1. I See Hawks in L.A. “Good and Foolish Times” 3:33
Although the members of ISHILA originally hadn’t planned on much more than back porch songwriting and beer drinking, shows all over SoCal met with critical acclaim and brought the band several awards; it has since expanded into national and international touring. Folkier and more experimental than previous Hawks outings, Hallowed Ground is the band’s fourth CD.

2. Billy Bragg “O Freedom” 4:04
Influenced in equal parts by the Clash and Woody Guthrie, Billy Bragg has certainly made an indelible mark on the conscience of British music in the three decades of his career. He is known for a sustained and personal commitment to political and humanitarian issues, and his music is informed by a very real humanist approach and a sharp wit.

3. Kristine Heebøll “Klippen på Koster” 2:44
(Kristine Heebøll) from the album 10 Point [GO’ Danish Folk Music GD1107, © 2007] www.kristineheeboll.dk, www.gofolk.dk
Fiddler, pianist, and composer Kristine Heebøll is from Denmark. She has had an active musical career since 1992, performing in several musical groups (Trio Mø, PhoMix) and as a studio musician, composing special commissions, and teaching choir, percussion, dance, aural training, and piano at various folk music schools. She currently teaches arrangement at the Carl Nielsen Academy of Music.

4. Julie Fowlis “Hùg air a’ Bhonaid Mhòr” 2:52
A Scots Gaelic singer who also plays Highland bagpipes, smallpipes, whistles, oboe, English horn, and melodone, Julie Fowlis brings music from her Hebridean Island home to new audiences worldwide. In addition to her solo career, she also tours with Scottish group Dòchas and has released a CD with Irish Gaelic singer Muireann Nic Amhlaibh.

5. The Asylum Street Spankers “Leaf Blower” (radio edit) 3:55
Combining string band, punk, country blues, and vaudeville, the Asylum Street Spankers formed some 14 years ago and the central core, grounded by Christina Marrs and Wammo, has remained consistent. The band has also toured nationally, performing its singular brand of hilarity, left-wing politics, and damn good music before appreciative audiences.

6. The Rhythm Angels “If I Had a Gun” 2:50
Two top Colorado-based singer/songwriters have teamed up to form the Rhythm Angels. Celeste Krenz (guitar, mandolin, Dobro, bass) and Rebecca Folsom (mandolin) each have a successful solo career. Girls Like Us is their first outing together.
continues to tour extensively four decades later.

Stars, heads of state, and political figures. A superstar in her own right, Staples released her first solo outing in 1969 and the gospel/soul/R&B singer has appeared alongside pop stars, weaving in and out of them contribute vocals; four members are songwriters; four of them contribute vocals; four members are songwriters; and one is even a luthier, ready for on-the-road emergency repairs!

One of the premier young folk acts in the U.K., Kerfuffle has been playing for six years before appreciative audiences in clubs and festivals. The band’s songs and tunes reflect traditional European roots informed by a modern sensibility. Members Hannah James (accordion, vocals), Chris Kee (guitar, ukelele, mandola, vocals), and brothers Tom (bass, vocals) and Sam (fiddle, bagpipes, viola, cajon, vocals) Sweeney perform with energy and style.

Americana quintet Houston Jones formed in California in 2001. Founders Glenn Houston (guitar) and Travis Jones (vocals, acoustic guitar) are joined by Peter Tucker (drums, percussion), Chris Kee (guitar, standup bass), and Henry Salvia (keyboards and accordion) in presenting an original repertoire that ranges from bluegrass and gospel to folk and blues.

Trio Mio is a Danish group comprising Kristine Heeboll (violin), Jens Ulvsand (bouzouki, guitar, vocals), and Nikolaj Busk (piano, accordion, vocals) who won two categories (Album of the Year and Artist of the Year) at the Danish Music Awards. The group primarily plays original compositions in a traditional style.

Australian husband-and-wife team Kasey Chambers and Shane Nicholson normally pursue solo careers, but they released Rattlin' Bones as a duo after cowriting nine songs. Their first release together has garnered critical acclaim and several awards.

Keith Grimwood (bass) and Eric Idlet (guitar) have been performing together as Trout Fishing in America for three decades. Noted for clever lyrics, energetic playing, and a humorous outlook, the duo reaches audiences of all ages, just as at home on concert stages in clubs as in school auditoriums.

A superstar in her own right, Staples released her first solo outing in 1969 and continues to tour extensively four decades later.