

Justin Townes Earle's new CD hits racks today

Written by By TERRY MATHEWS, News-Telegram Arts Editor
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Justin Townes Earle, Steve's bouncing baby boy, releases a new CD, "Harlem River Blues," today.

The lanky kid from Nashville with the rich musical heritage (he's named after his father's mentor, Townes Van Zandt) has been carving out a path in the world of indie music.

He was named Best New and Emerging Artist at the 2009 Americana Music Awards. His "Midnight at the Movies" was nominated as Best Album.

With "Harlem River Blues," Earle cements his place in the business. I've only been through the album a couple of times this morning, but I'm liking what I hear. "Christchurch Woman" is my favorite so far.

I'm waiting for a Christchurch Woman in the rain. The rain keeps coming, but it ain't enough to cover the pain.

The title cut impresses, along with a 0:32 reprise tacked on at the end of the CD, with what sounds like a full gospel choir covering the chorus.

I'm going uptown to the Harlem River to drown. Dirty water going to cover me over and I'm not going to make a sound.

Check out my review of the new CD - and a possible interview - in an upcoming edition of your *News-Telegram*

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Here's a clip of JTE's cover of "Can't Hardly Wait," earlier this year. It's a tribute to his friend Chris Feinstein, who died suddenly last Christmas. Click in at your own risk ... the performance is very raw and filled with grief ... and a lot of talent.