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Strike chord with music

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
AND DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITERS



Buying music as holiday presents can be as hard as meeting Santa Claus when he lands on your roof.

Chances are good that the music lover on your list has the latest albums by Alanis Morissette, Hootie and the Blowfish, The Beatles, Onsis, Pearl Jam, Garbage, Toni Braxton and Celine Dion.

Alternative rock/pop

The Lemonheads' "Car Button Cloth" (Tap/Atlantic) - Believe it or not, there's a lot more to The Lemonheads than lead singer/songwriter Evan Dando's good looks. "Car Button Cloth," the band's seventh album, is filled with pure pop gems. Even non-fans will admit that "If I Could Talk I'd Tell You," the first single, is the catchiest song on the radio right now. If you really want to surprise someone, try looking in used record stores for an advance copy of the album which includes the song "Purple Parallelogram." The song was reportedly co-written with Noel Gallagher of Onsis, but he denied ever working on it and demanded that it be pulled from the final copy of the album.

Semisonic: "Great Divide" (MCA) - One of the stars of radio station 96.3's

"Planetfest" this summer, Semisonic is an unsung hero of this year's pile of releases. Beatlesque harmonies and carnival-like keyboards grace this pop album. "F.N.T.," "Brand New Baby," and "If I Run," which received minor airplay, are relentlessly addictive.

Pure: "Generation Six-Pack" (Mammoth/Atlantic) - The best Canadian import of this decade, Pure returns after a long absence from the U.S. music scene. "Generation Six-Pack" champions fuzzy guitars, rollicking music and Jordy Birch's crafty, tongue-in-cheek lyrics.

Red House Painters: "Songs for a Blue Guitar" (Supreme/Island Recordings) - "Songs for a Blue Guitar" is such a departure from the Red House Painters' previous releases that it lost its record deal with 4AD. It's a good thing that Supreme/Island captured the band or else we'd never hear tender acoustic ballads and fuzzy guitar odes by Mark Kozelek.

Hard rock

Metallica: "Load" (Elektra) - Some long-time Metallica fans have turned their backs on Metallica and the album "Load" believing that the band has "sold out" and started to lean toward the pop rock side. (They've dubbed them "alternica.") Nevertheless, "Load" is a heap of great straight-ahead rock. "Poor Twisted Me" and "Ain't My Bitch" are perfect driving

See MUSIC, A13

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\$6.95 per child

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