

Music

With **GAVIN MARTIN** 

Album releases

THE PRODIGY *The Day Is My Enemy* ★★★

Some welcome election-eve anger from the Firestarters, raising the punk flag on Destroy and corraling The Sleaford Mods to bring more venom to the invective on Ibiza. Ramping up the intensity to a furious peak, studio maestro Liam Howlett makes with the death-defying beats while Keith Flint perfects his provocations. Nasty fun.



SHARON ROBINSON *Caffeine* ★★★★★

The second album from Leonard Cohen's gifted collaborator occupies the same singular realm as her 2009 solo debut Everybody Knows. With her soulful contralto and songs that have insight in abundance, she is a one-of-a-kind in frivolous times. It's hard to think of any contemporary artist who radiates such effortless cool and dignity.



PETE WILLIAMS *Roughnecks & Roustabouts* ★★★★★

Williams was Dexys Midnight Runners' original bassist, returning to the fold in 2003. On this emotive second solo album it's clear his Dexys duties have helped shape his own voice and perspective. He examines matters of the heart on Let Me Like You while La Cienga Song sounds like a hit in waiting.



RINGO STARR *Postcards From Paradise* ★

Sir Starkey's latter day bleatings are fretted over by an ever-diminishing cast of hardcore followers. It's not difficult to hear why with the likes of cod reggae genre exercise Island In The Sun, the desperate Beatles reference on Rory And The Hurricanes, and the tub-thumping Confirmation. If this is Paradise, give me the Octopus's Garden any day.

