



LISTEN UP – Music Views, News, and Reviews

By Ken Barnes
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First Impressions: 10 (mostly) previews

Peter Cooper, *Mission Door* (out last month): I've never met Peter Cooper, but we have talked on several occasions when he's done stories for USA TODAY. I knew he was a musician and played with Todd Snider, but his own album came as a surprise to me -- and a welcome one. I've already raved about his Hank Aaron tribute, 715, in my last playlist, but there are plenty of other country-flavored gems on the album (including Cooper's version of a fine song he co-wrote with Snider called *Thin Wild Mercury*, about the time Bob Dylan had Phil Ochs tossed out of a car when Ochs dared to criticize Dylan's upcoming single of *Can You Please Crawl Out Your Window*. Ochs was wrong esthetically -- it's an amazing song -- but maybe he had heard the earlier version that snuck out on a mispressed single in L.A. under the title *Positively 4th Street* (which of course is a whole different song) -- the early *Crawl* is much better than the released version with The Band. Digression concluded).