



October 2, 2006

Music

Artists to Watch: A SXSW Preview

Morning Edition, March 16, 2006 · If you're a music fan, the place to be this week is Austin, Texas. The annual South by Southwest Music Conference and Festival -- known by many as SXSW -- has been a staple of the music-festival circuit since 1987. It's a two-week celebration of independent sounds by both up-and-coming bands and established acts, as well as interactive media and film.

This year promises to be the biggest SXSW yet; more than 1,300 bands and artists will perform in just about every venue the Texas capital has to offer. Stephen Thompson, editor of the new NPR.org feature [Song of the Day](#) is one of the hundreds of music journalists descending on the city, looking for the hottest new acts. Here's a short list of some of his favorites:

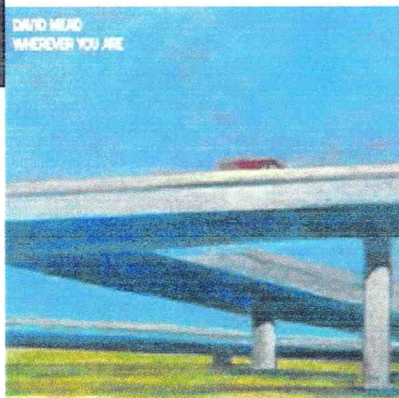


Brother Ali
Shadows on the Sun

A most unexpected hip-hop hero -- he's a Muslim albino rapper from Minneapolis -- Brother Ali draws raves for his lives shows and smooth delivery.

['Forrest Whitiker'](#)

[Brother Ali Bio at Rhymesayers Entertainment](#)

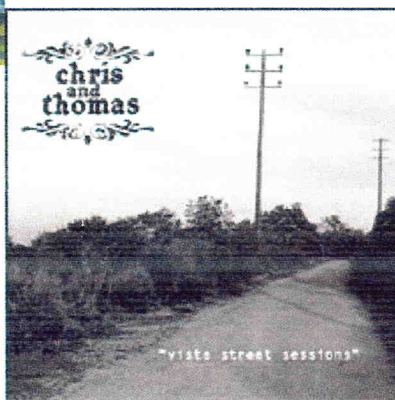


David Mead
Wherever You Are

Mead creates intelligent pop in the Josh Rouse and Paul McCartney mold, with lush, gentle grooves.

['Wherever You Are'](#)

[Eleven Thirty Records](#)



Chris and Thomas
Vista Street Sessions

This acoustic folk-and-mandolin vocal duo reminds critics of

Nick Drake and even Bob Dylan.