



# REVIEWS

## MUSIC

Reviewed by Richard Giles

### BLOODWOOD: THE ART OF THE DIDJERIDU

by Alan Dargin w. Michael Atherton  
Atherton/Dargin Records and Compass Records, USA, 2009 (57mins)  
Distributors: **Australia**—The Planet Company; **USA**—Compass Records  
[www.compassrecords.com](http://www.compassrecords.com)

This historic 1992 Australian album, groundbreaking for its didjeridu experimentation, has been reissued in an enhanced edition. It stars master didj player Alan Dargin, who died in 2008 and is greatly missed by his fans. Touring the world, Alan represented the didjeridu and his indigenous culture. In the CD cover notes, producer and multi-instrumentalist Michael Atherton contributes a fitting eulogy for the man, but the music on *Bloodwood* is the best tribute. A special album.

### SONG OF LOVE FOR THE ANIMALS

by Lia Scallion  
Sounds of Sirius, Aust, 2009 (57mins)  
Distributor: **Australia**—The Sounds of Sirius, [www.soundsofsirius.com](http://www.soundsofsirius.com)

Lia Scallion has released a number of healing music CDs. This one, her seventh, focuses on our animal friends. It's reported to produce some amazing effects in stressed or problem animals and is great to play for your pets. Lia's voice is uplifting and healing. Our pets love us unconditionally, she says, and this is an appreciation for them. The CD takes you on a journey towards a more profound understanding of the plight of animals today. Inspiring.

### INVISIBLE CITIES

by Nomo  
Ubiquity Records, USA, 2009 (43mins)  
Distributors: **Australia**—Fuse Music, tel (02) 9699 7555; **USA**—Ubiquity Records, [www.ubiquityrecords.com](http://www.ubiquityrecords.com)

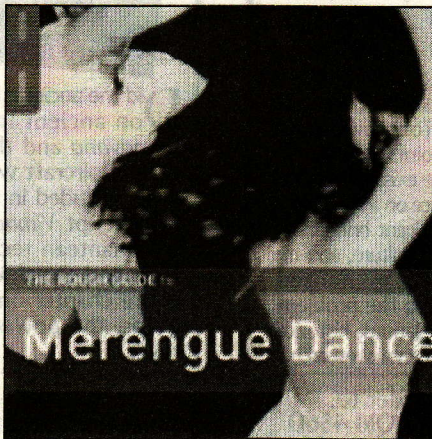
Nomo is a jazzy, multi-genre band that rocks with a world fusion

style reflecting the pulse of cities across the globe. This is the band's third album, a companion to *Ghost Rock*, with more hot horns and percussion. Nomo also improvises with odd instruments: electronic kalimbas, antique fire extinguishers and other found-garbage items. The feel is more like sweaty jazz rock, and the band really enjoys having a good time. Loud and fun, these are good party sounds to move your socks!

### THE ROUGH GUIDE TO MERENGUE DANCE

by various artists  
World Music Network, UK, 2009 (2CDs, 117mins)  
Distributors: **Australia**—The Planet Company; **UK**—World Music Network, [www.worldmusic.net](http://www.worldmusic.net)

Merengue is a popular Caribbean dance music form that is simple, joyous and easy to move to. Its Spanish name comes from the idea of dancers twisting and twirling together, like egg whites being whipped into a merengue. Its origins are in the Dominican Republic, and it's spread to Puerto Rico, Cuba, Venezuela and Haiti. This Rough Guide album has slow to medium to fast styles for beginners through to pacey ones for experts. Percussion, keyboard and brass sounds interlock to move the dancers onwards. It's a great, upbeat sound. A bonus CD, *Mambeao*, features Carlitos Almonte and his 10-piece merengue band.



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