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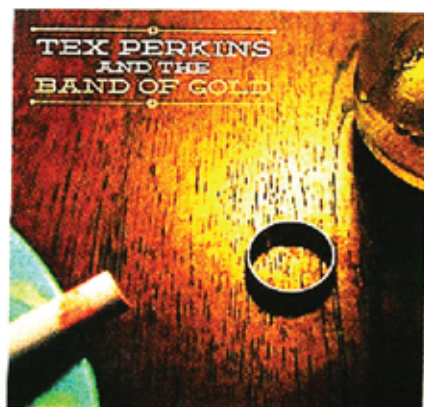
MUSIC FROM THE MOTION PICTURE 127 Hours

Interscope Records

Director Danny Boyle has called *127 Hours* "an action movie with a guy who can't move". Indeed, the soundtrack beautifully complements trapped climber Aron Ralston's phenomenal physical and interior journey from confinement to freedom. Brash electro-dance opener *Never Hear Surf Music Again* shows Aron in extreme sports mode, pushing his body to limits that a Pepsi Max commercial never dared. Enter instrumental works by Indian film composer/musician A.R. Rahman that effectively echo the enormity of solitude in suffering and the terrible majesty of nature. Mostly poignant, *127 Hours* has some surprisingly upbeat tracks such as Plastic Bertrand's *Ca Plane Por Moi* and Bill Withers's *Lovely Day*.

Key track The elegiac tearjerker *Festival* by Sigur Ros.

Ruth McIver



★★★★★

TEX PERKINS AND THE BAND OF GOLD

Tex Perkins and the Band of Gold, Independent

Love him or loathe him, former Beasts of Bourbon frontman Tex Perkins's power for reinvention means his musical celebrity has aged well. *Band of Gold* follows Perkins's hit stage show *The Man in Black* and this purist country outfit flatters the rocker — it's striking, sincere and seemingly free of shtick. *Band of Gold* offers 14 unreconstructed classic tracks of bitter-sweet amour and angst from country giants such as Townes Van Zandt and Kris Kristofferson. Rachael Tidd's Emmylouesque bell-clear voice couples effortlessly with Tex's — the two share an understated intensity that peaks on final track *Rock Salt and Nails*.

Key track *Silver Wings* is a worthy contender to the Merle Haggard original.

Ruth McIver