



Blur changes focus

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special. And this compilation had the opportunity to present 10 years of growth on one CD. Put the songs in chronological order and you get yourself a profound musical story.

But if you scatter them about like a random Blur mix-

tape, you give us just another generic compilation album designed for Wal-Mart endcaps. And so they have.

This album can't be entirely discredited because the brilliance of the individual songs, but if you really want the best of Blur, just do the band a favor and buy the albums.

And listen to them in order.

nin remix appeals to veteran fans

BY SEAN ZEHTAB

Warning: The review you're about to read is of a remix CD. If you are not familiar with nine inch nails, please go get a different nin album instead of buying their new album "Things Falling Apart." If you are nin fan, this album is a must.

"Things Falling Apart" is nine inch nails' remix album of the double disc masterpiece "The Fragile." But remix album isn't a good way to describe nin's newest release.

Three new songs aren't even included on "The Fragile." In a recent online chat with his fans, nin mastermind Trent Reznor said this was a "companion piece" to "The Fragile."

In terms of theme, the title, "Things Falling Apart," reflects the music. The vocals distort into unrecognizable buzzes, the instruments sometimes literally

fall apart, songs lose their composure and end abruptly, unable to go on.

The album shows the essence of Fragile-era nine inch nails. The focus isn't on lyrics or hooks or even songs, but music as a whole organic process.

That is the irony of this period of work Reznor and his cronies helped construct. The music world is filled with overproduced, plastic crap. "Things Falling Apart" was almost all reconstructed and redigested by computers (as was "The Fragile") and is 10 times more overproduced and filtered than any Britney Spears album. Yet it transcends the fake inhumanity of most music these days by embracing technology and triumphing in the struggle to master the machines we make and, in turn, make us.

There are three new songs on the album: "Metal," "The

MUSIC REVIEW

Nine Inch Nails

Title: "Things Falling Apart"

Label: Nothing Records 2000

★★★ of 5 stars

Great Collapse" and "10 Miles High."

"Metal" is an outstanding cover originally done by Gary Numan. "10 Miles High" is the slightly altered version of song that appeared only on the vinyl release of "The Fragile." "The Great Collapse" is mostly instrumental until the chorus, "Now you know this is what it feels like/this is what it feels like," at the end of the song.

The work of producer Joshua Eustis (of Telefon Tel Aviv) really stole the show. He teamed up with Danny Lohner, another nin producer, to remix "Where is Everybody."

The song, like the entire album, will be interesting for most nin fans. But for those who are not seasoned nin listeners will probably not enjoy this complex offering.

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My VH1: A different award tilt

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — VH1's sister channel, MTV, holds a successful awards show each September that is better known for the flamboyant antics of music stars than the meaning of its trophies.

For a decade and a half, VH1 has been content to not even try competing.

Tonight, however, the network is getting into the awards show business. "My VH1 Music Awards," with categories designed and decided by viewers voting online, will air live at 9 p.m. EST from the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.

"We'd been waiting patiently to find the right opportunity to launch an awards show that didn't look like anybody else's," said John Sykes, VH1 president.

Since VH1's target audience of 25-to-34-year-olds is older than MTV's demographic, expect a comparatively sedate affair. But it's still rock 'n' roll, with the band Creed leading with nine nominations and Red Hot Chili Peppers with seven.

In addition to traditional categories like man, woman, group and song of the year, VH1 is trying to have a little fun. Viewers will give "awards" for the most entertaining public feud, the sexiest video and the category, "your song kicked (butt) but was played too damn much."

Sykes said he was intrigued by the idea of an awards show without envelopes, accounting firms or behind-the-scenes experts that nobody knows. The growth of the Internet made it possible for viewers to do it all.

"For us, it was just a fresh approach to a form that we felt was getting a little bit tired," he said.

Nearly 3 million people have voted for winners, according to VH1. The format leaves VH1 vulnerable to ballot-box stuffing, but Sykes is confident the results will give a true picture of how fans feel. Since voters have to register separately each time they vote, he doesn't think many people will repeat the process.

"Most of our viewers have jobs and lives that they're not going to spend that much time doing that," he said.

Creed will perform on the show, along with U2, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Christina Aguilera and Bon Jovi. Metallica will test the online voting process, performing whichever song is selected by viewers.

John Leguizamo is host. Other nominees for VH1's song of the year are Faith Hill's "Breathe," matchbox twenty's "Bent," Red Hot Chili Peppers' "Otherside" and Vertical Horizon's "Everything You Want."

VH1's suggestions for most entertaining public feud include Diana Ross and her former partners in the Supremes; rapper Eminem against everyone; Metallica against the Napster song-sharing system; 'N Sync against its old promoter, Lou Pearlman; and Whitney Houston against Honolulu's airport security.