



Music

Charlie Pickett

Bar Band Americanus: The Best Of Charlie Pickett

Bloodshot/Koch

Scott Bryson (CHARTattack)

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This career-spanning retrospective is a compilation of tracks from the oft-labeled undiscovered rock/blues giant Charlie Pickett and his bands the Eggs and the MC3. The majority of the material is from Pickett's glory days in the '80s — his early singles, tracks from the *Cowboy Junkie Au-Go-Go* EP and remixed/remastered songs from his LPs (*Route 33*, *The Wilderness* and *Live At The Button*) — but it also includes some new and some previously unreleased material. There's plenty of muscular, biting stuff here, in titles — like "If This Is Love, Can I Get My Money Back?" And lyrically, like on "Penny Instead," where Pickett laments: "I could have had lonely, but I got Penny instead." Modern rock 'n' roll bands owe a lot to Pickett and his (ongoing) legacy. *Bar Band Americanus* would sound proper being cranked from an old man's record player or leaking from the earbuds of a teenager's iPod. This is the kinda stuff you call timeless.

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