



SOUND OUT: March 2006:

CHARLIE PARR – Hanbury Ballroom – Sun 5th

Within minutes of arriving in Brighton on his first visit last year, having come all the way from Duluth, Minnesota, Charlie Parr had his car clamped. Despite of, or inspired by this delightful welcome, he piled into a set of intense, beautiful acoustic country-blues to thrill a Prince Albert audience largely attracted by vocal praise from Low's Alan Sparhawk, who worships the man. They'll be back for this hopefully clamp-free return, and you really should join them.

BUZZCOCKS – Concorde 2 – Tue 7th

There was never a more apt Buzzcocks song title than *Harmony In My Head*, considering that once heard, most any song from their golden era three decades back is unlikely to ever stop pinging around your brain until you expire. Post-reformation material doesn't bode quite so well, but never forget that Buzzcocks remains one of the greatest pop singles bands this country has ever produced: An institution, an inspiration and as joyous live as they ever were.

65daysofstatic – Concorde 2 – Fri 10th

The fact that Sheffield's visceral crunch-pop specialists 65daysofstatic have risen to C2-headlining status in a blink is testament to the 24-hour grind put in by tiny labels of love to bring us stuff as good as this. London-based, one-woman operation Monotreme is responsible in this case, and with labelmates including the maverick ilk of Thee More Shallows and Picastro, it is a house of great quality. TMS will be here next month, but consider this essential in the meantime.

SECRET MACHINES – Concorde 2 – Mon 20th

Suitably enough, there has been some very *big* music coming out of Texas in recent years. It must be something they put on their 72oz breakfast steaks. Trail of Dead, Lift to Experience et al barely know the word 'restraint' when it comes to exercising their epic-ness, but I have to say the world is a sunnier place for it. Blending Floyd-ian grandeur, Krautrock riddims and Earlies-esque space-pop sensibility, Secret Machines – a trio, mind – are just *enormous*.

CORB LUND & THE HURTIN' ALBERTANS – Hanbury Ballroom – Thu 23rd

If your vision of country music is as played by huge, whiskey-swillin', Stetson-adorned, hardcase rodeo champions, then – ticking every box – Corb Lund and his tough-as-fuck cowboy band ain't gonna disappoint, no-siree-Bob. Rapidly approaching legendary status amongst the millions of twangheads in his native Canada, Corb makes a hotly-anticipated return here after a 3-year gap. In short, an opportunity to yell 'Yee-haw!' in public – and get away with it.

TOM SHERIFF

For 'The Source' magazine, Brighton, UK, March 2006