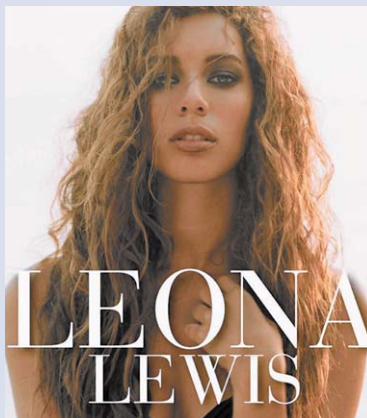


UK CHARTS hmv get closer

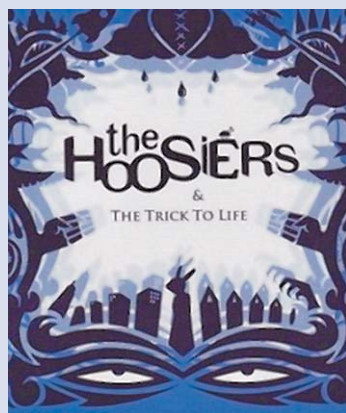
SINGLES

1. Leona Lewis - Bleeding Love
2. Take That - Rule The World
3. McFly - The Heart Never Lies
4. Sugababes - About You Now
5. Mark Ronson Ft Amy Winehouse - Valerie
6. Britney Spears - Gimme More
7. Mika Timbaland Ft One Republic - Apologize
8. Freemasons ft Bailey Tzuke - Uninvited
9. Hoosiers - Goodbye Mr A
10. Oasis - Lord Don't Slow Me Down



ALBUMS

1. Hoosiers - The Trick To Life
2. Van Morrison - Still On Top – The Greatest Hits
3. Mark Ronson - Version
4. Sugababes - Change
5. Amy Winehouse - Back To Black
6. Stereophonics - Pull The Pin
7. Eric Clapton - Complete
8. Phil Collins - Hits
9. Foo Fighters - Echoes Silence Patience & Grace
10. Katie Melua - Pictures



COMPILATION

1. Radio 1 Live Lounge
2. DJ Hype – Drum & Bass Arena
3. High School Musical 2
4. Pop Party 5
5. Dirty Dancing
6. Now Dance 2008
7. 100 R&B Classics
8. Massive R&B: Winter Collection 2007
9. The Very Best Of Power Ballads
10. Sixties Power Ballads



VIDEO/DVD

1. Spiderman 3
2. Dirty Dancing
3. Hostel – Pt 2
4. Lost – The Complete 3rd Series
5. Family Guy Series 6
6. 300
7. Fantastic Four – Rise Of The Silver Surfer
8. Hot Fuzz
9. Bridge To Terabithia
10. P Barbie- The Island Princess



GOING SOLO: Red House Painters' Mark Kozelek performs at the Black Box on Sunday

Sadcore music never sounded so good...

FOUNDING member and frontman of the hugely influential Red House Painters, and more recently Sun Kil Moon, Mark Kozelek is a pioneer of a genre called Sadcore.

While the artists themselves may dislike the term, it is apt for a type of music that distills a compelling beauty from forlorn misery.

But it's as a solo artist that Ohio songwriter Mark comes to Northern Ireland this weekend. "I feel a little more in control being solo," he said. "I actually felt like a loner in Red House Painters, but I took the others' thoughts into consideration."

"Now it's really about what I want, what makes me happy. I could deal with the drama of what being in a band was all about when I was 25, but I prefer just being on my own now."

Today he's older, arguably wiser, and reflecting on a major milestone in his life which took place earlier this year.

"For some reason, I didn't think I'd ever turn 40," he said. "I sort of blocked that horrible '40' thought out of my mind, and believed the years would creep by so slowly that I'd never reach that age."

"I associated that age with boredom and misery for some reason, and my life is everything but boring and miserable."

Life's fairly much where Mark wants it at the minute, and his fans don't seem to have the same attitude to older people as he once did.

"I remember seeing 40-year-olds as a child and I disregarded them," he said. "They seemed so bogged down with things."



PHIL CROSSEY
ROCK & POP

"But I travel around now, and younger people are there and actually come up to talk to me after shows."

"So I guess it makes me feel OK that I'm not completely invisible to some of them. I don't know, I don't feel very old, and most people tell me I don't look 40," he said, but added: "Maybe they're just being nice."

While he may be personally comfortable with growing older, the last decade-and-a-half has seen the music industry change almost beyond recognition.

"It's a different place from the music world I saw growing up, and even the world I was part of in the early-to-mid 90s," Mark said.

"The internet and digital ages have ruined the beauty and mystique of music. "When I was a child, the dream was to make an album."

"Now the dream is to have a widely viewed MySpace page, be one of 10,000 MP3s on an iPod and be on YouTube," he said.

"I'm not even sure if making a living at music is even part of a young musician's dream anymore."

the music business would have any appeal to me.

