

motivation to  
 ns the same today:  
 a duty," she says,  
 the times in  
 ve." Their twelfth  
 finds them  
 a divided country  
 You threw me  
 she sings over an  
 ggae skank on  
 r Frontline, her  
 the outcome of  
 e. Hope is on  
 , in Things Fall  
 s-driven dub  
 uthor Chinua  
 Pass The Power,  
 s in the rise of  
 cised youth.

Lois Wilson



uman

Songs From A  
 World)

ioneer sets his  
 studio outing in  
 alyptic future.

fic he recorded  
 r 1 albums in 16  
 y Numan has  
 er but better since  
 ck into unlikely  
 With the personal  
 fuelled 2013's  
 ingly resolved, he  
 ds on *Savage* to a  
 ure Earth that  
 ractable scars of  
 bal warming.  
 gular voice slashes  
 gloom, Numan  
 r Ade  
 he

kitchen sink to their wind-  
 swept dystopian technoscape:  
 howling glitches, siren Moogs,  
 stentorian strings, Arabic  
 wailing and crunching guitar  
 riffs designed for maximum  
 on-stage headbang. It may be  
 as conceptually bleak and  
 unremitting as John  
 Wyndham's *The Chrysalids* or  
 Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*,  
 but like all Numan's greatest  
 work, *Savage* sounds timeless.

Andy Cowan



## Bette Smith

★★★★★

Jetlagger

BIG LEGAL MESS. [CD/DL](#)

**An incredible debut from  
 the next big-voiced soul  
 sensation out of Brooklyn.**

From Bedford-Stuyvesant in  
 Brooklyn, Bette Smith was  
 brought up a Seventh Day  
 Adventist, singing gospel from  
 the age of five. She was  
 forbidden to perform the  
 secular songs she'd sneaked a  
 listen to in her teens, but after  
 her choir-director father's  
 death in 2012, she took Otis  
 Redding as her template and  
 started blues shouting and  
 soul rockin' at street fairs and  
 bars. For her debut album,  
 producer Jimbo Mathus took  
 her south, to Water Valley's  
 Dial Back Sound studio in  
 Mississippi. The deep,  
 powerful rasp he captures live  
 aligns her to Tina Turner,  
 Bettye Lavette and Mavis  
 Staples, the latter especially  
 on a passionate cover of The  
 Staple Singers'

Staple Singers'

City In The Sky. I Found Love  
 and the title track, meanwhile,  
 take her out of the church and  
 into the fields; her vocal so  
 raw, it hurts.

Lois Wilson



## Brix & The Extricated

★★★

Part 2

BLANG. [CD/DL/LP](#)

**Reunited old soldiers fail  
 to escape the long shadow  
 of The Fall.**

Although Brix Start-Smith  
 claims top billing, the former  
 wife of Mark E is not The  
 Extricated's sole Fall refugee.  
 Bassist Stephen Hanley, his  
 drummer brother Paul and  
 2004-2006 guitarist Steven  
 Trafford join her in an outfit  
 pointedly named after 1990's  
 first post-Brix Fall album  
*Extricate*. The only non-  
 alumnus is guitarist Jason  
 Brown. Fittingly, looking back  
 brought this mix'n'match  
 band together – Brix and  
 Stephen Hanley reconnected  
 as he promoted his book *The  
 Big Weekend*. With time  
 warped by revisiting The Fall's  
 Hotel Bloedel (a sweet  
 recalibration akin to Brix's  
 other band, The Adult Net)  
 and LA (a needlessly straight  
 rendition) and the new  
*Something To Lose*'s nods to  
 Hip Priest, *Part 2* wins with the  
 garage-guitar-pop of  
 Hollywood and the hard-  
 edged though sugary Teflon.  
 In keeping with Brix's own  
 memoir, *Part 2* suggests that  
 pasts remain unpurged.

Kieron Tyler



## King Krule

★★★★

The OOZ

XL. [CD/DL/LP](#)

**Third album of wonky  
 jazz mumbles from**