

# ACOUSTIC GUITAR

## Hit List



*April Issue 2004*



### **K.J. Denhart, *Girl Like Me* . . .**

Even before Cassandra Wilson, Norah Jones, and their various guitar-playing accompanists nudged the category into national prominence, New York native K.J. Denhart was calling herself an "urban folk and jazz artist." This diva plays guitar, strumming and picking her acoustic in settings that include electric guitars and bass, keyboards, drums, percussion, and occasional sax, cello, looping, and programming. She personalizes the James Taylor and Joni Mitchell influences in her original songs with funk beats and soulful vocals that sound both streetwise and sophisticated. Denhart's radical revamp of the Beatles' "She Loves You" is just one revelation on this, her first full-length studio album, which also harks back to such blues, jazz, and soul forebears as John Mayall (circa *Turning Point*), Les McCann (a la "Compared to What"), and Roberta Flack. (Mother Cyclone, [www.kjdenhart.com](http://www.kjdenhart.com))

—Derk Richardson