

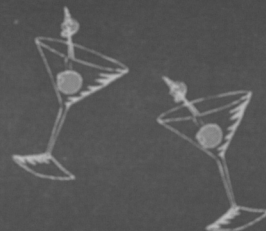
max martini's holiday gift guide cd reviews

Max Martini's Rating Scale:



0 Martinis – “No need – it's that good!”
1 Martini – “What the hell – just one!”
2 Martinis – “Oh yeah – that's better!”

3 Martinis – “You'll need 'em!”
4 Martinis – “Wake me up when it's over!”



Hello everyone and welcome to the 1st annual Max P. Martini's CD Holiday Gift Guide. I know it has been awhile since you've heard from me, but just as your mailboxes are now overflowing with catalogs, ours has been filling up with lots of new CDs, so we've decided to pass along some advice on where to spend those hard-earned dollars for the music-lovers in your life (including yourself). Happy Holidays!

BTW: Max has recently been in contact with Donald Currie of *Sex & Mayhem* fame to see when we can expect the long-awaited and highly anticipated third CD in his series. It turns out that Donald decided to bring *Sex & Mayhem* (parts 1 & 2) to the stage instead and is getting rave reviews on the West Coast. We are hoping that Donald will bring his show to the East Coast and will keep you up to date on when to expect his next CD, as well as any plans to bring his show to Vermont.



Various Artists
Party Groove:
GayCollegeParty
www.centaurmusic.com

Their Take: POP is in the house as Centaur partners with GayCollegeParty.com to present their eighth Party Groove CD released in 2004. This album injects a youthful new energy into #1 hits and radio classics from the past three decades and features old-school pop makeovers (mixed by DJ Seth Gold) that are currently being played on dance floors and in dorm rooms of the young gay audience.

GayCollegeParty.com (founded by Tony Gambino and Alan Picas) is the largest outfit catering to the nation's young gay market, with weekly events held in NYC, one-off parties around the country, and a web site membership in the tens of thousands. Look for additional volumes from GayCollegeParty in the new future including *Flashback* (music from the 80's) and *Dorm Party*.

Max's Take: Three cute boyz featured on the CD cover (Luis, Reams, and Josh) make this a no gift-wrapping required gift. Seth Gold does a great job serving up a continuous mix of instantly recognizable classics such as “Holiday” (by Who's That Girl) and “You Spin Me Round – Like A Record” (by The Kinky Boyz) to grooves you may not have yet experienced such as “Naughty Girl” (by Jemini) and “Why Does It Always Rain On Me?” (by Ultima).

Max's personal Martini Rating =
1 Martini



Various Artists
Party Groove:
Pride 04
www.centaurmusic.com
www.grooveCD.com

Their Take: Now in its seventh year, Centaur's Pride compilation brings out the newest offering to up the energy for Pride festivities around the world. The pre-eminent DJ/Producer Julian Marsh (who recently became a U.S. citizen; check out www.JulianMarsh.com), has come onboard again with his usual flair and amazing sensitivity, bringing the forefront of dance

music, anthems, and high energy to the celebration of Pride. Julian says that “in this politically charged year, we have much to be proud of” and much for which to fight. “I hope the songs on this CD keep you ‘Charged’ enough to stand up and make a difference,” says Marsh.

Max's Take: You cannot go wrong with Julian Marsh, as he never disappoints. Most “themed” CDs just don't seem to work for me, but Julian has skillfully pulled together some great mixes that celebrate love, individuality, spirit, and Pride. From “A Higher Place” (by Peyton), the CD's opening track, to the closing track “Alive & Kicking” (by Whites Spaces featuring Jim Kerr), this CD will definitely leave you energized and ‘Charged.’

Max's personal Martini Rating =
0 Martinis



Various Artists
Global Groove:
The Tour
www.centaurmusic.com

Their Take: Centaur celebrates the 5th anniversary of their Global Groove series with this CD release (featuring DJ DeMarko) along with the first-ever Global Groove North American tour. The tour kicked off at Soakin' Wet in NYC in August and is currently traveling around the country with upcoming stops in Providence (RI), Houston (TX), Chicago (IL), and Honolulu (HI). DeMarko – who's done gigs as a professional model and award-winning filmmaker – never thought he'd make a career out of DJing but now releases his first CD with Centaur

Music on the 5th anniversary of his move to NYC. Centaur's Global Grove series aims to feature the best dance music from around the world, exposing the listener to new music, new DJs, and new sounds.

Max's Take: By employing a technique that DeMarko calls “braiding”, this CD weaves a seamless tapestry of sound using records from various dance music genres. The tribal drumbeat driven “Ritmo” (by Lowpass) and melodic “Oasis” (by DJ Tuareg, featuring Mandolin Man) are a few of the tracks that really give this a CD its global flavor, but “Personal Jesus” (by OBA' Frank Lord's) is a favorite.

Max's personal Martini Rating =
1 Martini



Shannon
Let the Music Play:
the Best of Shannon
www.shoutfactory.com

Their Take: Shout! Factory (music, movies, and video for the discerning pop culture geek) steps onto the dance floor with this release. This legendary dance floor diva's biggest hits – from her '80s heyday and her successful '90s comeback – are finally available on a single disc. This album is a boon to collectors, since much of her material as been out of print for years, and completely unavailable in the CD era.

Max's Take: You'll likely pick this up because of Shannon's signature song “Let The Music Play” but Shannon was no one-hit wonder. The CD contains 14 tracks including the European-only single “It's Got To Be Love” and the Afrika

Bambaataa single featuring Shannon, “Do The Wrong Thang.” Go ahead and pick up a copy or two today and let the music play.

Max's personal Martini Rating =
1 Martinis



Various Artists
Underground Dance
Artists United For
Life: Keep Hope Alive
www.kingstreesounds.com

Their Take: Those who like their dance music equal parts mind, body, and soul will surely embrace this unique concept album. The album, a solid set of future deep house classics, brings together some of the most respected contemporary dance music artists (Blaze – Kevin Hedge and Josh Milan – Kenny Bobien, Barbara Tucker, Ultra Nate, Arnold Jarvis, Byron Stingily, and Joi Cardwell, to name a few) in the business to benefit LIFEbeat (The Music Industry Fights AIDS). LIFEbeat is a national non-profit organization dedicated to reaching America's youth with the message of HIV/AIDS prevention. Blaze and all the artists donated their time, recording fees, and publishing royalties so that this album could fully benefit LIFEbeat.

Max's Take: Many of you probably don't know that I have a love of gospel music as well as a spiritual side. This CD is spiritual in its message, uplifting in its music, and giving in its support of a great cause. With all the recent current events this is a CD that will encourage you to keep hope alive.

Max's personal Martini Rating =
0 Martinis