"But I got into the business right at the tail end of when it was still interesting. So I got a taste of it, and try to maintain some of that. Because I got my start back then, and made my mark, I've been able to take that and make it work in this very different environment."

But he added: "I think, if I was to start over now, it would be difficult to make any noise in this business, and to have the career that I've had."

Mark describes writing songs as "just really about making music and words fit together". But this simple definition belies one of the more notable artists to emerge from the US in recent years.

Despite some incredibly downbeat material, the experience of listening to Mark Kozelek, and the bands he has been in, is an oddly joyous one. And live shows are increasingly peppered with unlikely cover versions, with tunes from Kiss and AC/DC making their way into his set.

"Covers songs are kind of like a break from originals," he said. "I need a break from all the seriousness sometimes, and need to escape into somewhere else."

Despite his growing fondness for other people's material, Mark says there's no song that he wishes he'd written.

"There are a lot of songs I love, and how they've inspired me," he said. "But I'm just happy that I heard them."

Mark Kozelek performs at the Black Box, Belfast, on Sunday. Tickets cost £10 and doors open at 7.30pm.

Wagoner touched the lives of country stars



BILLY KENNEDY
COUNTRY MUSIC

WARM tributes were paid in Nashville yesterday to country Hall of Famer Porter Wagoner, who died last Sunday night from lung cancer, aged 80.

The singer was buried after a memorial service in the Grand Ole Opry House, attended by many of his contemporaries in country music. Wagoner, an institution in American country music, was one of the most colourful entertainers on the Nashville stage at any time in the past half century.

In recent years, he had enjoyed the status as "father" of the Grand Ole Opry, having completed 50 years there last May. The tall "Thin Man" from West Plains enjoyed a tremendous rapport with audiences who packed the Grand Opry House every Saturday night, but the enduring image of Porter was in his celebrated seven-year duet partnership with Dolly Parton.

Born in the Ozark Mountains region of south-western Missouri, Porter Wayne Wagoner moved to nearby West Plains, with his farming family.

His first band, the Blue Ridge Boys, played bluegrass, much in the style of his idol at the time Bill Monroe. But by 1950, Porter was more into the honky tonk crooning style of Hank Williams and enjoyed a reputation as a country deejay.

Even while Wagoner's own earliest records weren't selling, he co-wrote a No. 2 hit for Carl Smith titled "Trademark in 1953."

His big break-through came in 1955 with a No 1 spot for the ballad A Satisfied Mind, a song also recorded by Jean Shepard, another Opry star.

Porter operated on the traditional side of country music and other notable recordings were Eat, Drink and Be Merry (Tomorrow



COUNTRY LEGEND: Porter Wagoner was fondly known as the "father" of the Grand Ole Opry

You'll Cry), What Would You Do (If Jesus Came to Your House), Bill Monroe's Uncle Pen and I Thought I Heard You Call My Name. Television exposure further enhanced Wagoner's career and for 21 years into the 1980s he hosted his own show. A steady stream of Sixties' hits reflect made him a household name, such as Misery Loves Company, I've Enjoyed as Much of This as I Can Stand, Sorrow on the Rocks, Green, Green Grass of Home, Skid Row Joe, The Cold Hard Facts of Life and The Carroll County Accident. The Dolly Parton duet partnership worked

well for Porter, as it obviously did for Dolly, who very soon became an Opry star and one of RCA's most popular recording artists. Those years (1967-1974) produced 14 Top 10 duet hits, with The Last Thing On My Mind, a Tom Paxton-penned number the most successful. The final break with Dolly was emotionally and contractually messy and there were legal ramifications. But Dolly always had a soft spot for the genial guy who introduced her to the big time and she visited him in hospital during his last days.

Interestingly, Dolly was elevated to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1999, three years before Wagoner received the award. Together, they received many accolades, including vocal duo of the year several times. News of Porter Wagoner's death came as three Nashville luminaries – singers Vince Gill and Mel Tillis and presenter/publicist Ralph Emery – were being inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame. Porter's death wasn't announced, but tributes were later paid. It was ironic that his death came as the award was being made to Mel Tillis, who was given his first break in television by Wagoner.

A remixed and remastered version of the late Conway Twitty's Christmas album, A Twismas Story (1983), was re-released this week. This is the first time the project will be available on CD and digital formats. Twitty's grand-daughter Christi Prater, provides the new voice of the Twitty Bird character on the reissue. Songs includes White Christmas, Silver Bells, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and Jingle Bells, as well as several newer Christmas songs. Conway died in 1993.



BIG BREAK: Dolly Parton was thrown into the public eye due to her duets with Porter

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The winner will be selected at random. Usual Johnston Press rules apply.

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The winner of our last HMV voucher competition is Molly Baine, Belfast, who correctly said that the Stereophonics were number one in the album chart last week with Pull The Pin



TOP SPOT: Stereophonics