waves than making them, Johnson says none of his causes are divisive. "We encourage banning plastic bags, cutting down on plastics, sustainable agriculture, nutrition in schools, supporting local farmers. Who can't agree on that?"

He's happier reaching for carbon neutrality on his upcoming tour than watching charts.

"I'm lucky to have friends in the music industry who allow me to stay in a little bubble so I don't have to play the game so much," he says. "The word 'single' never gets used while we're recording. As soon as you hear it, you start thinking about how people are going to judge it."

Johnson won't predict *To the Sea's* course, though he doesn't foresee a return to the heights of 2005's *In Between Dreams*, which sold 3 million copies.

"I expected it to be a commercial peak for us," he says. "I'm not someone who's trying to get back to some level."

Johnson's surfing future seems more secure, he says.

"My dad surfed until he was 65, and I've got friends who are 75 and still surf," he says. "I know surfing will always be there for me. I'm not sure it would be that good psychologically to make music last forever. The music I can take or leave, depending on how it feels."

He's less concerned about declining sales or popularity than finding himself adrift creatively, which is why he signs only single-album contracts.

"Running out of ideas, I'm waiting to see if that happens," he says. "I've learned not to think about it. I can sit around with friends, and a nice melody comes around."

And when he's in search of fresh inspiration, he heads to the sea on a surfboard.

"It's a place to go in my life to find balance and to reflect," he says. "No phones are ringing. It's become more and more the opposite of what music does for me. I can have time alone and get in tune with nature. When you get upside down in a tube and it's just muscle memory that guides you through, it feels like one of those dreams where you fly."

Corrections & Clarifications

USA TODAY is committed to accuracy. To reach us, contact Standards Editor Brent Jones at 1-800-872-7073 or e-mail accuracy@usatoday.com. Please indicate whether you're responding to content online or in the newspaper.

Credit lines for photos from Michigan's Boyne Highland Resort and the Inn at Bay Harbor in Friday's Life on Vacation feature were inadvertently reversed.

Listen Up

Music reviews by USA TODAY critics

Out of ★★★★★

Sergio Mendes, *Bom Tempo*

★★★★½ FESTIVE FUN

The Brazilian bandleader has always made the good times roll, and this sensual potpourri of his native rhythms, with dashes of jazz, pop and hip-hop, arrives in time for summer. Mendes explores classics by the likes of Antonio Carlos Jobim, Gilberto Gil and Milton Nascimento, who sings on his *Caxanga*. With fresh arrangements and intriguing vocalists, it's no wonder Mendes stays in fashion. Hot producers give alternate takes on *Bom Tempo Brasil Remixed*. — Steve Jones

>>Download: Emorio, Ye-Me-Le, Pais Tropical

Tiff Merritt, *See You on the Moon*

★★★ EMOTIONAL LIFTOFF

Though themes of regret, wrong choices and death haunt this collection (three band members lost grandparents during the recording), singer/songwriter Merritt maintains a resilient tone that avoids self-pity. Produced by Tucker Martine, *Moon* is all about finely crafted melodies, deft touches from her band and emotional balance. My Morning Jacket's Jim James lends pitch-perfect harmonies on the standout *Feel of the World*. — Jerry Shriver

>>Download: Engine to Turn, Danny's Song

Taio Cruz, *Rokstarr*

★★½ CLUB-READY POP

The British singer/songwriter, who topped the U.S. pop singles charts with his flirtatious *Break Your Heart* (with help from Ludacris), makes his stateside debut with a catchy batch of tunes. Cruz, who has written for Leona Lewis and Britney Spears, shines when the spunky electro-R&B beats mesh with his slick lyrical hooks. But his generic vocals make the ballads skip-pable. His strength is as a party-starter. — Jones

