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Local music you should know about

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MAIL STORY

Published: 12/7/2007 12:15 AM

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The Chicago music scene never rests. Here's the best of recent releases by musicians and bands located in our back yard.

Lou Carlozo, "Stick Figure Soul" (Feedback Records)

The many shades of classic pop music are encapsulated on this single album by the longtime and prolific Chicago producer-songwriter Lou Carlozo. This homespun collection of songs spans the pop gamut, including compact rockers ("Living in Fame"), rockabilly ("Elvis in the Sky"), twisty psychedelics ("Solomon Has Sung"), pop-rock urgency ("Raining in Hong Kong") and ballads ("Always"). Besides his finesse as a stylist, Carlozo also fills this album with his expressive guitarwork, particularly when songs call for the jeweled sound of the Rickenbacker. Hypnotic studio enhancements turn even the most intimate moments here epic. On "Myself and You," Carlozo builds his vocals with layers until the song's sentiment -- "what else can I do/to say what is almost through" -- earns canned, bittersweet applause.

Visit myspace.com/stickfiguresoul.