

New albums: rock & pop

REBECCA FERGUSON: Lady Sings The Blues (RCA)

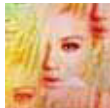
APRIL marks 100 years since Billie Holiday's birth, and former X Factor star Ferguson pays tribute with a covers album. Backed by elegant orchestral arrangements, she delivers a snappy Get Happy and an emotion-filled Embraceable You.

★★★★☆



KELLY CLARKSON: Piece By Piece (Sony)

AMERICAN Idol winner Clarkson calls herself a 'bally, sarcastic Texan', but her seventh album is low on the



sassy power that made her a star. Invincible is a booming power-ballad, but Kelly plays it safe on a string of electronic dance-pop numbers. Her gritty, voice deserves better.

★★☆☆☆

KATZENJAMMER: Rockland (Propeller)

WITH Sweden's First Aid Kit nominated at the Brits, our liking for Scandinavian country-pop is growing. Female Norwegian quartet Katzenjammer's third album, with its banjos, fiddles and hoedowns, is sometimes silly, but is softened by pop hooks and harmonies on Shine Like Neon Rays and Flash In The Dark.

★★★★☆