>>Download: Break Your Heart, Dirty Picture, Dynamite

Gemma Ray, *It's a Shame About Gemma Ray*

★★½ CRAZY LOVE

Listening to Ray's breathy, quivering vocals and starkly spooky arrangements, it can be tough to tell whether the young British songbird is really a bit unhinged or all that creepy/dreamy stuff is just an affectation. Regardless, her covers of pop odes to romantic obsession — from the Gershwins' *I've Got a Crush on You* to Sonic Youth's *Touch Me I'm Sick* — can be compelling, when they don't dissolve into artful shtick. — Elysa Gardner

>>Download: Aforementioned songs, Put the Bolt in the Door

spotlight

Jack Johnson's 'To the Sea' is a voyage of discovery



AccuSoft Inc.

Jack Johnson, *To the Sea*

★★★ HANG 13

Hawaii's favorite singer/songwriter/eco-aware surfer dude demonstrates on his fifth studio album that he has grown more adept at capturing mini-waves of musical energy and riding them until they crest.

Where previous works sometimes suffered from excess mellowness and midtempo acoustic-guitar-strumming sameness, *To the Sea* has some chop in its waters, thanks to the higher profile given to keyboards and electric guitar. The extra sonic heft from Johnson and his backing trio — and it's just a touch, not an onslaught — creates momentum and a more interesting framework for his lyrical themes of self-discovery. "What is this place? Who am I? Why did we come here? I don't know. But I don't know that we're meant to know," he sings on *Anything But the Truth*.

His universe is buffeted by powerful, hard-to-grasp forces — love, certainly, but much more than that — and his search for answers invariably leads him to water's edge: "When this world's too much, it will be only the ocean and me." When that quest is set to Beatlesque melodies and lightly swinging rhythms, it leaves the tiki bar and heads toward the horizon. — Jerry Shriver

>>Download: *You and Your Heart, No Good With Faces, At or With Me, From the Clouds, Pictures of People Taking Pictures, Anything But the Truth*

tracks



AP

pick of the week

Magnificent, U2

This standout from *No Line on the Horizon* became a highlight on the U2 360 Tour. Bono's back surgery pushed the second U.S. leg to 2011, but fans can see U2's biggest 2009 show on the new DVD *U2 360 at the Rose Bowl*. — Edna Gundersen

the playlist

USA TODAY music critic Edna Gundersen highlights 10 intriguing tracks found during the week's listening.

The Battle of Hampton Roads Titus Andronicus	A Civil War stalemate drives home war's futility in the bleak 14-minute closing chapter on concept album <i>The Monitor</i> .
Rocks Off The Rolling Stones	"The sunshine bores the daylight out of me," Mick Jagger yowls on the brawny opener of <i>Exile on Main Street</i> .
Love Reign O'er Me Bettye LaVette	She brings a raw soulful wallop to the Who classic on <i>Interpretations</i> , a set of British rock covers.
Always Remember Me Ry Cuming	"Watch me as I fall," the rising Australian singer/songwriter pleads on a gorgeous acoustic ballad featuring Sara Bareilles.
If I Only Could Texas Tornados	Accordion, piano and horns crank up a Tex-Mex rocker on <i>Esta Bueno!</i> , a fitting farewell with the late Freddy Fender.
Sun Goes Down The Futureheads	Darkness prevails as the band departs from Queenly tension for an apocalyptic and enveloping minor-key interlude.
Jordan's Song Vivian Green	Amid <i>Beautiful's</i> bitter breakup spiels comes this gentle ode to the singer's son, who has dealt with illness since birth.
Come on Home to Me Tracey Thorn	Thorn's luscious voice, paired with Jens Lekman's, lends wrenching beauty to Lee Hazlewood's melancholy tune.
Stitch in Time Smashing Pumpkins	Billy Corgan binds a pretty melody to shimmering acoustic pop psychedelia, thus extending his brand's relevancy.
Waka Waka Shakira featuring Freshlyground	This year's World Cup song is frisky Afro-pop with a soca beat, with a chorus inspired by a Cameroon marching chant.