

staying in

the albums

Rock & pop
Matthew E White
Fresh Blood

★★★★☆
 The Virginia singer returns with more country-tinged soul – and, apart from the rollicking *Rock & Roll is Cold*, he is in the mood for tear-jerking love, even sailing close to Barry White-style seduction on *Take Care My Baby*. White shows enough sensitivity and feeling to put his own eccentric spin on classic US soul. **Will Hodgkinson** (*Domino, out Mon*)

Firefly Burning
Skeleton Hill

★★★★☆
 A strange but soaring second album from a London five-piece, ideal for anybody who wishes Kate Bush were a bit more arty. Bea Hankey's voice contrasts beautifully with the harmonies of her male bandmates, who make guitar/violin/cello/piano/gong sound a plausible line-up for haunting (*Beloved*), angular (*Fragile Friend*) or inspiring.

chamber pop (*Setting Sun*). **Dominic Maxwell** (*Fathom, out Mon*)

Classical
Elbipolis Baroque Orchestra/Gross
Delalande Symphonies

★★★★★
 Lucky Louis XIV – especially when he was scoffing. This superb CD gives us the "Symphonies for the Suppers of the

King" composed by Michel-Richard Delalande for exactly those occasions. I'm amazed that Louis and his court didn't abandon their nosh and start dancing, so nimble and lyrical is the music. **Richard Morrison** (*Challenge Classics*)

the tracks

Best Coast
California Nights
 A widescreen take on shoegaze-inspired indie rock with a stunning vocal from Bethany Cosentino.

Father John Misty
Nothing Good Ever Happens . . .
 A Harry Nilsson-esque, soft-rock tale of debauchery that doesn't take itself too seriously.

Sophie Hunger
Love Is Not the Answer
 A jittery verse (think PJ Harvey) and a chorus yelp (think Sinéad O'Connor) make way for an organ solo on the new single from the Swiss singer.

Sherwood & Pinch
Run Them Away
 Spacy nocturnal cut from the veteran dub producer and the dubstep upstart. **Listen to these and more at thetimes.co.uk/listen**



Matthew E White
 channels Barry White

