

### AXXONN

Let's Get It Straight  
(Useless Art)

The ominous three chord organ intro that signals the opening to the lo-fi electro opus that is the new Axxonn single Let's Get It Straight barely gives you any clue of what is about to follow. Instrumentalist Tom Hall lets the creepy church vibe crawl along until the kick lets you know that something is afoot. By the time the staccato snare drum joins in, the organ starts to get enveloped by a crackling distortion that threatens to bury the whole thing, but it is reined back evenly and the drum machine double kick frantic yet basic beat programming turns the track into a well-crafted exercise in pure simplicity. It's dark and gloomy and gothic but more accurately could be described as what Albini might have come up with if Big Black were commissioned to do a jingle for a drama-dy about inner city alternative types drinking lattes in trendy warehouses and going about their alluring bohemian lifestyles. Fantastic.

### POWDERFINGER

Iberian Dream  
(Warner)

Nearly 300,000 people have bought tickets to what we have been promised is the last Powderfinger tour. Sounds impressive right? Well consider this – Australia's population is 21,400,000 according to the Google, which means that over 21 million people have NOT bought tickets. Food for thought. Maybe this is the last Powderfinger single as well, but considering it's only the third one stripped from their album Golden Rule, They can probably milk it for a bit longer. Iberian Dream sounds just like all of the other Powderfinger stuff – the secret to their ongoing success and Aussie Icon status is no doubt due at least in part to them never straying too far from the formula, and as most of you are quite pleased with the same old songs it's sure to be a massive radio smash hit etc. They are also releasing a box set of every album they have ever put out, as if to ram my point home harder, reselling everything to their fans one more time.

### CEE-LO GREEN

No one's Gonna Love You  
(Elektra)

Cee-Lo Green continues to prove he's one of the most eclectic performers in R&B and hip hop by laying his soul machine vocals down over a cover of this number by Band Of Horses. If you haven't heard any of Green's awesome solo work, or his first group Goodie Mob is not familiar to you, perhaps his ridiculously successful collaboration with the equally genre-hopping DJ Danger Mouse, Gnarl Barkley will ring some serious bells. Green gets under the skin of the original track, and reinterprets it in his slinky electro style, with his rich Deep South vocals crooning away creating another modern soul classic. Team it up with a brilliant video featuring two really hot people driving around and getting naked, and there's not much more you could ask for really. There's also a great remix of the track by the original producer Paul Epworth floating around in the Internets for free. Team it up with the first teaser Georgia and the album Cee-Lo Green Is The Lady Killer is shaping up to be one of the most exciting albums of 2k10.

### N.E.R.D.

Hot-N-Fun (Featuring Nelly Furtado)

(Universal)

Pharrell Williams revisits maybe his finest work, the Ol' Dirty Bastard and Kelis smash hit Got Your Money on the new track for his 'proper' band N.E.R.D. The bassline and general groove are sped up slightly, but there could be no mistake that he is trying to recapture the magic of that particular number. Hip hop's most unlikely poster girl Nelly Furtado does her best to sleaze it out, and even though she's no Kelis, she still proves that she can pull this kind of thing off when she's working with the right people. The remix from the UK's latest go-to dude for re-workings of pop hits Starsmith is a retro-electro powerhouse that rips everything away except the vocals and turns it into an awesome dancefloor nightmare, and it's generously free on Soundcloud.