

**Klaus Nomi** Eclipsed: The Best of Klaus Nomi ([Razor & Tie](#)) The flamboyant Klaus Nomi, who epitomized the downtown Manhattan new wave scene of the early 80's, finally gets his own retrospective in this collection of hard-to-find tracks culled from 1981 to 1983. Definitely an acquired taste, Nomi's vocals ranged from a clipped, German-accented sing/speak to alto operatic riffs -- often within the same song. With the exception of two songs -- the bizarrely engaging "Wasting My Time" and "Keys Of Life", Eclipsed consists entirely of covers, including Lou Christie's "Lightning Strikes", "Ding Dong (The Witch Is Dead)" and Donna Summer's "I Feel Love". Nomi's unique delivery puts a spin on these that defies the conventional perception of cover songs, and it's used best on "The Cold Song" from Purcell's 1691 opera King Arthur as well as Lesley Gore's "You Don't Own Me". *Eclipsed* is not for everyone -- however, if you're the least bit curious about the seeds of the early new wave explosion, it's an essential. (PC)

**Marianne Nowotny** Afraid of Me (Abaton) Tired of the cookie-cutter female singer-songwriters of today? Well, today might just be your lucky day. This CD by Nowotny, a sixteen year old high-school student from New Jersey, manages to be disconcerting and otherworldly, succeeding on the strength of little more than a Concertmate keyboard and Nowotny's throaty, swooping voice and inscrutable lyrics ("Don't fade to blur/The red lions sleep around her/Silence static's like raw nerves"). But while you're scratching your head at those lyrics and that voice, you'll find yourself listening intently to see what comes next. What you'll find next are lyrics that deal with lust and emptiness and despondence -- impressively mature subject matter, delivered in an incredibly unique style. And that is Nowotny's lure -- she's succeeded in cultivating a fanbase of adults and attracting the attention of such luminaries as the New York Times. Although *Afraid of Me* can be a bit too obscure at times, and is a tough CD to find -- a field trip to Other Music, anyone? -- like all good things it's worth the effort. (PC)